



PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Fact Sheet

What is a Public Health Emergency?

- A public health emergency is anything that poses an urgent threat to the public's health.
 - Natural occurrence, e.g. pandemic flu.
 - Man-made occurrence, either accidental or deliberate.
 - Bioterrorism is an example of a deliberate man-made public health emergency.

What would happen in a Public Health Emergency?

- Instructions would be given on how members of the public could protect themselves.
- Instructions might include:
 - How to Shelter in Place.
 - How to receive prophylaxis (preventive) medications for yourself and your family at a POD.

How is a Public Health Emergency Declared?

- By the Governor in conjunction with the State Commissioner of Health.
 - In response to a public health emergency originating in NJ or directly affecting the state's population.

How would I know what to do in a Public Health Emergency?

A public information campaign would be conducted through newspapers, radio, television, the BCDHS website (www.bergenhealth.org), the Bergen County information line (201-225-7000) and through local municipalities and boards of health.