

## **Master's-Level Public Health Preparedness and Response Competency Model 1.1**

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The [Association of Schools of Public Health \(ASPH\)](#)<sup>1</sup> is pleased to present this competency model designed to provide a framework of the core knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for a student to demonstrate upon completing a master's degree or graduate certificate in public health preparedness and response. This Model 1.1 includes five domains and 22 competencies and is recommended for use by graduate-level faculty at ASPH-member Schools of Public Health, and other accredited public health programs, to prepare potential employees for the public health preparedness and response workforce.

Aiming to fulfil a mandate in the 2006 Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act Section 304(d)(3) to "establish core curricula based on established competencies leading to a 4-year bachelor's degree, a graduate degree, a combined bachelor and master's degree, or a certificate program," the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and ASPH engaged experts to develop this core competency model. This effort is supported by a cooperative agreement with the CDC, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (CDC PHPR), and follows the recently released [Public Health Preparedness & Response Core Competency Model](#), which is designed for use by the mid-level public health workforce.

The model is designed to add an additional layer of competencies to the existing [MPH Core Competency Model](#). The MPH Core Competency Model represents the foundation and skills needed by all MPH graduates, while the Master's-Level Preparedness and Response Competency Model indicates the additional abilities required for students specializing in public health preparedness.

### **Target Audience**

Public health students pursuing a master's level specialization or graduate certificate in emergency preparedness and response

### **Project Tenets**

The competency model is built around eight overarching tenets. The model is meant to:

- Inform curricular planning for Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accredited schools and programs
- Serve as a roadmap to improve disaster preparedness and response knowledge to protect the public's health
- Prepare students, upon program completion, for a trajectory to assume expert roles in public health disaster preparedness and response
- Reflect and build upon existing competency models, including the MPH Core Competency Model
- Be applied within the context of public health incidents
- Utilize an all-hazards approach spanning across the homeland security mission areas (prevent, protect, respond and recover) and the disaster management cycle (mitigation, preparedness, detection, response, containment, and recovery)
- Support the implementation of individual nations' health security strategies
- Provide a stronger linkage between global health and public health preparedness and response

### **Use of the Model**

It is anticipated that both faculty and students in public health preparedness and response programs will find value in this competency model, with faculty using it to guide the development and/or enhancement of curricular and co-curricular educational opportunities and students referencing it to chart their acquisition of the knowledge, skills and attitudes recommended for practice in preparedness and response. The list is neither comprehensive nor prescriptive, but lists the essential abilities that educators and practitioners believe are important for students to understand prior to working in the field of public health preparedness and response. For details on the project, visit <http://www.asph.org/competency>.

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<sup>1</sup> ASPH represents the 49 schools of public health accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). ASPH promotes the efforts of schools to improve the health of every person through education, research, and policy. Based upon the belief that **"you're only as healthy as the world you live in,"** ASPH works with stakeholders around the globe to develop solutions to the most pressing health concerns and provides access to the ongoing initiatives of the schools of public health.

# Master's-Level Public Health Preparedness and Response Competencies

**Stem:** Upon program completion, a public health student with a master's level specialization or graduate certificate in emergency preparedness and response should be able to demonstrate mastery of the competencies listed below in the context of public health incidents.

## 1. Roles and Relationships

- 1.1 Describe the roles of public health workers and public health organizations.
- 1.2 Identify the roles and relationships among federal, tribal, state, and local governments and non-governmental organizations.
- 1.3 Analyze the ethical challenges faced by public health workers and public health organizations.
- 1.4 Explain key legal issues that need to be addressed by public health workers and public health organizations.
- 1.5 Discuss strategies to promote community resilience.
- 1.6 Perform in an assigned public health leadership role.

## 2. Communication and Information Management

- 2.1 Apply strategies for sharing information with internal and external partners.
- 2.2 Apply principles of crisis and risk communication.

## 3. Planning and Improvement

- 3.1 Identify the key components of a continuity of operations plan.
- 3.2 Identify the key components of an emergency operations plan.
- 3.3 Use evaluation results in the development of an improvement plan.

## 4. Assessment

- 4.1 Identify public health needs of a community.
- 4.2 Assess population health threats.
- 4.3 Assess public health capabilities.
- 4.4 Apply the principles of epidemiology and surveillance.
- 4.5 Conduct a rapid needs assessment.

## 5. Incident Management

- 5.1 Address the needs of vulnerable populations.
- 5.2 Apply culturally competent public health actions.
- 5.3 Apply worker health and safety principles.
- 5.4 Describe psychosocial consequences likely to be experienced by public health workers and community members.
- 5.5 Identify countermeasures.
- 5.6 Describe surge strategies for the health system.

### MPH Core Competencies ([www.asph.org/competency](http://www.asph.org/competency))

Biostatistics

Environmental Health Sciences

Epidemiology

Health Policy and Management

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Communication  
and Informatics

Diversity and  
Culture

Leadership

Public Health  
Biology

Professionalism

Program  
Planning

Systems  
Thinking

ASPH, with support from the CDC, developed the Master's-Level Public Health Preparedness & Response Competency Model Version 1.1, to fulfil a mandate in the 2006 Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act legislation. Please visit <http://www.asph.org/competency> to learn more about this project.