

# CHELAN DOUGLAS HEALTH DISTRICT

## Planning for the Local Public Health Response to Infectious Diseases

Chelan Douglas Health District (CDHD) has been tasked to assure readiness and response capabilities able to effectively respond to infectious viral disease within a community. Our preparedness capabilities include but are not limited to: Community Preparedness, Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation, Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions, Responder/Worker Safety and Health, Emergency Public Information and preparing our region for a Medical Surge event.

CDHD has planned for Smallpox, Anthrax, Bird Flu, SARS, Pandemic Flu, TB, West Nile Virus, and many other contagious diseases over the last 15 plus years. We have a file of MOU's throughout the community in both counties. The MOU's are with partners who manage government or public buildings. The Health Officer has the authority to do what is necessary at the time to protect the public at large. It is best to plan for what may be needed and indeed as public health we are tasked with planning.

It may be worth noting that over the last 30 years CDHD has not had a reason to use the sites covered by an MOU except for emergency preparedness exercises. Developing MOU's is not new, and definitely offers protections for any site we may use as it defines the condition the building will be in when released back to the agency owner.

### CDHD is tasked with:

- Updating our plans for infectious disease response.
- Developing and implement programs to mitigate and prevent transmission of infectious diseases through effective management of all persons under investigation for infectious diseases, and those with confirmed infectious disease.
- Developing and implementing protocols for rapid and appropriate public health actions, such as controlled movement, isolation, quarantine, or public health orders.
- Collaborating with healthcare coalitions and healthcare systems to assure the development of a strategy to assure adequate supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers, laboratory personnel, EMS, and environmental services staff.
- Coordinating information sharing among public health agency staff, healthcare personnel, Emergency Medical Service providers, and the public as appropriate for the (contagious) disease involved at the time.