

Key Planning Factors and Considerations for Response to and Recovery from a Biological Incident

Biological incidents remain a great threat to the United States due to their complex nature and unique challenges that impact traditional approaches to response and recovery planning. A biological incident is the occurrence of cases or outbreaks involving a biological pathogen that affects people, regardless of whether it is naturally occurring or deliberately caused. Because of the nature of biological incidents, emergency management will require close coordination with public health and other stakeholders for incident response and recovery.

The *Key Planning Factors and Considerations for Response to and Recovery from a Biological Incident* (Bio KPF; August 2022) document provides emergency planners with critical information and links to additional resources to facilitate preparedness planning and inform the response to and recovery from various types of biological incidents. The document is intended serve as a bridge between the public health, biological incident specific response community and the all-hazard incident response and recovery approach used by the emergency management and first responder communities. Additionally, it features “user-friendly” guidance to help emergency planners address the question: “How does the response to and recovery from biological incidents differ from the approaches and protocols used to manage the effects of more traditional incident types (e.g., hurricanes, floods, wildfires, etc.)?”



The Bio KPF document does not describe planning approaches to specific biological incident scenarios (e.g., template plans for various pathogens). Rather, it provides considerations applicable across a range of potential biological incident types. The Bio KPF also provides guidance for addressing “core capability” delivery as detailed in the *Biological Incident Annex to the Response and Recovery Federal Interagency Operational Plans (BIA; FIOPs)*. The principal focus areas examined within the Bio KPF are summarized on the following page.



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