

# Update: Legal Considerations in Public Health Preparedness

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2015 Fall Regional Staff Meeting  
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# Spring 2015 PH EPR Meeting

- Overview of Colorado public health powers and authority
  - - Disease/Outbreak Investigation
  - - Quarantine and Isolation
  - - Declaring a Local Public Health Emergency
- Identify questions/needs that local public health agencies have in this realm

# CDC Legal Workshops

- July 2015: held in Grand Junction and Denver
  - Well attended by LPHA staff, some county/LPHA attorneys
  - Remaining questions:
    - Role of law enforcement in enforcing PH orders
    - Role of elected officials in declaring a PH emergency
    - How do privately contracted and district public health entities handle PH orders and PH emergencies
    - What does a disaster declaration provide
    - Role of hospitals in quarantine/isolation
    - Volunteers and legal liability

# Next Steps

- Webinar featuring CO LPHAs who have worked with local partners on various PH legal issues
- CDPHE OEPR: Develop a “legal tool” that describes legal aspects of PH EPR
  - LPHAs can use this tool to update plans and to guide local planning process

# Contents of “Legal Tool”

- List of applicable state statutes/regulations
- List of local partners to have at the table when discussing and planning for PH orders/emergencies and role of each
- Items to consider when issuing and enforcing a public health order (including Q and I)
- Items to consider when declaring an emergency with public health implications
- How a public health order and emergency declarations are different
- Volunteer liability information

# AN ELECTED OFFICIAL'S POLICY GUIDE FOR DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES

The following handout provides information that will be available in a new Policy Guide for Elected and Key Officials that is being developed by the Colorado Office of Emergency Management

Ensure tool is in line with  
DHSEM guidance



**STATE OF COLORADO**

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Your thoughts?