

Preparedness & Response Definitions

Indicator: A measurable factor used to estimate objectively the size of a health problem.

Active Surveillance: Staff members are regularly contacting health care providers and/or the population to gather information about health conditions.

Passive Surveillance: The health department receives reports from hospitals and other sources regarding health conditions.

Emerging Public Health Threat: Health threat means a condition where there is an impending health hazard. The threat may be posed by, but not limited to: a conduit for contamination, or a well affecting migration of a contaminant plume, or the use of contaminated water.

Emerging Infectious Diseases: According to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, emerging infectious diseases are commonly defined as:

- Outbreaks of previously unknown diseases.
- Known diseases that are rapidly increasing in incidents or geographic range in the last 2 decades.
- Persistence of infectious diseases that cannot be controlled.

Re-emerging Infectious Diseases: Diseases that reappear after they have been on a significant decline. Re-emergence may happen because of a breakdown in public health measures or when new strains of known disease causing organisms appear.

Activation Status Levels: The health department's level of response and activation of the emergency operations to a public health condition in the community. SMCHD utilizes status levels based on the National Incident Command System.

Normal (Green): Routine operations

Enhanced (Yellow): The incident requires additional monitoring and resources.

Partial (Orange): The incident requires significant monitoring and resources.

Full (Red): The incident requires extensive response and recovery efforts.