

The Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Winter Games are a unique opportunity for Utah, but have required preparation in order to protect the health of Utah residents and visitors. This Health Status Update presents a brief overview of public health preparations for the Salt Lake 2002 Games.

Disease Monitoring & Control

Major international gatherings create conditions favorable to the spread of infectious diseases such as influenza. In addition, recent world events underscore the potential for the release of a biologic warfare agent by domestic or international extremists, resulting in diseases such as anthrax. Active monitoring of illnesses being seen by local health care providers allows early detection of these kinds of infections and a timely and appropriate response with vaccines, antibiotics, or other measures in order to minimize the number of people affected.

Public Health surveillance systems for Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Winter Games:

- Enhanced Notifiable Disease Surveillance
- Encounters at SLOC Medical Services clinics
- Urgent Care Syndromic Surveillance
 - Emergency Departments
 - Other urgent care facilities
- Sentinel Surveillance Systems (various)

Environmental & Food Regulation

In order to assure safe and healthy conditions at public accommodations and events, regulations are in place to minimize the risk of exposure to contaminated food, water, air and structural hazards. In Utah, inspection and enforcement of these regulations during the 2002 Olympics is the responsibility of the nine

Environmental and Public Health Alliance (EPHA) agencies (see back page) and are primarily carried out by the six EPHA local health departments.

Operations & Disaster Response

The intensity, duration, and public health issues associated with Olympic activity require an ongoing incident command approach similar to the structure activated during a large emergency or disaster event. Olympic public health operations at UDOH's EPICENTER and UOPSC's Olympic Coordination Center will provide coordination and communication during routine Olympic operations but quickly transition into full-scale emergency response operation centers should the need arise.

Public Information & Health Promotion

Disseminating accurate and timely information to the public is an essential component of preventing diseases and injuries or intervening to minimize the impact. When events occur that have health implications, public health must provide the public with current, trustworthy information through the news media and other information sources. Information has been developed for Olympic visitors on preventing health problems such as motor vehicle injury, hypothermia, altitude sickness, and influenza.

Emergency Medical Services

The role of UDOH's Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is to coordinate EMS activity during the Olympics as part of the statutory responsibility of the Utah Olympic Public Safety Command (UOPSC). The EMS Olympic mission is to effectively research, develop, coordinate, and implement the EMS component of the overall Public Safety Plan. The EMS work group is charged with ensuring that the EMS community is prepared to deliver safe, efficient, and effective emergency medical services to Utahns and Olympic visitors.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC HEALTH ALLIANCE

In order to assure coordinated planning and operations during the Olympics, nine agencies entered into an inter-local agency agreement in 1998 creating the Environmental and Public Health Alliance (EPHA) for the 2002 Winter Games. While each individual Alliance agency retains all authority and responsibility defined by state law, EPHA assures that Olympic planning, resource utilization, and communications occur in a coordinated and efficient manner. The federal partners listed on the back of this brochure are also closely involved with the individual agencies, or EPHA, in Olympic planning and operations.

The three EPHA state agencies have the responsibility to help coordinate local response capacity and enhance it by providing additional state resources or requesting and facilitating additional federal resources. Once activated by a presidential or FBI declaration, federal agencies would play a key role in the response to a health crisis and would provide the necessary operational support. During the Olympics, many of these federal emergency response resources will be pre-positioned in Utah to allow for immediate support should the need arise. These include first responders, medical care staff and equipment, epidemiologists, and also the needed emergency response medications.

"The Utah Department of Health's mission during the 2002 Winter Olympics, as always, is to protect the health and safety of residents and visitors in Utah."

- Dr. Scott Williams
Deputy Director

Statewide EMS Support for Agencies & Hospitals
1-866-DOH-UTAH

Statewide Infectious Disease Reporting
1-888-EPI-UTAH
<http://epi.health.utah.gov>

UDOH Planning Web Site:
<http://health.utah.gov/olympic/>

Spectator Health & Travel Tips
<http://www.saltlake2002.com>

Environmental and Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

Utah Department of Health (UDOH)
Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF)
Davis County Health Department
Salt Lake Valley Health Department
Summit County Health Department
Utah County Health Department
Wasatch County Health Department
Weber-Morgan County Health Department

EPHA/Federal Partners

Health and Human Services (HHS) Region VIII

- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP)
- Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

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