LAW ENFORCEMENT ROLE AND CAPABILITIES DURING PANDEMIC OUTBREAK

Captain Byron Jackson
Jefferson County SO
Homeland Security Division
205/325-5873
jacksonby@jccal.org
The response request are likely to extend resources of all levels of law enforcement- municipal, county, state and federal.

Each agency will need to develop and implement a plan to maintain an acceptable level of service to its community.
Review the organization’s mission to determine what organizational functions would have to be altered in the event of a pandemic.

Determine the potential impact of a pandemic on outside resources your organization depends on (vehicle towing, jail capacity, hospital services).

Outline the organizational structure to be used during a pandemic when staffing is reduced, including key contacts with multiple back-ups and clarity regarding an alternative chain of command.

Test your response and coordination using a drill or exercise.

Review the authority granted to law enforcement to take action during a health emergency.

Develop templates and messages for the PIO and other spokespeople to use during the outbreak to provide information to the public in a timely and accurate manner regarding security and other issues; coordinate messages with Public Health - Seattle & King County (Public Health).
Communicate with and educate your staff and persons in the communities you serve

- Invite Public Health to provide an introductory briefing to command staff on influenza pandemics and avian flu.
- Work with your local health department to educate staff and their families on pandemic influenza and avian flu, including prevention and treatment information.
- Provide individual and family preparedness guidance and information to staff to be self-sustaining during an emergency.
- Educate and inform residents through crime watch groups, neighborhood councils, websites, community workshops and other mechanisms about the situation, the need for personal and family readiness and principles of self-care. (Community organization checklists available online at www.pandemicflu.gov.)
- Encourage local businesses to prepare for a pandemic flu outbreak. (Business checklists available online at www.metrokc.gov/health/pandemicflu and www.pandemicflu.gov.)
Plan for the impact of a pandemic on your staff and the communities you serve

- Establish mechanisms to cover essential tasks if 30% of your sworn staff were ill or caring for their seriously ill family members.
- Establish a list of critical priorities to be covered and determine alternative mechanisms or work-arounds for addressing vital tasks such as dispatch.
- Work with Public Health to clarify first responder priority vaccination and antiviral policies in the event of an outbreak.
Set up/review/clarify policies and protocols to follow during a pandemic

- Review local and state mutual aid agreements.
- Establish/review written policies related to enforcement of quarantine orders and other restrictions and the escalation of force and use of lethal force to accomplish containment of diseases.
- Consider vulnerable targets for crimes of opportunity and fraudulent schemes (e.g., vacated schools, office complexes etc) and special population groups (e.g., elderly) and develop a training bulletin to insure all patrol staff are aware of those issues.
- Establish policies and practices for preventing the spread of influenza at the worksite (e.g., requiring respiratory hygiene in places and situations with public interaction).
Work with Public Health, hospitals, and local emergency management to establish clear coordination related to security of health and medical sites and operations during a pandemic, including storage of the Strategic National Stockpile of medication and supplies, if requested.

Coordinate with the Medical Examiner’s Office regarding the security needs involved with storage and disposition of a large number of dead.
MASS BURIAL SITES

- Escorts
- Security
- Body Removal
- Community Burial Sites
Death investigations will be needed:  
- Criminal  
- Suspicious  
- Natural
Criminal Death Investigation

- Requires trained law enforcement personnel
- Knowledgeable in crime scene preservation
- Knowledgeable in criminal law
- Knowledgeable in interview/interrogation
Law enforcement must make preliminary determination as to the need for further investigation.

- Obvious signs of trauma etc……
Law enforcement agencies will be affected

- Manpower reduced due to illness
- Calls for service will likely increase
- Type of service calls will likely change
  - From domestic calls, alarm responses, traffic crashes, theft, robbery, motorist assist, scams etc……
  - Security at Hospitals Emergency Rooms, pharmacies
  - To crowd control needs, escorts of pharmaceuticals, transportation of medical staff/supplies, etc.. plus the day to day calls for service
State Law Enforcement

- Department of Public Safety
- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
- Forestry
- Department of Corrections
FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

- ATF
- FBI
- Secret Service
- DEA
- US Marshal
- Military
COOP

- Agencies must have a COOP (Continuity of Operations Plan) in place.
- Maintain Command and Control (Backups in place).
- Backups on Information Technology.
- Infrastructure Maintenance.
- Personnel Training for Response.
Law Enforcement Duties

- An agency cannot expect a neighboring agency to respond to a request to maintain day to day operations.
  - Adjust manpower to meet agency needs
  - Prioritize calls for service
  - Cross-training (Dispatchers, L.E. and Corrections)
  - Utilize reserve personnel if available
Self Protection

- Limit unnecessary contact
  - This will be difficult simply because of the requirement of the job
  - Searches
  - Handcuffing
  - Aiding the injured
Self Protection

- Personal Protective Equipment
  - Protective masks
  - Gloves
  - Level B Protective Tyvek Suits
  - Hand sanitizer
  - Boots
  - Tape
Decontamination

- Decon Stations
  - Shower Area
  - Disrobing Area
  - Disposable Suits (While awaiting clean clothing)