

# Future directions and resource constraints

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# Public Health Roles in Medical Countermeasures

- **Assessment**
  - studying and modeling the characteristics of biological agents, countermeasures, detection, diagnosis, etc.
  - understanding of unique attributes/vulnerable populations/challenges at a local level (importance of including partners in assessment process)
  - operations research/systems engineering approaches to surge, delivery, POD operations
- **Policy Development**
  - critical importance of PLANNING (if not “THE PLAN”) at all levels
  - Early ENGAGEMENT of the private sector, communities, responders, etc.
  - Encourage CREATIVITY
- **Assurance**
  - use existing structures (employers, schools, distributive businesses)
  - consider “nonmedical models”
  - promote self-efficacy
  - Public health resources address vulnerable populations (disabled, elderly, remote locations)
  - Plan for the unexpected (leadership and expertise are key)

# Resource Issues

- PEOPLE
  - Those who must show up in a crisis
  - Those who feel protected (medically and legally)
  - Those who understand their roles in advance and can drill/practice them
- LEADERSHIP
  - Public health, corporate, community
  - Bold, creative, inspired by interest in protecting selves, families, communities, business
- FISCAL
  - Need for stable and continued support of public health preparedness planning processes
  - Ineffectiveness of stopgap measures (emergency appropriations)
- LIABILITY
  - PREP Act implies that this should not be an impediment however it does require a FEDERAL determination of an emergency
  - ?Role for state as well as federal legislation in this area

# Next Steps

- Support of public health preparedness planning efforts (particularly in the area of medical countermeasures) and countering “pandemic fatigue”
- Sharing lessons learned/knowledge
  - Report of this conference!
  - ?Regional meetings
- Next challenges
  - Antivirals, vaccines
  - Public health law and preparedness issues
  - Modified “standards of care”