



The mission of the Hawai'i State Department of Health is to protect and improve the health and environment for all people in Hawai'i. This mission includes working to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural and human-caused health emergencies and disasters.

IF THERE WERE A HURRICANE, TSUNAMI, EARTHQUAKE, OR OTHER NATURAL DISASTER...

...then the Department of Health works to facilitate:

- Safe drinking water, sanitation, and food safety practices in shelters and communities
- Air, water, and land monitoring to identify toxins, pollutants, and other environmental threats to health and safety
- Access to care and resources to ensure the protection of public health
- Advisories and warnings are distributed to reach all affected areas and communities to provide health and safety information about preventing injuries, boiling water, preventing mold, and other vital information and notices
- Assistance and resources for vulnerable and at-risk individuals, including kupuna, keiki, people with disabilities or access or functional needs

IF THERE WERE A DISEASE PANDEMIC, HIGHLY PATHOGENIC DISEASE OUTBREAK, OR OTHER MAJOR HEALTH EMERGENCY...

...then the Department of Health works to provide:

- Disease surveillance, investigation, and monitoring
- Vaccination or other prophylaxis and medication as available
- Activation of the Strategic National Stockpile to provide the above, if needed
- Medical and general health guidance and recommendations
- Access to care and resources to ensure the protection of public health
- Information and resources to prevent the spread of disease, and what to do if a person becomes ill
- Instruction and guidance to hospitals and healthcare system partners, including relaying national guidance to the state

IF THERE WERE A BIOTERRORISM, INDUSTRIAL OR CHEMICAL EXPLOSION OR SPILL, OR RADIATION INCIDENT...

...then the Department of Health works to activate:

- On-scene assessment and coordination of the threat
- Testing and identification of suspicious substances
- Incident response and management in partnership with state and county first responders
- Alerting and notification of the public for health and safety protective measures
- Medical and general health guidance and recommendations
- Monitoring and clean-up activities for post-incident recovery