

Preparedness in the Southwest Course

Module 12: Isolation and Quarantine

Isolation and quarantine are used to help contain the spread of infectious diseases and help protect the health of a population. Historically, the practices of isolation and quarantine (I & Q) form the basis of public health law in the United States. The goal of this module is to give some basic information on I & Q, describe the legal basis and authority health departments have, and describe ways to plan for and properly execute either isolation or quarantine of people in today's public health system.

Learning Objectives:

1. Define isolation and quarantine.
2. Describe the legal authority a public health department has with regard to isolation and quarantine.
3. List the diseases requiring quarantine under United States law.
4. Understand their public health role during isolation and quarantine.
5. List the ten principles of community containment.
6. Describe the different types of interventions used in community containment.
7. Understand some of the key issues in writing an Isolation and Quarantine response plan.
8. Describe the six key elements in processing an involuntary detention.
9. List the minimum standards for a home and community-based isolation or quarantine facility.
10. Describe ways public health can help to ensure effective community containment measures.

Core competencies addressed:

Competency 1: Describe the public health role in emergency response in a range of emergencies that might arise.

Competency 2: Describe the chain of command in emergency response

Competency 4: Describe his/her functional role(s) in emergency response and demonstrate his/her roles in regular drills.

Competency 6: Describe communication role(s) in emergency response:

- Within agency
- Media
- General public
- Personal (family, neighbors)

Competency 8 – Recognize deviations from the norm that might indicate an emergency and describe appropriate action.

Target Capability:

Isolation and Quarantine