

Department of Health

The Department of Health is responsible for working to enhance and protect the health and wellbeing of all Victorians.

Prevention / Mitigation / Risk Reduction Activities

- To develop prevention, preparedness, response and recovery capability across the hospital, primary health and aged care sectors for an emergency with major health consequences.
- Provide whole-of-health leadership and direction in planning and preparing for emergencies with major health consequences.
- Implement legislation, programs and monitoring procedures to minimise public health risk from:
 - ◆ infectious diseases
 - ◆ contaminated food
 - ◆ contaminated water supplies
 - ◆ radiation and chemicals.

Response Activities

- Control agency for human disease/epidemics, food/drinking water contamination and incidents involving radiological substances and intentional biological releases.
- Through the State Health Emergency Response Plan, co-ordinate the on-site provision of extended health care including the deployment of Medical Assistance Teams.
- Access additional health professionals for the provision of casualty care during an emergency with major health consequences.
- Direct the strategic health response during an emergency with major health consequences.
- Co-ordinate the deployment of suitably-qualified health professionals in response to an interstate or Commonwealth request.
- Through the State Health Emergency Response Plan, co-ordinate the on-site provision of primary care including the deployment of Field Primary Care Clinics.

Relief / Recovery Activities

- Support the Department of Human Services in the co-ordination of relief and recovery planning and management at State and regional levels, including State/Commonwealth departments, local government, non-government organisations and funded agencies.
- Provide advice, information and assistance to affected individuals, communities, funded agencies and municipal councils.