Louisiana Primary Care Association (LPCA)
Emergency Preparedness
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

A. How does the LPCA help FQHCs with their EP planning?

The LPCA helps FQHCs to:

• Design, develop and implement EP plans compliant with guidelines and expectations from the Bureau of Primary Health Care policy information notice 2007-15, DHH, the Joint Commission, the AAAHC and NIMS guidelines.
• Integrate policy, procedure and plans with state, regional and local EP partners.
• Develop, conduct and validate a multi-level exercise plan for all-hazards including pandemic flu that includes annual drills and exercises.
• Design and implement a continuous individual and collective training program.
• Establish a comprehensive, redundant, interoperable and flexible EP communications plan.

B. What are the first steps to establishing an EP plan for your CHC?

First Steps to establishing an EP plan for your community health center include:

1. Establishing an EP Steering Committee.
2. Developing a comprehensive EP plan tailored to CHC needs per the annual Hazards Vulnerability Analysis report:
3. Creating of a multi-level communication network system for staff patients and staff-staff, and with other EP stakeholders on state and regional levels:
4. Integrating plans into state, regional and local policies and guidelines:
5. Developing training and communication exercise programs

Additionally, center personnel designated by the EP steering committee should carry out an annual all-hazards vulnerability assessment. CHC emergency preparedness plans, exercises and drills should then be restructured to reflect any changes highlighted by the annual HVA.

C: What has LPCA done in the past for health centers in regards to EP?

Past Activities within LPCA include:

- Primary Care Association (PCA) plans were approved and included within both State hurricane preparedness and comprehensive emergency and disaster planning documents.
- State partnerships development included pandemic influenza planning, development of local pointing of dispensing sites, and direct involvement in emergency/disaster assistance through the Critical Transportation Needs (CTN) shelter initiative.
- In collaboration with State partners, non-profit and private sector entities, LPCA provided much-needed support to community health centers impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- LPCA hosted a meeting with State officials to assess damages and to collaboratively distribute resources to primary care providers and Louisiana’s FQHC’s.
- Some health centers received generators secured by LPCA with assistance from Rep. Michael Jackson and Operation USA.
LPCA dispatched donated medical supplies to health centers within seven days after Katrina had hit the state.

D. What is the LPCA doing currently to support health centers in EP?

Currently, the LPCA is assessing EP plans and procedures from member clinics, to identify gaps and assist in the identification of appropriate resources to strengthen the CHC capacity for emergency management and preparedness planning.

E. Going forward, what are the LPCA’s plans to support health centers with EP?

The key initiative for the immediate future is to maintain the LPCA’s focus on training, continued partnership development, EP plan revision and expansion, exercise development and sustainment activities.