

Overview

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Advisory Group

The Governor's **Public Health Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (PHEPAC)** was established by Executive Order February of 2008. The committee grew out of recommendations made by the *Governor's Taskforce for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness* in its' Final Report issued in April of 2007(to view the entire report go to <http://pandemicflu.utah.gov/plan/indexofplan.html>). The PHEPAC is a standing committee and the scope of work includes all Public Health Emergencies. The committee plans to meet quarterly and held its' first meeting in May of 2008.

The committee is comprised of approximately 25 members appointed by the Governor and representing many sectors of the community including public health, public safety, local and rural public health, the business community, hospitals and healthcare, community groups (to include "at risk"populations), the legislature, faith based organizations, volunteer organizations, education, government, tribal organizations and homeland security.

The Executive Director of the Utah Department of Health, David Sundwall, MD and the Commissioner of the Utah Department of Public Safety, Lance Davenport, co-chair the committee.

The Executive Order establishes the first charge of the committee to "oversee completion of recommendations..." of the Governor's Taskforce. The final report provides "highest priority recommendations" regarding Pandemic Influenza Preparedness which the committee divided into two broad categories; 1) Public Health Preparedness and, 2) Community Preparedness & Essential Services. Two sub-committees called Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) were established to focus on the review and assessment of current preparedness planning efforts. The TAGs will report their findings and recommendations to the full committee which will then make recommendations to the Governor accordingly.



Jon Meade Huntsman, Jr.
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Creating the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee

WHEREAS, the Governor's Taskforce on Pandemic Influenza Preparedness has recommended a permanent advisory committee be established;

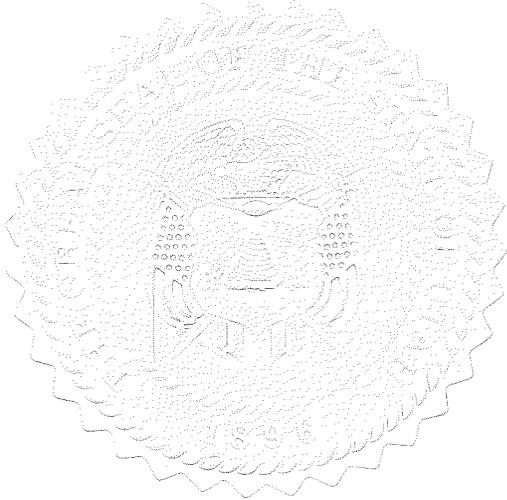
WHEREAS, the State of Utah needs to be prepared for public health emergencies and establish a process for decision-making during such emergencies that promotes public trust and cooperation with those decisions,

WHEREAS, keeping citizens healthy is a top priority of the State of Utah;

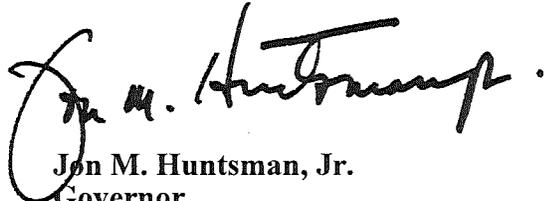
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., Governor of the State of Utah, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Utah do hereby order the following:

1. There is created a Public Health Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee.
2. The committee consists of members appointed by the Governor to a 3 year term, not to exceed 2 terms.
 - a. Members should be selected based on their specific knowledge critical to response in a pandemic or other public health emergency; they shall also be selected to be widely representative of different sectors of society throughout Utah.
3. The committee shall initially:
 - a. Oversee completion of recommendations of the Governor's Taskforce on Pandemic Influenza Preparedness
 - b. Review and assess preparedness in Utah for a pandemic, including potentially reviewing plans or results of assessments or exercises.
 - c. Review and issue recommendations on key decisions and plans
4. After activities in subsection 3 are completed, the committee may make a request to the Governor on other public health emergency preparedness areas the committee would like to review and assess.
5. The committee will not be responsible for operational direction during a pandemic or other public health emergency.
6. The committee should not be expected to coordinate operational response during a pandemic or other public health emergency or to coordinate preparedness activities among state agencies or between state and local agencies.

7. The committee may establish technical advisory groups that work under the overall direction of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee.
8. The Utah Department of Health shall provide the committee budgetary and staff support as approved by the Executive Director.
9. Members of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee serve without compensation.



IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Utah. Done in Salt Lake City, Utah, this 8th day of February, 2008.


Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.
Governor


Gary R. Herbert
Lieutenant Governor

ATTEST: