

Public Health Response Teams Overview

A natural or man-made disaster can overwhelm local medical and public health responders. To support local responders; the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has created Public Health Response Teams. The Public Health Response Teams consists of various public health, medical practitioners, environmental health professions, epidemiologist, and other professionals located throughout the state, to assist fellow lowans during the first 24-72 hours after a disaster.

The Public Health Response Team currently consists of four components: Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), Environmental Health Response Team (EHRT), Epidemiology Response Team (EpiRT) and Logistical Support Response Team (LSRT)

DMAT, the Disaster Medical Assistance Team, provides medical and public health care to disaster victims and supplements overburdened local medical and public health resources.

EHRT, the Environmental Health Response Team, provides technical assistance by preventing or controlling diseases or deaths resulting from interactions between people and their environment.

EpiRT, the Epidemiology Response Team, provides community health, prevention, data management or data analysis skills to assist local health departments during outbreaks or emergency situations.

LSRT, Logistical Support Response Team, provides logistical support for all the Public Health Response Teams to include transportation, set up/teardown and operation of our Mobile Health Care Facility.

Public Health Response Team members receive continual emergency response training and are dedicated to serving in a time of need. Whether it's a tornado, flood, or terrorist activity the Public Health Response Teams are ready to help their neighbors !!