Prevent Epidemics and the Spread of Disease

Controlling infectious or communicable disease is fundamental to public health. The critical areas in these standards are surveillance, investigation, and prevention/control measures that must be in place for routine activities as well as disease outbreaks.

The Prevent Epidemics and the Spread of Disease standards were designed to:

◆ Emphasize the importance of public health epidemiology.
◆ Identify basic expectations for public health response to infectious disease.
◆ Standardize public health response to infectious disease.

What are the benefits and outcomes for Iowans?

◆ Well trained staff in infectious disease and epidemiology.
◆ Coordinated and consistent response to infectious disease at both the state & local levels.
◆ Improved communication among local, state, and federal partners.
◆ A comprehensive surveillance system.
◆ A systematic approach to investigating disease outbreaks.
◆ Coordinated and consistent prevention efforts.

How will the State public health system change?

◆ Local and state partners will need to continually build on the good work that has already occurred. In the future, funding may be needed to maintain the system of epi-trained disease investigators, for ongoing maintenance of standard operating procedures for disease surveillance/follow-up/control measures, and for the close partnerships that are essential for sustaining a comprehensive system.

For more information about the Prevent Epidemics and the Spread of Disease standards, contact committee co-chairs: