



## APC Advocate Guide

APC Roadshow  
Albuquerque, NM  
August 2009



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**NACCHO**

National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*

### What is an APC Advocate?

Public health preparedness practitioners participating in this training will gain invaluable knowledge, APC products to supplement their preparedness efforts, and new connections and networks of professional support. In return, participants who attend this training are asked to serve as an advocate for the preparedness knowledge and resources shared by the Advanced Practice Centers.

### What does it mean to be an “APC Advocate”?

As an “APC Advocate,” participants will apply what they learned in this training to their practice and share this knowledge with others in their organization, community, or other local health departments.

### How can an APC Advocate share information?

There are many ways an APC Advocate can share the knowledge and resources of the Advanced Practice Centers. This may include:

- \* A community presentation about the program and/or specific tools;
- \* A brown-bag lunch session with colleagues;
- \* A meeting with a partner organization;
- \* A State Association of County & City Health Officials’ (SACCHO) meeting; or
- \* Regular conference calls or meetings.

### What resources are in this Guide for the APC Advocate?

In this guide you will find: (All items can be downloaded from [www.naccho.org/roadshowinfo](http://www.naccho.org/roadshowinfo))

- \* A PowerPoint presentation;
- \* Background about the APC program;
- \* Frequently Asked Questions;
- \* An APC fact sheet that can be reproduced;
- \* A list of APC products and where to find them;
- \* A form to update NACCHO.

### Questions?

If at any time you have a question about the program or an APC product, contact Stephanie Stevens at [sstevens@naccho.org](mailto:sstevens@naccho.org) or (202) 507-4230.



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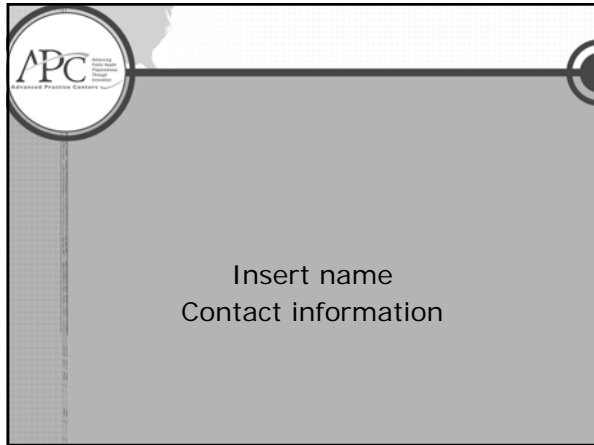
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**What is an Advanced Practice Center?**

- Each Advanced Practice Center (APC) is a local health department—one that has been tasked with addressing priorities in public health preparedness.
- APCs serve the public health community by:
  - providing tools and resources;
  - educational materials;
  - trainings; and
  - technical assistance to help public health practitioners address local preparedness challenges.

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## The History of the APCs

- In 2003, NACCHO, in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, awarded five local health departments the opportunity to serve as *Advanced Practice Centers*.
- Additional sites were selected and funded in 2004; in 2006, an APC was added to serve as the national model for rural public health.
- For a listing of current APC sites, visit [www.naccho.org/apc](http://www.naccho.org/apc)

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## APCs Address Many Topic Areas

- Vulnerable Populations
- Biosurveillance
- Radiological Response
- Environmental Health
- Food Safety
- Mutual Aid
- Public Education
- Rural Health
- Personal Preparedness
- Risk Communication
- Mass Dispensing
- Pandemic Influenza
- Mass Fatality
- Volunteers
- Workforce Development

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## Innovative Tools and Resources



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### Innovative Tools and Resources

- All APC products are **FREE** of charge.
- Many of the products are available in PDF format; others may need to be ordered from the NACCHO Bookstore.
- Most products are **CUSTOMIZABLE** to fit the needs and identities of local communities.
- Visit the online **APC Toolbox** and search for products by topic or state: [www.naccho.org/toolbox](http://www.naccho.org/toolbox).
- A product catalog will be available fall 2009.

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### Ongoing Assessment

- Every product produced by the APC is continually and independently evaluated to ensure it meets the needs of those working to prepare America's communities.

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### Ongoing Assessment

- A recent survey found APC products help public health departments:
  - Standardize the work they perform;
  - Save time and money by increasing organizational capacity;
  - Heighten awareness about preparedness issues; and
  - Help staff better understand their roles in a public health emergency.

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What Others Are Saying...

"This is a a fantastic resource for local public health agencies so that we aren't each re-inventing the wheel. The APC concept is brilliant- and we thank you for your great leadership."

- Local Public Health Director

"...their [APC's] work was top notch, proven, and packaged for distribution. You can't beat it!"

- APC Training Conference Participant

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For More Information, or to Find APC Products, Visit:

[www.naccho.org/APC](http://www.naccho.org/APC)

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## Background

Each day, local health departments (LHD) work on the front lines to combat threats to the health of their communities. However, a significant number of LHDs across the United States still lack the crucial resources and in-house expertise to effectively plan for such severe threats as pandemic influenza, emerging infectious diseases, terrorism, and catastrophic natural disasters. Furthermore, many local public health officials struggle to obtain essential resources that can facilitate their planning, assessment, and implementation efforts. As a result, these LHDs may not be fully equipped with the tools and knowledge needed to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the full range of public health threats in an effective and efficient manner.

In 2003, NACCHO established the “Advanced Practice Centers” (APCs) Program in collaboration with the CDC to provide LHDs with access to critical public health preparedness resources. For the last five years, the APC network has been at the forefront of public health preparedness. At a time when local programs are receiving reduced support from federal resources, the APC network has been available to provide LHDs nationwide with a wealth of public health preparedness resources and training opportunities. This program has saved many LHDs the unnecessary time and resources spent on duplication of work. The APC network served as a vital knowledge hub by providing LHDs across the United States with preparedness tools that can be quickly and easily integrated into local plans, procedures, and practices. Over the years, these tools have become essential instruments that LHDs nationwide have employed to assess their vulnerability and to strengthen their response capacity.

## Mission

The unique mission of the APC network is to *promote innovative and practical solutions that enhance the capabilities of all LHDs and the public health system to prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies*. The network serves the public health community nationwide by strengthening public health preparedness among localities that lack specialized resources and expertise. Each APC site is tasked with developing and distributing cutting-edge resources that public health professionals can quickly and easily tailor to fit the unique needs of their communities and regions. These innovative, progressive, and practical preparedness resources and training tools are freely available and can be tailored to meet a community’s needs.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: What is an Advanced Practice Center (APC)?**

A: Each APC is a local health department—one that has been tasked with addressing a particular public health preparedness challenge. Advanced Practice Centers exist to serve the public health community, providing resources ranging from training tools to prepare for and respond to mass casualty incidents to public education materials to tools to help you reach vulnerable populations.

### **Q: Where do I find APC products?**

A: All APC-developed products are freely available and can be tailored to fit your community's unique needs. Visit the APC Toolbox, found at [www.naccho.org/toolbox](http://www.naccho.org/toolbox) and search for products by topic or state or select a product. An APC product catalog will be available fall 2009.

### **Q: How much do APC products cost?**

A: All APC products are **free** of charge. Many of the resources are available for download in PDF format. Others may need to be ordered from the NACCHO Bookstore. In this instance, minimal shipping and handling charges may apply.

### **Q: Are APC products evaluated?**

A: Yes, every product produced by the APCs is continually and independently evaluated to ensure that it effectively meets the needs of those working to prepare America's communities. In fact, a recent survey found that APC products have not only helped public health departments standardize the work they perform and train their communities, but also can:

- Save time and money by increasing organizational capacity;
- Heighten awareness about emergency preparedness issues; and
- Help staff better understand roles in a public health emergency.

### **Q: Where is there more information about the APC program?**

A: Visit [www.naccho.org/apc](http://www.naccho.org/apc) for more information.



# THE ADVANCED PRACTICE CENTER PROGRAM

In November 2003, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded five local health departments (LHDs) the opportunity to serve as *Advanced Practice Centers* (APCs). At the core of the APC program is the belief that the innovative, progressive work of exemplary LHDs, shared broadly with the public health community, can help address the preparedness challenges facing communities throughout the country.

As a result of increased program funding three additional sites were selected and funded in September 2004. In June 2006, an APC was selected to serve as the national model for rural public health. APCs now exist in a majority of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Regions, providing LHDs across the country with tools to help them prepare for and respond to public health emergencies.

The APCs focus their work on the following priority areas:

- Bisureillance
- Vulnerable populations
- Workforce development and training
- Communications and information sharing
- Mass medical countermeasures
- Partnerships and collaborations
- Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive preparedness
- Surge capacity
- Mass fatality management
- Legal authority and liability
- Critical infrastructure protection
- Disaster behavioral health
- Exercises and events
- Natural disaster preparedness

## ADVANCED PRACTICE CENTERS ACCOMPLISH IMPORTANT WORK

*The Advanced Practice Centers ...*

- Develop and promote innovative products for easy adoption by other public health jurisdictions to improve their public health emergency planning and response.
- Build and strengthen cooperation and coordination with community partners to help save lives in the event of a public health emergency. Partners may include the media, fire and police departments, medical schools and schools of public health, hospitals and other local and state departments of health.
- Develop interactive exercises that use mock scenarios to engage, educate, and train participants – exercises that can be customized for use in any local health department.
- Share resources and tools with the public health community through the APC Toolbox.
- Conduct trainings and provide technical assistance.

### LOOK FOR APC PRODUCTS ON THE WEB

APC tools may be downloaded via the online toolbox, [www.naccho.org/toolbox](http://www.naccho.org/toolbox).

By developing cutting-edge tools and resources for broad dissemination and sharing lessons learned, APCs help LHDs do more with less.

For more information contact Zarnaaz Bashir, Program Manager at (202) 507-4190, or at [zbashir@naccho.org](mailto:zbashir@naccho.org).

For more information about the APCs, visit: [www.naccho.org/apc](http://www.naccho.org/apc).

## Product Listing by Public Health Preparedness Priority Area

### **Disaster Behavioral Health**

- \* Emergency Response Planning for Child Care Providers
- \* In Their Own Voices
- \* Pandemic Influenza Plan

### **Exercises and Events**

- \* Building a Public Health Community of Practice: A Biosurveillance Resource Compendium
- \* Conducting a BT Tabletop: A “How-To” Guide
- \* Designing, Implementing & Evaluating a Public Health Exercise: A Dirty Bomb Disaster
- \* ESSENCE - Guidelines for Configuration, Set-Up and Maintenance, Operations Based Drill
- \* Isolation and Quarantine Toolkit
- \* Master the Disaster!
- \* Notes From the Field: A Collection of Emergency Preparedness Exercise and Evaluation Reviews
- \* Planning and Implementing a Public Health Exercise for Radiological Events: An Exercise Guide
- \* Tabletop Exercises: Design and Implementing. The Avian Overture How pandemic training builds public health and safety partnerships.

### **Legal Authorities and Liabilities**

- \* Building a Public Health Community of Practice: A Biosurveillance Resource Compendium
- \* Public Health Mutual Aid: Making it Happen
- \* Pandemic Influenza Plan

### **Mass Fatality Management**

- \* Managing Mass Fatalities: A Toolkit for Planning
- \* Medical Mass Care During an Influenza Pandemic – Guide and Toolkit for Establishing Care Centers

### **Mass Medical Countermeasures**

- \* Clinic Planning Model Generator
- \* Emergency Dispensing Site Staff Training Series
- \* Emergency Mass Prophylaxis Operations
- \* Mass Triage Interactive Training: A Short Course
- \* PPE, Decontamination, and Mass Triage: A Short Course

## **Mass Medical Countermeasures Continued**

- \* Pictogram-based Signs for Mass Prophylaxis Services
- \* Plan to Be Safe: Training Modules for Emergency Operations of Dispensing and Vaccination Clinics: A Guide for Public Health Program Planners
- \* Plan to be Ready: A Guide for Training Non-Public Health Workers to Respond to Public Health Emergencies

## **Medical Surge Capacity**

- \* Emergency Dispensing Site Staff Training Series
- \* Hospital Surge Capacity Toolkit
- \* Managing Surge Response and Workforce Activation
- \* Medical Mass Care During an Influenza Pandemic – Guide and Toolkit for Establishing Care Centers
- \* Rural Preparedness Guide

## **Natural Disaster Preparedness**

- \* Disaster Strikes-Environmental Health Responds: Stories From the Field
- \* Emergency Mass Prophylaxis Operations
- \* Emergency Handbook for Food Managers
- \* Emergency Preparedness Begins at Home
- \* Emergency Risk Communication for Public Health Professionals
- \* Home Child Care Provider Crisis/Disaster Response Handbook
- \* Local Emergency Notification System
- \* Hospital Surge Capacity Toolkit
- \* Managing Mass Fatalities: A Toolkit for Planning
- \* Master the Disaster!
- \* Plan to be Ready: A Guide for Training Non-Public Health Workers to Respond to Public Health Emergencies
- \* Preparing Your Business for Emergencies, Natural and Man-Made Disasters
- \* Speak First: Communicating Effectively in Times of Crisis and Uncertainty

## **Partnerships and Collaboration**

- \* Business Not As Usual: Preparing for Pandemic Flu
- \* Bio-Pack Toolkit
- \* Crisis, Emergency, and Risk Communication (CERC) Toolkit
- \* Countywide Medical Response System (CMRS)
- \* Emergency Mass Prophylaxis Operations

## **Partnerships and Collaboration Continued**

- \* Emergency Preparedness Begins at Home
- \* How to Create a Partnership Between Your Public Health Agency and Area Hospitals
- \* How to Create a Partnership Between Your Public Health Agency and the Child Care Community
- \* Isolation and Quarantine Toolkit
- \* Local Emergency Notification System
- \* Local Health Department Guide to Pandemic Influenza Planning
- \* Medical Volunteers for Disaster Response Toolkit
- \* Partnerships and Collaboration Building Toolkit
- \* Plan to be Ready: A Guide for Training Non-Public Health Workers to Respond to Public Health Emergencies
- \* Public Health Emergency Preparedness Toolkit
- \* Public Health Mutual Aid: Making it Happen
- \* Rural Preparedness Guide
- \* Stop the Spread! A Toolkit for Preventing the Spread of Germs in Clinics and Office Settings
- \* Strengthening Emergency Response Through a Healthcare Coalition Toolkit
- \* Strengthening the Strengtheners: A Toolkit in Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response for Congregations
- \* Urban to Rural Evacuation Model Tool

## **Vulnerable Populations**

- \* Creating & Operating a Public Information Call Center
- \* Emergency Preparedness Checklist for Case Management and Home Care Services
- \* Emergency Preparedness Checklist for Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities and Group Homes
- \* Emergency Preparedness Training Curriculum for Latino Health Promoters
- \* Emergency Response Planning for Child Care Providers
- \* Emergency Dispensing Site Staff Training Series
- \* Food Safety & Security Self-Audit Checklist, Translation Version 1
- \* Food Safety & Security Self-Audit Checklist, Translation Version 2
- \* Home Child Care Provider Crisis/Disaster Response Handbook
- \* How to Create a Partnership Between Your Public Health Agency and the Child Care Community
- \* In Their Own Voices
- \* In an Emergency: Salvage or Discard Fact Sheets Translated Version 1

## **Vulnerable Populations Continued**

- \* In an Emergency: Salvage or Discard Fact Sheets Translated Version 2
- \* Isolation and Quarantine Toolkit
- \* Pan Flu & Us
- \* Pictogram-based Signs for Mass Prophylaxis Services
- \* Plan to Be Safe Toolkit
- \* Strengthening the Strengtheners: A Toolkit in Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response for Congregations

## **Workforce Development**

- \* 2006 APC Training Conference: Trainer's Guide
- \* 2007 APC Training Conference: Trainer's Guide
- \* 2008 APC Training Conference: Trainer's Guide
- \* Avian Influenza and Pandemic Influenza Presentation
- \* Bio-Pack Toolkit
- \* Business Not As Usual: Preparing for Pandemic Flu
- \* Developing a Student Outreach and Response Team (SORT)
- \* Disaster Strikes-Environmental Health Responds: Stories From the Field
- \* Emergency Dispensing Site Staff Training Series
- \* Emergency Handbook for Food Managers
- \* Emergency Mass Prophylaxis Operations
- \* Emergency Preparedness & Response Fundamentals: Training for Environmental Health Professionals
- \* Emergency Preparedness Training Curriculum for Latino Health Promoters
- \* Emergency Readiness for Food Workers: Trainer Guide
- \* Food Safety & Security Self-Audit Checklist
- \* Food Safety & Security Self-Audit Checklist, Translation Version 1
- \* Food Safety & Security Self-Audit Checklist, Translation Version 2
- \* In an Emergency: Salvage or Discard Fact Sheets Translated Version 1
- \* In an Emergency: Salvage or Discard Fact Sheets Translated Version 2
- \* Local Heroes
- \* Managing Surge Response and Workforce Activation
- \* MRC Self-Paced Training Course for Medical and Non-Medical Volunteers
- \* Master the Disaster!
- \* Mass Triage Interactive Training: A Short Course
- \* Medical Mass Care During an Influenza Pandemic – Guide and Toolkit for Establishing Care Centers

## **Workforce Development Continued**

- \* Medical Volunteers for Disaster Response Toolkit
- \* Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Toolkit
- \* Plan to be Ready: A Guide for Training Non-Public Health Workers to Respond to Public Health Emergencies
- \* PPE, Decontamination, and Mass Triage: A Short Course
- \* Plan to Be Safe: Training Modules for Emergency Operations of Dispensing and Vaccination Clinics: A Guide for Public Health Program Planners
- \* Public Health Workforce Team Plan (PHWTP)
- \* Responding to Chemical and Radiological Disasters: A Self-Paced Training Course
- \* Responding to Chemical and Radiological Terrorism: Training Manual
- \* Speak First: Communicating Effectively in Times of Crisis and Uncertainty
- \* Stop the Spread! A Toolkit for Preventing the Spread of Germs in Clinics and Office Settings
- \* Tabletop Exercises: Design and Implementing. The Avian Overture How pandemic training builds public health and safety partnerships
- \* Using ESSENCE IV— A Self-Paced Training Course

## Update NACCHO!

Thank you for serving as an APC Advocate! Please describe how you have shared information about the APC program and any feedback you received. NACCHO will use this information to enhance communications, plan future outreach activities as well as improve progress reporting. Please answer the following questions (please be as detailed as possible) and return the form to:

NACCHO  
Attn: Stephanie Stevens  
1100 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

Or, by e-mail: [sstevens@naccho.org](mailto:sstevens@naccho.org)

- 1) Please tell us where and when you shared information about the APC program?
  
- 2) Who was the audience and about how many people were present? (e.g., community members, staff at my health department, etc.)
  
- 3) Tell us about what you shared: (e.g., a particular tool or an overview of the program, etc.)
  
- 4) What was the general impression of the audience? Did you receive any feedback?
  
- 5) Was there any follow-up after you shared the information? If so, please describe.
  
- 6) Please tell us how, since the APC Roadshow, you, or a colleague, have used an APC product or information learned in the training: (please tell us which product(s) and about your experience with the product)