

# MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT NETWORK SYSTEM

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**\*\*ADVISORY – Important Information\*\***

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**TO:** BOH Leadership, BOH, Border Medical Officers, Div. Of Public Health Systems, DWP Comm., DWP NonComm, DWP NTNC, DWP Fax, Emergency21, EMS, Hospital Association, Hospital Education, ICP, Maine Lab Facilities, Maine Primary Care, MEMA, Public Health Nursing, RRC's, State and Federal Agencies, State DDC, Veterinarians

**FROM:** Dora Anne Mills, M.D., M.P.H., State Medical Officer

**SUBJECT:** Hurricane Katrina Response

**DATE:** September 7, 2005

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**PRIORITY:** Review

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## MAINE RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

### **Background:**

A number of Maine healthcare providers and members of the public health workforce have expressed interest in volunteering with response efforts.

Multiple requests for volunteers have been sent from a variety of sources including the Bureau of Health, professional associations, hospitals and the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. Maine is working to develop a single, coordinated system that will allow us to build a Volunteer Registry of medical, public health and other appropriate professionals.

The Bureau of Health is working collaboratively with MEMA (Maine Emergency Management Agency) to develop strategies for a coordinated approach for building a Maine team of volunteers. Efforts are being organized through **EMAC** (Emergency Management Assistance Compact); this is a congressionally ratified organization that provides form and structure to interstate mutual aid. **Nationally, EMAC is being endorsed as the preferred method of enrolling volunteers through states such as Maine who participate in the compact.** This was reinforced by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on September 6, 2005. Through EMAC, Louisiana and Mississippi have requested, and will receive assistance from member states including Maine.

Southern states will be asked to respond first due to their geographic proximity to affected areas; there will be second and third (at least) wave of responders over the next several months. If Maine is asked to send teams it is likely this would be in the latter waves a month or more from now, and many may be sent to locations away from Louisiana and Mississippi to evacuation relocation sites. We have been told that a response will be needed for at least 6 months.

To assist Maine's coordinated registration of volunteers, a web-based registration form has been created that will be assessable beginning September 7, 2005. This form will be posted on the Maine Bureau of Health Website at: [www.mainepublichealth.gov](http://www.mainepublichealth.gov) and a link to the registration form will be available at the MEMA website at: [www.state.me.us/mema/](http://www.state.me.us/mema/)

### **Recommendations:**

If your agencies have developed response teams, keep that structure in place and be sure to register each member of the team utilizing the web-based registration system. This strategy will allow Maine to develop a centralized and coordinated effort that will assist now and in the future.

For Additional Information, points of contact are:

MEMA - Olan Johnston at [olan.johnston@maine.gov](mailto:olan.johnston@maine.gov) 624-4435

Rayna Leibowitz at [rayna.leibowitz@maine.gov](mailto:rayna.leibowitz@maine.gov) 624-4430

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EMAC: [www.emacweb.org](http://www.emacweb.org)