

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 6 March 2020

Response Date: 9 March 2020; Updated 11 June 2020

Type of TA Request: Complex

Request:

The requestor asked for information on quarantine enforcement training for law enforcement. They asked for either an e-learning module or curriculum on this topic. Their goal is to “establish a sustainable training that can be offered, preferably on-line, for POST-certification and thus law enforcement continuing education Units (CEUs) relative to quarantine enforcement processes and legal parameters.”

Please refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s [Coronavirus Disease 2019 webpage](#) for the most up-to-date clinical guidance on COVID-19 outbreak management.

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE Team reached out to members of our Subject Matter Expert (SME) Cadre for more information. We also reviewed existing reports, ASPR TRACIE resources, and conducted a search for related information on the enforcement of quarantine laws. We were only able to locate two courses, but we provide links to information that may support the development of a course. Comments from ASPR TRACIE SME Cadre members along with materials gathered can be found in the following sections.

In a 2007 Police Executive Research Forum report [Police Planning for an Influenza Pandemic: Case Studies and Recommendations from the Field](#), the authors note:

“A pandemic flu raises very difficult questions that require significant research to answer—such as, ‘Do current laws give police the authority to enforce quarantine orders? And, even if adequate legal authority exists, how do we instruct officers to enforce such orders when they may be fearful of exposure to the flu? Is enforcing quarantine orders an effective use of law enforcement resources when possibly facing the potential of significant reductions in staffing? Do we have adequate protective equipment to prevent infection? What department functions are critical during this type of emergency and how will we ensure that these functions continue?’”

While it is a relatively dated report, it contains concepts and content that remain relevant to law enforcement today. During a public health emergency, law enforcement could be called upon to: enforce closure of public facilities; work with public health and sheriffs to deliver and enforce mandatory quarantine orders; support hospital security in protecting hospital perimeters; and safeguard vaccine sites/points of distribution. As we have learned from past events, prepared and informed responders (who feel as though their safety is perceived as a high priority) are more likely to report for duty and contribute to an effective response.

I. ASPR TRACIE SME Cadre Member Comments

Please note: These are direct quotes or paraphrased comments from emails and other correspondence provided by ASPR TRACIE SME Cadre members in response to this specific request. They do not necessarily express the views of ASPR or ASPR TRACIE.

SME Cadre Member 1:

It is important to note that the ultimate goal of quarantine is voluntary compliance. Law enforcement is rarely called upon to serve/enforce public health orders (typically this is done by state, local, and tribal health departments), and the responsibility to do so can fall under different agencies (e.g., sheriffs, local police departments), depending on the jurisdiction. It is also important for law enforcement departments to work closely with their jurisdiction's public health departments to plan ahead, understand expectations, and outline clear steps according to established state/local laws and use of force policies. Consider training a small group of officers in specialized enforcement (and make that their primary assignment to ensure adequate staff remain available for ongoing public safety issues). You might also consider having those staff train others in enforcing your state's public health laws.

SME Cadre Member 2:

I would refer folks to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidance for law enforcement](#)—it includes information on responder protection including personal protective equipment (PPE). They also have general information on quarantine and enforcement and information on specific state laws.

II. On-Line and In-Person Training

Massachusetts Department of Public Health. (n.d.). [Isolation and Quarantine](#). (Accessed 6/11/2020.)

This free two-hour course teaches participants the definitions of isolation, quarantine, and social distancing, and focuses on obtaining voluntary compliance.

Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium. (n.d.). [Isolation and Quarantine for Rural Communities: A Whole Community Approach](#). (Accessed 6/11/2020.)

This 8.0-hour, in-person instructor-led training will provide public- and private-sector emergency managers, community policy makers, public health, and public safety personnel with the general knowledge necessary to begin planning for situations requiring the isolation and quarantine of a large portion of a local, rural population. Here is the link to future in-person courses:

<https://www.ruraltraining.org/training/courses/mgt-433/>. There is also a 2.5 hour web-based version of the course: <https://www.ruraltraining.org/training/courses/mgt-433-w/>.

III. Additional Information

ASPR TRACIE. (2019). [Responder Safety and Health Topic Collection](#).

This Topic Collection includes information on responder resilience and PPE; there are courses under the “Education and Training” category that emphasize protection and resilience when responding to public health emergencies.

CDC. (2020). [What Law Enforcement Personnel Need to Know about Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#).

This webpage describes the disease and protective steps and equipment for first responders. Their page [Legal Authorities for Isolation and Quarantine](#) defines isolation and quarantine and includes information on federal law, CDC’s role, and how the enforcement of quarantine may be managed.

CDC, and U.S. Department of Justice. (2008). [Coordinated Implementation of Community Response Measures \(including Social Distancing\) to Control the Spread of Pandemic Respiratory Disease](#).

This document was written by the Public Health and Law Enforcement Emergency Preparedness Workgroup and focuses on developing memoranda of understanding for public health, law enforcement, corrections, and the judiciary. The legal references and authorities starting on page 14 and the specific responsibilities during phases starting on page 16 may be of particular interest.

International Association of Chiefs of Police. (2020). [COVID-19: Law Enforcement’s Role in Enforcing Public Health Protections](#).

This fact sheet identifies the type of public health orders law enforcement may be asked to enforce along with information on preparing for these law enforcement activities, protection and security, enforcement, and actions in the absence of public health orders.

National Conference of State Legislatures. (2020). [State Quarantine and Isolation Statutes](#).

This webpage lists quarantine law and regulations by state and includes a section on police power and limitations for each state.

State of Washington Department of Health. (n.d.). [Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines and Forms](#). (Accessed 6/11/2020).

This webpage provides links to quarantine guidelines and forms, including local health officer orders, court orders, and options for non-compliance.