Public Health and Emergency Management
What we are not:

- Emergency Management is not Emergency Services or First Responders -- Organizations involved in law enforcement, fire service, emergency medical technicians and service or search and rescue organizations.

- Similarly, Public Health is not patient medical care or direct patient emergency medical services.
What we are:

- Emergency Management is the *coordinated and collaborative integration* of all relevant *stakeholders* into the four phases of emergency management (mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery) related to natural, technological, and intentional hazards.

- Public health is “the science and art of *promoting* health, preventing disease, and prolonging life through the *organized* efforts of *society*.”
Public Health Preparedness:

- Through the efforts of the public emergency preparedness funding, public health departments across the state are positioned to effectively respond to a range of public health threats, including infectious diseases, natural disasters, and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events.
The need for collaboration:

- Government agencies can only act pursuant to the authority granted them in statutes, rules, ordinances & resolutions.
- Authority governs day-to-day work as well as emergency response work.
- As such, there are limitations to what each agency may do.
The need for collaboration:

- Ohio Revised Code does not provide for the broad declaration of a “health emergency” by state or county health departments
  - Provides for authority to quarantine
  - Authority to isolate
  - Asbestos Public Health Emergency
  - Destruction/Compensation for infected property
  - Public health state of emergency as to adulterated consumer product
The need for collaboration:

- With no specific authority to declare a public health emergency, local health and emergency management must work together on the declaration of an emergency.
- Same context as other emergencies:
  – Potential impact to Ohioans, county residents
  – Lack of necessary resources to address emergency
  – Need to expedite procurement of goods and services
The need for collaboration:

- EMA serves as the incident liaison between Public Health and the responding community through the use of the EOC.
- Local EMA/EOC has the existing channel to state and federal resources.
- Eliminate duplication of efforts.
- Ensure a strong, accurate message to the public
- Sharing/obtaining resources.
- Coordination of Mitigation strategies for the jurisdictions/counties.
- Cost recovery.
Examples of integrated response

- Perry County TCE response
- New Albany Natural Gas Depressurization
- Sebring Lead response
  - Mahoning county EMA and LHD
The road ahead

- Increase communication
  - Relationship building
  - Staying engaged - You don’t know the direction the event will turn.
  - An event that is seemingly small can turn on a dime
- Joint preparedness efforts
  - Coordinated planning
  - Train and Exercise together
Questions/Answers