



Pat Quinn, Governor

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To: Local Health Departments & Hospitals

From: Winfred Rawls, Deputy Director

Date: December 19, 2011

RE: **Transition to the Public Health and Medical Services Response Regions**

Over the past six months, the Office of Preparedness and Response (OPR) has been working with the State Emergency Support Function #8 (ESF-8) Team to develop unified response regions for Local Health Departments (LHD), hospitals and other ESF-8 partners to use during activations of the State Incident Response Center (SIRC). The agreed upon Public Health & Medical Services Response (PHMSR) regions, attached hereto, morphed from the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) regions and the EMS regions. Although the PHMSR regions replace the PHEP regions, they do not replace the EMS regions or the IDPH administrative regions.

The unified regions are necessitated by the ongoing federal alignment of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) PHEP and Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR), Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) grants, and the underlying requirements for the State and its sub grantees to maintain compliance with the National Response Framework (NRF) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). LHDs, hospitals and local Emergency Management Agencies (EMA) must be unified in disaster response, which is promoted through planning, training and participating in exercises as a team.

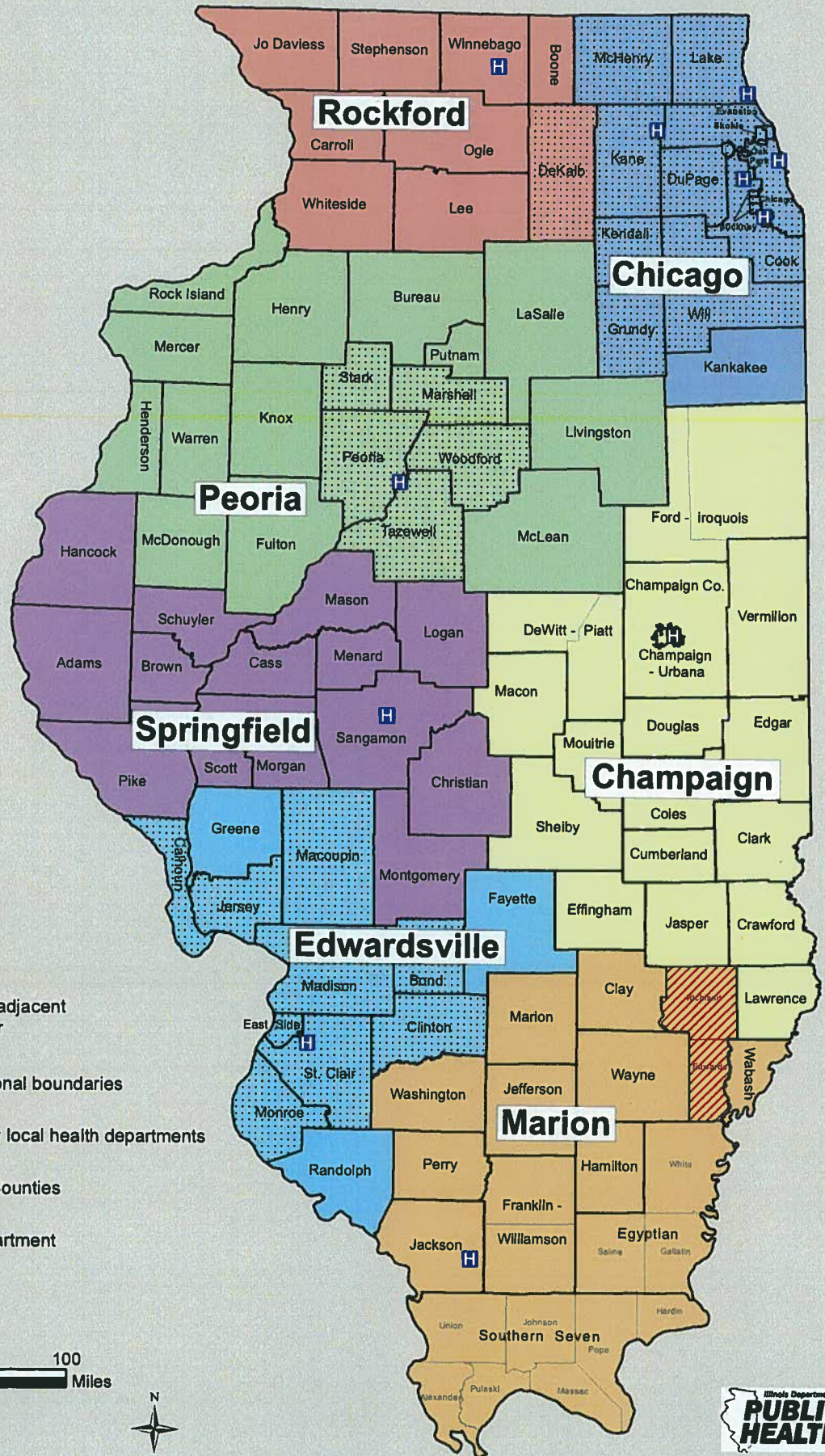
The transition to the new regions will begin January 1, 2012. In addition to realigning state command and control through the appropriate IDPH Emergency Response Coordinators (ERC) and Regional Emergency Medical Services Coordinators (REMSC), we will work toward realigning Regional Hospital Coordinating Center (RHCC) and LHD meeting participation, developing Regional ESF-8 Teams, lead by the ERCs, REMSCs and RHCC Coordinators, and have the Regional ESF-8 Teams develop scheduled planning meetings with their Teams.







The PHMSR regions are not brick walls and all current MOUs will remain in effect until the State ESF-8 Team adopts a new template and all stakeholders enter into new agreements. In addition to the new regions, in the coming months, we will further unify the ESF-8 community by adopting the State's first ESF-8 Plan, which will replace the 2003 State Medical Disaster Plan.

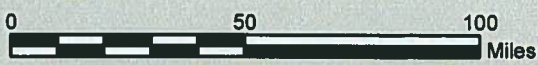
We thank you all for your support and collaboration on this critical project. We look forward to working with you to build a coalition that is prepared to hit the ground running when the HPP/PHEP alignment is rolled out this spring.

Attachment

Illinois Department of Public Health
 Office of Preparedness and Response
Public Health and Medical Services Response Regions



-  PHMSR Regions are denoted by adjacent counties shaded in the same color
-  Local health department jurisdictional boundaries
-  County boundaries in multi-county local health departments
-  Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) Counties
-  Counties with no local health department
-  RHCC Hospitals



Map Created October 25, 2011
 Philip Pittman, GIS Specialist, IDPH

