

135.140 Definitions.

As used in [this subchapter](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “*Bioterrorism*” means the intentional use of any microorganism, virus, infectious substance, or biological product that may be engineered as a result of biotechnology, or any naturally occurring or bioengineered component of any such microorganism, virus, infectious substance, or biological product, to cause death, disease, or other biological malfunction in a human, an animal, a plant, or another living organism.

2. “*Department*” means the department of health and human services.

3. “*Director*” means the director of health and human services or the director’s designee.

4. “*Disaster*” means disaster as defined in [section 29C.2](#).

5. “*Public health disaster*” means a state of disaster emergency proclaimed by the governor in consultation with the department pursuant to [section 29C.6](#) for a disaster which specifically involves an imminent threat of an illness or health condition that meets any of the following conditions of paragraphs “a” and “b”:

a. Is reasonably believed to be caused by any of the following:

(1) Bioterrorism or other act of terrorism.

(2) The appearance of a novel or previously controlled or eradicated infectious agent or biological toxin.

(3) A chemical attack or accidental release.

(4) An intentional or accidental release of radioactive material.

(5) A nuclear or radiological attack or accident.

(6) A natural occurrence or incident, including but not limited to fire, flood, storm, drought, earthquake, tornado, or windstorm.

(7) A man-made occurrence or incident, including but not limited to an attack, spill, or explosion.

b. Poses a high probability of any of the following:

(1) A large number of deaths in the affected population.

(2) A large number of serious or long-term disabilities in the affected population.

(3) Widespread exposure to an infectious or toxic agent that poses a significant risk of substantial future harm to a large number of the affected population.

(4) Short-term or long-term physical or behavioral health consequences to a large number of the affected population.

6. “*Public health response team*” means a team of professionals, including licensed health care providers, nonmedical professionals skilled and trained in disaster or emergency response, and public health practitioners, which is sponsored by a hospital or other entity and approved by the department to provide disaster assistance in the event of a disaster or threatened disaster.

[2003 Acts, ch 33, §1, 11; 2003 Acts, ch 179, §64; 2005 Acts, ch 89, §6, 7; 2006 Acts, ch 1184, §83; 2009 Acts, ch 37, §4, 5; 2019 Acts, ch 24, §104; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §152](#)

Referred to in [§29C.6, 135M.1, 135M.3, 135M.4, 137.116, 139A.2](#)

Section amended