

ABSTRACT

The National Biosurveillance Integration System

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Objective

The National Biosurveillance Integration System (NBIS) is a consortium of federal agencies, whose joint objective is to enhance the identification, location, characterization, and tracking of biological events potentially impacting homeland security.^{1–6} Together, the consortium members benefit from a joint awareness of potentially significant biological events that are unfolding or imminent, based on information shared among the group. This presentation describes the framework, activities and benefits for NBIS participants, and invites participation by other agencies.

Methods

NBIS integrates worldwide biosurveillance information across the domains of human health, animal and plant health, food and pharmaceutical issues, and relevant environmental factors. It leverages unique interagency communications and relationships to identify potential biological events of national concern. NBIS also supports prevention and mitigation of such events by providing timely notifications and ongoing situational awareness to enhance response. Biosurveillance information is gathered from a wide variety of government, scientific, restricted access, and open sources. Information regarding biological events and associated contextual information is then analyzed by NBIS subject matter experts who identify, characterize, and report events of concern in addition to their significance and potential impacts.

Results

Participating agencies report relevant information on the federal Biosurveillance Common Operating Picture (BCOP). The BCOP is a geo-temporal display of events of interest to the NBIS community, and is maintained by the Department of Homeland Security. The BCOP is currently accessible to

individuals within federal NBIS agencies. NBIS is developing a companion state, local, tribal, and territorial BCOP, which will share available information with non-federal government organizations. Expansion of this service to academic and private entities is under consideration.

Conclusions

NBIS and BCOP provide a robust information-sharing framework and communication pathway, facilitating timely and accurate notifications of biological events of concern to decision makers. This enhances the nation's ability to prevent, mitigate, and respond to significant events, efficiently and effectively.

Acknowledgements

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References

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- 2 Government Accountability Office (GAO)-10-645, Biosurveillance: Efforts to Develop a National Biosurveillance Capability Need a National Strategy and a Designated Leader. June 2010.
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- 4 Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-10, Biodefense for the 21st Century. June 2002.
- 5 Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-21, Public Health and Medical Preparedness. October 2007.
- 6 Public Law 110.53, Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, August 2007.

¹Contractors supporting the National Biosurveillance Integration Center.

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