



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary

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Wisconsin Earns Perfect Score on Latest National Preparedness Report

State health officials today touted Wisconsin's perfect showing in the 2008 Public Health Preparedness report, *Ready or Not?*, published annually by the Trust for America's Health.

"Wisconsin scored a perfect 10 out of 10 indicators of preparedness levels," said Department of Health Services Secretary Karen Timberlake. "Only five states managed to achieve a 10, and it confirms that Wisconsin has never been better prepared to act in an emergency."

Timberlake noted that the state's high level of preparedness was demonstrated during last summer's floods. "When I visited the flooded areas, I was impressed by the professionalism and can-do attitude of local and state officials as they tried to aid flood victims," Timberlake said. "So this report does not really come as a surprise. It's a credit not only to the hard work of state staff, but also local officials and our private sector partners."

The indicators reported by TFAH are:

1. Adequate plans exist to distribute emergency vaccines and other supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile
2. Antiviral purchases are at least 50 percent of the state's federally-subsidized share.
3. State health lab has 24-hour courier system for specimens.
4. State health lab meets pandemic planning requirements.
5. State has an electronic disease tracking system.
6. State law reduces or limits liability for volunteers who serve in a public health emergency.
7. State law reduces or limits liability for business and non-profit organizations that serve during a public health emergency.
8. State has a Medical Reserve Corps coordinator.
9. State's ability to diagnose foodborne diseases meets or exceeds the national average rate of 44 percent.
10. State increased or maintained funding for public health.

The median score for states in the 2008 report was 7.

For more information on the TFAH report, visit: <http://healthyamericans.org/>

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