

“Enhancing Environmental Health Service for the 21st Century”

Abstract

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Abstract State and local environmental health service programs are continually challenged to address new and emerging environmental health threats. State and especially local environmental health practitioners are the first line of defense in preventing disease and injury. However, over the years, there has been inadequate support for State and local programs in preparing to face these challenges. These challenges will be discussed as well as CDC proposed plan to address them. Events such as the cryptosporidium outbreak in Milwaukee, the hantavirus in the southwest, West Nile Virus, and circumstances resulting from September 11 all point to an environmental health system in need of better preparation to anticipate, recognize and respond to environmental threats.