

Delegation of Authority to National Incident Management Team (IMT)

The Rhode Island, Department of Environmental Management (**DEM**) and the US Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, New England Area (**USDA-APHIS-VS, Region 1**) agree to delegate authority to manage the *[Name of Animal Disease]* Incident in the state of Rhode Island to the extent described below to the USDA-APHIS-VS National Incident Management Team (**IMT [number]**) with Dr. *[USDA-APHIS-VS team leader name]* as the Incident Commander, effective *[date]*.

It is our expectation that the Incident Management Team will protect and safeguard life and property and minimize damage to livestock and farm investments.

This team will:

1. Conduct thorough epidemiological investigations of all potentially infected and exposed livestock necessary to rapidly contain an outbreak.
2. Investigate all reported cases of *[name of disease]* on all premises. Initiate contact with farmers within 8 hours of a call.
3. Deliver quarantine letters from the State Veterinarian, appraise, and dispose of all appropriate livestock, animal by-products, food hay, and bedding, following federal and state policies and guidelines. (Any and all disposal methods are acceptable, provided that relevant federal and state environmental laws and regulations are addressed.)
4. Establish and periodically assess effectiveness and delineation of Infected, Buffer-surveillance, and Free zones. Consider vaccination as a control strategy.
5. Institute strict bio-security safeguards and other appropriate measures (including vaccination) that are necessary to minimize disease spread from infected herds/premises and from the Infected Zone (IZ).
6. Develop and institute movement controls for animals and animal products from the Free Zone and among other areas.
7. Contribute to Joint Information Center (JIC) briefings at 10:00 AM daily. Briefings are to include the Chief of the RI DEM Division of Agriculture (DAG), the State Veterinarian, the Director of the RI Emergency Management Agency (RI EMA), and the RI Attorney General as well as the heads of DEM and USDA-APHIS-VS, Region 1.
8. In advance of release, clear all external communications (to media and to other federal and state agencies) with us (the heads of DEM and USDA-APHIS-VS, Region 1).
9. *[Name]* is designated as the DAG Advisor to IMT *[number]*.
10. *[Name]* is designated as the State of Rhode Island Logistics/Resource advisor to the Incident Management Team. This Individual will liaise with the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
11. Operate in compliance with the laws of Rhode Island.

[Name]
Director
Rhode Island
Department of Environmental Management

Dr. *[Name]*
Area Veterinarian in Charge
United States Department Agriculture
APHIS, Veterinary Services