

Department of Public Health – Chemical Incident Triage

Q1: Has the Department of Public Health been notified of the incident under the Major Emergency Plan?

NO

YES

- CPHM to notify the DPH and other CPHMs on duty that the Major Emergency Plan is activated and involves the Department of Public Health.
- Convene an emergency Department of Public Health meeting to allocate work

Q2: Are there reports of human or animal health effects?

NO

[Guidelines for Public Health Response to Chemical and Other Environmental Incidents](#)

YES

Reports of health effects

Acute Exposure

Long term exposure

Q3: Will activation of the Major Emergency Plan be needed – to activate the resources needed to deal with the incident effectively?

Cluster confirmed

YES

CPHM to activate the Major Emergency Plan by contacting Ambulance Control, following discussion with DPH, and the AND Public Health

NO

[Guidelines for Public Health Response to Chemical and Other Environmental Incidents](#)

YES

- Cluster Investigation Guidelines¹
- Protocol for the Investigative Approach to serious Animal / Human Health problems (Post Askeaton Protocol)²

1. Collins et al: Cluster Investigation Guidelines: Guidance on how to proceed with a cluster investigation when reported to a Department of Public Health Medicine / Medical Officer of Health, 2019; HSE.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/publichealth/publichealthdepts/env/cluster-invest.pdf>

2. EPA and Departments of Agriculture and Food, Health, Environment, Heritage and Local Government. (1997). Protocol for the investigative approach to serious animal/human health problems. Kelleher K *et al* (1997). Disease Cluster Investigation Protocol.

https://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/general/EPA_protocol_investigation_animal_human_health.pdf