



Public Health Administration

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The Role of Mid-level Providers in Emergency Shelters

December 2018

The primary purpose of mid-level providers in emergency shelters is to address the immediate health needs of evacuees and to prevent the spread of communicable disease. To this end, the first and foremost mantra should be “Do no harm.”

The role of mid-level providers is to work within their scope of practice to assess, diagnose, and treat or refer for urgent care needs, and to evaluate for potential communicable diseases. The Butte County Public Health Department has established case definitions and practice guidelines for influenza-like illness and Norovirus in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommendations. Standardized procedures for the triage of urgent care needs are available through resources such as Up to Date or similar references. Consultation is available to mid-level providers through: 1) volunteer physicians in the shelter or 2) volunteer physicians available by phone or 3) the health officer or physician designee.

The Health Officer for the Butte County Public Health Department (or his designee) is responsible for the oversight of mid-levels assigned to work in emergency shelters.

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Date