What is the National Incident Management System (NIMS)?

- NIMS is a systematic, dynamic, proactive approach to incident management.
- NIMS allows departments and agencies to work together effectively and efficiently to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all emergencies regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity.
- NIMS helps standardize the process, so all responders can use a common system with structure and terminology they know and understand.

How does the Incident Command System (ICS) fit into NIMS?

The NIMS structure is based on three key organizational systems, one of which is the ICS. NIMS is like an umbrella under which ICS fits.

ICS provides accountability, reporting, and structure.
ICS is a flexible and adaptable system to accommodate preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all types of events.
Only those sections required for the response are activated.

Why should ICS be used during a public health incident?

ICS and Public Health
Job Aid
What are some examples of both planned and unplanned incidents for which the ICS can be used?

**Planned Events**
- Flu clinic
- Temporary food event (i.e., food truck fair)
- Large community event (i.e., town day, marathon, fair, etc.)
- Deployment of Strategic National Stockpile
- Major field training exercise

**Unplanned Events**
- Foodborne illness outbreak
- Hazardous waste/chemical spill
- West Nile/EEE outbreak
- Water contamination or water main break
- Widespread loss of electricity during a storm

How can the five steps of planning be applied to a public health incident?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 1. Understand the situation</th>
<th>Gain better situational awareness of the scope, complexity and potential impact of the incident. Make an initial determination of the resources needed to properly respond to the incident.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase 2. Establish incident objectives and strategy</td>
<td>Create and prioritize incident objectives. Decide on the appropriate strategy for accomplishing these goals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phase 3. Develop the plan</td>
<td>Determine the tactical measures to be taken and the resources required to implement them.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phase 4. Prepare and disseminate the plan</td>
<td>Prepare the plan in a format that is appropriate for the level of complexity of the incident and the operational period (a well-prepared outline for a simple event, or an IAP for more complex incidents).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phase 5. Execute, evaluate and revise the plan</td>
<td>Compare projected progress with actual progress. Incorporate new information into the next planning process (the beginning of the next operational period).</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

How can I learn more?

**LPHI On Your Time** modules and Resources
- [http://sites.bu.edu/masslocalinstitute/training/on-your-time-trainings/](http://sites.bu.edu/masslocalinstitute/training/on-your-time-trainings/)
- [http://sites.bu.edu/masslocalinstitute/resources/](http://sites.bu.edu/masslocalinstitute/resources/)