

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) supported the Advanced Practice Centers (APC) from 1999 to 2012. The APC has been a credible source for free public health preparedness products that can be easily implemented by any local health department (LHD), as the products were created *by* LHDs *for* LHDs. Today, there is a legacy of more than 100 APC Products that build capacity, saving health departments time, resources and money by providing proven solutions and world class ideas that are ready for implementation.

CASE STUDY

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department Advanced Practice Center is located in Northwest Ohio. It specializes in developing products that support community preparedness, information sharing, and medical countermeasure dispensing.

EXEMPLARY APC PRODUCT

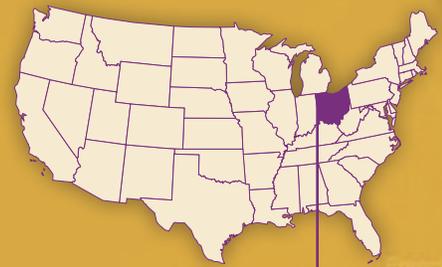
Transitional Framework for Pandemic Readiness and Response Online Toolkit
<http://apc.naccho.org/Products/APC20102212/Pages/Overview.aspx>

Most recently updated in 2011, the *Transitional Framework for Pandemic Readiness and Response Online Toolkit* is a guide to planning and implementing a four-level response to a pandemic. It incorporates the Transitional Medical Model developed by the University of Toledo College of Medicine, and public health practice developed by the Toledo-Lucas County APC. The framework can be used by public health agencies, hospitals and others to develop pandemic readiness and response plans that allow for stronger communication and better community-wide organization. It does this by establishing a common language and set of definitions for the four levels of pandemic response.

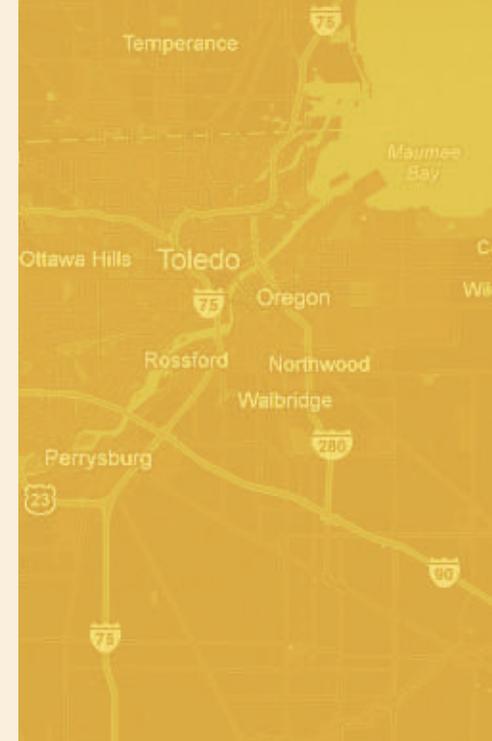
Notable Feature: The online toolkit's resources have been field-tested and are evidence-based, including a customizable tabletop and functional exercise generator.

PHEP Capabilities Supported by this APC Product:

- Capability 1: Community Preparedness
- Capability 3: Emergency Operations Coordination
- Capability 6: Information Sharing
- Capability 7: Mass Care
- Capability 10: Medical Surge
- Capability 11: Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions



THE TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADVANCED PRACTICE CENTER



APC PRODUCT IN PRACTICE

In 2010, the **Erie County Health Department** in Sandusky, OH worked with the Toledo-Lucas APC to implement the *Transitional Framework for Pandemic Readiness and Response Online Toolkit*. Given Erie County Health Department's appreciation for new technologies and eagerness to evaluate innovative practices, they were among the first agencies to adopt this new APC product. Implementing the *Online Toolkit* strengthened Erie County's communication protocols, and the Transitional Medical Model is now a permanent part of their pandemic response plans. Mr. Todd M. Koch, Epidemiology Supervisor, led the project for Erie County Health Department which serves 77,000 residents and has 71 employees.



PROVIDED A HIGH QUALITY SOLUTION

Mr. Koch shared, "The Transitional Medical Model allows health officials to easily evaluate the big picture of a pandemic and know where you are [among the four levels] at any given time. Once this model is in place, you never want to go back."



INCREASED CAPACITY FOR SAVING LIVES

"In the long term, this APC product is a people saver," said Mr. Koch. "Adding the Transitional Medical Model from the *Toolkit* to our existing pandemic response plans allowed us to translate our plan into a language that works better with the other agencies and community partners who will be involved – hospitals, the fire department, city police, the Red Cross, etc. It puts everyone on the same page. During a real pandemic emergency, better organization saves lives."



EASY TO USE

"Transitioning our plan into the model wasn't difficult. The Toledo-Lucas APC folks did all the hard work. I was able to choose what I needed to keep, customize it, and let go of the rest," confirmed Mr. Koch.



INCLUDED CONSULTATIVE SUPPORT FROM APC STAFF

"We feel fortunate to personally know the Toledo-Lucas APC staff given how close we are [geographically]. Knowing that as an APC, Toledo had the full backing of a national organization [NACCHO], we felt like they could help troubleshoot any question we asked. On this project, they provided suggestions and ideas that worked," said Mr. Koch.



ACHIEVED RESULTS

"We have not experienced a pandemic since we implemented the *Transitional Framework Online Toolkit*, but we already know that it just makes sense to have it in our plans," said Mr. Koch. "Should a pandemic occur, or when we do any functional testing of a pandemic scenario, we will be using the Transitional Medical Model."