June 20, 2014

To whom it may concern:

Recently, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (OEPR) has received numerous questions and requests related to the Board of Health Rule, 6 CCR 1009-5, rules and regulations pertaining to Preparations for a Bioterrorist Event, Pandemic Influenza, or an Outbreak by a Novel and Highly Fatal Infectious Agent or Biological Toxin. Specifically, the department has received questions about what is meant by “other antibiotic, as determined by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment” to be used in a prophylaxis measure as used in Regulation 1.3.C., Regulation 2.2.C and Regulation 3.2.B. and Regulation 4.2.C.

The purpose of this letter is to provide guidance to local public health agencies, general and critical access hospitals, Managed Care Organizations, Rural Health and Community Health Centers, and Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Councils in implementing this rule.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment determines that “other antibiotic” includes any antibiotic or combination of antibiotics that will cover Category A bioterrorism agents. Category A agents are determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This list can be found on the CDC website at http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/agentlist-category.asp

This guidance only applies to the specific regulations identified above. If there are further questions, please contact Lyle Moore, the Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response within the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Sincerely,

Larry Wolk, MD, MSPH
Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer