The purpose of this project is to revise the current standard operating procedures (SOPs) for this hospital-based infectious disease response team (IDRT) and involves the review and update of current standards of procedure and the addition of any missing recommendations. This IDRT has been in existence since 2014 and this project is the first review of SOP’s.

Several gaps that were identified in December 2017 during the IDRT statewide transport disaster drill include:

- Challenges in communication amongst the team members while in full personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Challenges associated with moving patients from the site of exposure to the de-contamination zone.
- Difficulty for the team observer to see in the patient room to monitor the staff for ill effects of prolonged PPE wear.
- Lack of checklists and standard operating procedures for specific team roles and procedures.

According to the U.S Department of Health and Human Services, National Guidance for Healthcare System Preparedness, the identified gaps have been noted by other healthcare organizations and include lack of communication, issues with transportation, and lack of equipment and supplies.

According to Schultz, Koenig, Whiteside, & Murray of the National Standardized All Hazard Disaster Core Competencies Task Force (2012), creating disaster curricula and training based on core competencies and performance objectives will confirm that medical personnel are prepared to treat patients and avert catastrophe.

According to Centers for Disease Control (CDC) (2015) SOP’s should be developed for all members of the response team and for inter-facility transport of persons under investigation (PUI) for highly infectious diseases.

Methods:
Survey results are used to update the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s) for the IDRT:

- The survey includes eight Likert scale questions and one open-ended question.
- Twenty team members were surveyed in the fourth quarter training of 2018.
- Results indicate that IDRT members feel competent with the current SOP’s related to Donning and Doffing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Open ended question result responses indicate they are not as competent with other procedures.
- SOP’s are updated based on fourth quarter 2018 survey results.
- The IDRT members will be re-surveyed during first quarter 2019 training.
- Data from first quarter 2019 will be used for further updates of SOP’s.

The results of the surveys along with review of the accepted standards from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) will inform the final revisions of the SOPs. The improved SOPs will advance the quality and safety of care provided to patients in the event of an infectious disease outbreak.