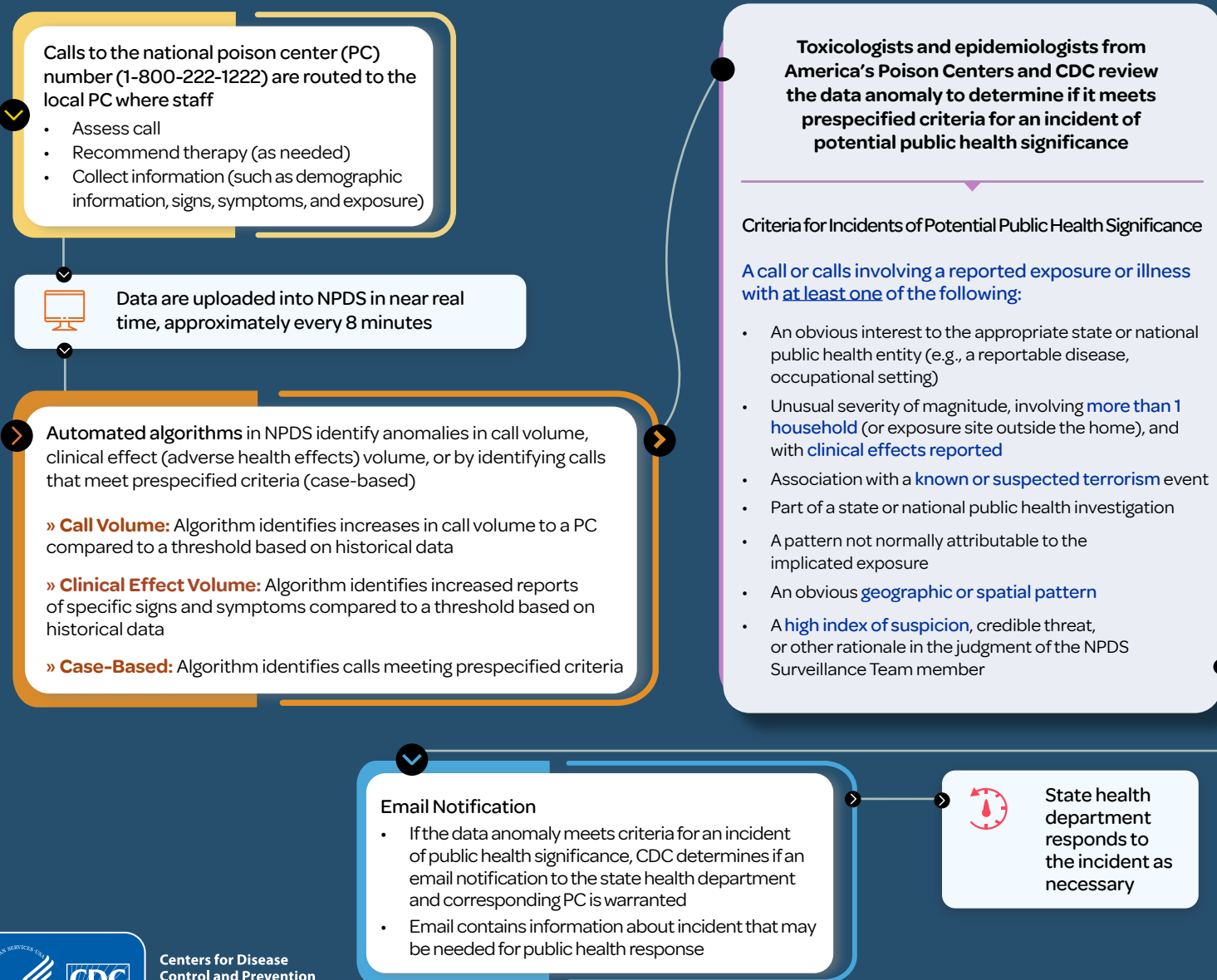


# Overview of the National Chemical & Radiological Surveillance Program

Poison Centers (PCs)	The National Poison Data System (NPDS)	CDC Use of NPDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are 55 poison centers (PCs) in the United States that provide 24-hour coverage using a toll free number, <b>1-800-222-1222</b></li> <li>PC staff remotely <b>assess, triage, manage, and follow-up</b> with people who are exposed to harmful substances</li> <li>PCs are staffed by pharmacists and poison information providers who are toxicology specialists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>National Poison Data System (NPDS)</b> is a national web-based repository of data from calls to PCs</li> <li>PC data are uploaded into NPDS in near real-time, every 8 minutes</li> <li>NPDS is owned and operated by <b>America's Poison Centers</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>CDC collaborates with America's Poison Centers</b> to use NPDS for public health surveillance activities including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Improving</b> national surveillance capacity for public health threats</li> <li><b>Identifying</b> early markers of incidents of potential public health significance</li> <li><b>Enhancing</b> situational awareness during an emerging or known public health threat</li> </ul>

## How Incidents of Potential Public Health Significance are Identified from Public Health Surveillance of PC Data



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Environmental Health