

Aware Prepare Update



Department
of Health

Office of
Health Emergency
Preparedness

November 2024

Welcome to the **November 2024** issue of the Aware Prepare (AP) Update. The AP is your monthly guide to upcoming trainings related to preparedness, readiness, and response. These trainings may be provided in one or more of the following formats, including: live webcasts, webinars and in-person training; archived webcasts, webinars and On-Demand eLearning on the www.NYLearnsPH.com Learning Management System.

Questions? Submissions? Want to be added to the mailing list? Email: edlearn@health.ny.gov

What's in this issue	
Governor Hochul Preparedness Related Press Releases	Pp. 1-3
NYS Department of Health - Preparedness Related Press Releases, Resources & Training Spotlight	Pp. 3-7
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ICYMI: Governor - Select Public Health Preparedness & Related Press Releases

Visit <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news> for a full list of press releases and statements from Governor Hochul.

[Statement from Governor Kathy Hochul on Threats to Repeal the Chips & Science Act](#)

Nov 1, 2024 | 08:13 PM EDT

"Anyone threatening to repeal the CHIPS & Science Act is threatening more than 50,000 good-paying jobs in Upstate New York and \$231 billion worth of economic growth nationwide."

[Governor Hochul Announces More Than \\$435 Million in State Grants for Local Water Infrastructure Improvements](#)

- [Spanish Translation](#)

Nov 1, 2024 | 03:02 PM EDT

[Governor Hochul Highlights \\$23.5 Million to Reduce Crime in Syracuse and Onondaga County](#)

- [Spanish Translation](#)
- [Video, Audio, Photos & Rush Transcript](#)

Nov 1, 2024 | 01:17 PM EDT

[Governor Hochul and Representative Ryan Announce \\$12 Million State Grant to Replace Lead Water Pipes and Protect Drinking Water in Poughkeepsie](#)

- [Video, Audio, Photos & Rush Transcript](#)

Oct 30, 2024 | 10:42 AM EDT

[Governor Hochul and Attorney General James Update New Yorkers on Nonpartisan Efforts to Protect Voting Rights and Public Safety During 2024 Elections](#)

- [Spanish Translation](#)
- [Video, Audio, Photos & Rush Transcript](#)

Oct 28, 2024 | 11:03 AM EDT

[Governor Hochul Awards \\$25 Million in New York State Funding for the Volunteer Fire Service](#)

- [Video, Audio, Photos & Rush Transcript](#)

Oct 25, 2024 | 12:23 PM EDT

[Governor Hochul Announces Launch of New State-of-the-Art System to Help New Yorkers Prepare for Wildfire Danger](#)

- [Spanish Translation](#)

Oct 25, 2024 | 09:46 AM EDT

[Statement From Governor Kathy Hochul on Appellate Decision in Antonyukv. James Upholding New York's Nation-Leading Gun Safety Legislation](#)

Oct 24, 2024 | 02:47 PM EDT

[Governor Hochul Announces a Majority of Eligible New Yorkers Have Registered as Organ Donors](#)

- [Spanish Translation](#)

Oct 23, 2024 | 02:50 PM EDT

[Governor Hochul Launches Next Phase of Long Island's Nation-Leading Cell and Gene Therapy Innovation Hub: New York Biogenesis Park](#)

- [Video, Audio, Photos & Rush Transcript](#)
- [Spanish Translation](#)

Oct 22, 2024 | 12:15 PM EDT

[Governor Hochul Secures Major Disaster Declaration From President Biden for Communities Damaged by Severe Weather on August 18-19](#)

Oct 21, 2024 | 06:12 PM EDT

[New State Crime Stats: Governor Hochul Announces Gun Violence in New York Has Declined to Lowest on Record](#)

- [Spanish Translation](#)
- [Video, Audio, Photos & Rush Transcript](#)

Oct 17, 2024 | 10:18 AM EDT

[Governor Hochul Announces \\$60 Million Awarded to Transformational Green Infrastructure Projects That Combat the Effects of Climate Change in New York State](#)

Oct 16, 2024 | 02:41 PM EDT

[Governor Hochul Announces Major Investments for Long Island Volunteer Firefighters' Facilities and Training](#)

- [Spanish Translation](#)
- [Video, Audio, Photos & Rush Transcript](#)

Oct 15, 2024 | 01:34 PM EDT

[Governor Hochul Announces Nearly 1 Million New Yorkers Enrolled in Program to Help Older Adults Save More Than \\$7,000 Per Year in Health Care Costs](#)

Oct 14, 2024 | 10:04 AM EDT

[Governor Hochul Announces Federal Assistance for Residents and Businesses in Steuben County Impacted by Tropical Storm Debby on Aug. 8-10, 2024](#)

Oct 11, 2024 | 07:15 PM EDT

[Governor Hochul Gives Update on Response to Potential Intravenous Fluid Shortage in New York State Due to Hurricane Damage](#)

Oct 10, 2024 | 03:32 PM EDT

[Video, Audio, Photos & Rush Transcript: Governor Hochul Participates in a Fireside Chat at the Project Healthy Minds World Mental Health Day Festival](#)

Oct 10, 2024 | 02:53 PM EDT

[Governor Hochul Highlights \\$665 Million to Make Local Water Infrastructure Projects Affordable Across New York State](#)

Oct 10, 2024 | 12:17 PM EDT

[Governor Hochul Announces 65 New York National Guard Soldiers and Airmen Are Deploying to Assist Florida in Responding to the Impact of Hurricane Milton](#)

- [Spanish Translation](#)

Oct 9, 2024 | 02:31 PM EDT

[Governor Hochul Announces Major Reduction in Gun Violence and Signs Legislation Strengthening New York's Nation-Leading Gun Laws](#)

- [Video, Audio, Photos & Rush Transcript](#)
- [Spanish Translation](#)

Oct 9, 2024 | 12:56 PM EDT

ICYMI: NYSDOH - Select Public Health Preparedness & Related Press Releases

November 1, 2024

- [New York State Department of Health Announces Start of Weekly Flu Report and Activates Statewide Flu Tracker Website](#)

October 30, 2024

- [Governor Hochul and Representative Ryan Announce \\$12 Million State Grant to Replace Lead Water Pipes and Protect Drinking Water in Poughkeepsie](#)

October 29, 2024

- [New York State Department of Health Announces AHEAD Model to Transform more than \\$5 Billion in Healthcare Payments to More Equitable and Sustainable Delivery Systems](#)

October 24, 2024

- [New York State Department of Health Recognizes National Pharmacy Week](#)

October 23, 2024

- [Governor Hochul Announces a Majority of Eligible New Yorkers Have Registered as Organ Donors](#)

October 22, 2024

- [New York State Department of Health Recognizes National Healthy Lung Month](#)

- [Governor Hochul Launches Next Phase of Long Island's Nation-Leading Cell and Gene Therapy Innovation Hub: New York Biogenesis Park](#)

October 18, 2024

- [New York State Department of Health Recognizes International Infection Prevention Week](#)

October 17, 2024

- [New York State Department of Health Recognizes National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month](#)

October 10, 2024

- [Governor Hochul Gives Update on Response to Potential Intravenous Fluid Shortage in New York State Due to Hurricane Damage](#)
- [Statement From Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald On World Mental Health Day](#)
- [New York State and City Departments of Health Collaborate With New York City and Federal Partners to Prepare and Monitor for Marburg Virus](#)

October 9, 2024

- [Statement From State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald On Monitoring and Response Efforts to Potential Intravenous Fluid Shortages Caused By Hurricane Storm Damage](#)
- [New York State Health Commissioner Receives COVID-19 and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination At Albany's Lincoln Pharmacy](#)

For a full listing of all NYSDOH Press Releases from 2024 including the many updates with respect to ongoing air quality issues statewide, visit: health.ny.gov/press/releases/2024/.

New York Public Health Now Podcast <https://www.health.ny.gov/commissioner/podcasts/>

NEW! October 22, 2024 – Available Now!

Season 3 Episode 4: Integrating Public Health and Social Welfare: A Transformative Merger with Dr. Erin Bell

In this episode, New York Commissioner of Health Dr. James McDonald and Executive Deputy Commissioner Johanne Morne welcome Dr. Erin Bell, the new dean of the UAlbany College of Integrated Health Sciences, to discuss the strategic merger of the School of Public Health and the School of Social Welfare, creating a groundbreaking interdisciplinary approach to addressing community health and well-being. The conversation delves into Dr. Bell's passion for community engagement and her vision for the new college, where students and faculty work hand-in-hand with local communities to identify and address their unique health and social needs. The new college, which includes over 1,000 students, aims to address health disparities through interdisciplinary approaches.

If you have an idea for topics, please let us know: PublicHealthNowPodcast@health.ny.gov



Department
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Emergency Preparedness

Guidance to Complete ServNY Credentialing and Notification Drill — BPR-8

Deliverable: The 2024-2025 Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program Deliverable BPR-8 requires Local Health Departments (LHD) to use the ServNY Volunteer Management System (VMS) to search for and notify volunteers who have a credentialing level of six (6) or eleven (11) and to send a notification to the search results alerting the volunteers to the potential credentialing issue. This optional course provides further guidance on the completion of this deliverable requirement.

Elements of Completion:

1. A minimum of one (1) staff person must complete the drill.
2. Provide the date(s) of the drill and the ServNY Notification ID number on the LHD Quarterly Deliverables Report.
3. ServNY Notification ID number will be used as the element of completion for those LHDs with volunteers who have been notified of their credentialing level issue(s). New York State Volunteer Program Coordinator (NYSVPC) will track the acknowledgements within ServNY.
4. In the event a query of credentialing level 6 or 11 volunteers yields no results, LHDs will email the NYSVPC at mpvols@health.ny.gov and CC their regional PHEP Coordinator. The NYSVPC will confirm the information and reply back to the LHD and regional representative that the elements of completion have been met.
5. LHDs that do not use ServNY as a primary method of notification for this deliverable are required to provide documentation that the notification has been sent to the volunteer(s) identified as credentialing level 6 or 11, and they are required to provide the method used to track acknowledgements.

Additional Training and Guidance: An optional course has been created in the [NYSDOH LMS](#) that provides training and guidance on how to successfully send a notification to volunteers using ServNY. To enroll in the training, please go to www.NYlearnsPH.com and search the course catalog for: [QHEP-521a](#)

Questions? Direct questions to servny@health.ny.gov or 518-474-2893. Questions regarding LMS can be directed to prepedap@health.ny.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Are Counties required to use ServNY?

A: Counties that do not use ServNY to send notification must still use ServNY to conduct a credentialing level search. Counties are strongly encouraged to send the notification via ServNY to ensure all identified credentialing level 6 or 11 volunteers receive the notification.

2. Does a notification have to be sent specifically for this drill?

A: Since the BPR-8 deliverable requires the notification to be sent specifically to credentialing level 6 and 11 volunteers, regular notifications and routine business cannot be used to satisfy the requirements of this deliverable.

3. Do a certain number of volunteers need to be notified?

A: No. However BPR-8 requires sending a notification to all credentialing level 6 and 11 volunteers.

4. If my County is affiliated with a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), can I have the MRC complete the BPR-8 Deliverable on my behalf?

A: The BPR-8 deliverable is a required element of a Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) contract between Health Research, Inc. and participating LHDs. While MRC notifications have been used in the past through allowing routine notifications to satisfy deliverable requirements, BPR-8 requires each contracted LHD to conduct a County specific search of credentialing level 6 and 11 volunteers and to complete the notification.

Don't see your question? Additional FAQs are addressed in the [QHEP-521a](#) Course!



NEW! Log-in2Learn: Mastering the Art of De-Escalation: Strategies for Field Visits

Sponsored by Region 2 Public Health Training Center

Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 12-1pm

Webinar Description: Dana Bernstein, PCC, PMP, will walk participants through strategies for successful field visits and ways to de-escalate tense situations. Dana will demonstrate some common scenarios from the field and discuss ways to apply effective communication techniques to ensure public health and safety.

Dana Lynn Bernstein, PCC, PMP - Conflict Resolution Coach

Speaker Bio: "My diverse background as a voracious explorer and life-long learner gave me a unique mix of skills. My focus in my work is on the "human connections," which starts with connecting with yourself first. As a conflict resolution coach, my objective is to be a space for my clients to re-align with their values, identify why they get upset and operate as their best self as they manage conflict. I have 1900+ hours coaching clients and earned the Professional Coaching Certificate from the International Coaching Federation. My MA is in dispute resolution, I am a Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) and a Project Management Professional (PMP). I volunteer on the Girl Scout leadership team, am a court mediator, and am co-director of Chapter Programs ICF NJ. For fun, I earned my 2nd degree black belt in MMA and have an advanced brown belt in Goju Ryu, so if I cannot solve conflict one way, I have options." <https://danalynnbernstein.com/>

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://columbiauniversity.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cg8fNT-vT5K-MU8IFNIO8A

After the webinar, participants will be able to:

1. Explain how to prepare for successful field visits
2. Identify techniques for staying calm in tense situations
3. Discuss strategies and helpful phrases to decrease the intensity of conflicts
4. Create effective communications to partner for public health and safety

This program has been approved for:

- Category I Continuing Education Credit for CHES/MCHES
- This program has been approved for 1.0 Certified in Public Health (CPH) credit by the Region 2 Public Health Training Center.

[Register Here](#)

NEW! Commissioner's Grand Rounds on Long COVID

Sponsored by NYSDOH

Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 12-1pm

[Register Here](#) | Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits: Only those who register with their email will be eligible to take the post-test and earn Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits. To receive Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits, please register using the **same email** you will use for completing the post-test. **TARGET AUDIENCE:** *The Grand Rounds series is designed for New York physicians, but other health care professionals are welcome to join. Certificates of Attendance can be available, which can be submitted to your accrediting body for credit.*

MAIL: grand.rounds@health.ny.gov with any questions you would like addressed

NEW! Public Health Live! Trauma Responsive Leadership for the Public Health Workforce

Sponsored by UAlbany SPH

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

During the webcast, speakers, Omar Khalid, Director, Workforce Development at Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and Adaora Otiji, Ed.D., CPTD, ADC Chief Learning Officer, Office of the Director at District of Columbia Department of Health will:

- Explain the importance of trauma responsive programming supporting the healing and wellbeing of the public health workforce for bringing about systems-level change
- Summarize examples of best practices of trauma-responsive leadership in public health discuss best practices

[Register Here](#)

New and Upcoming Live Events Note: *Some items are marked with generally indicating that the promotion is new to this edition of the Aware Prepare Update.*

November

NEW! Using Simulation in the Hospital Setting

Sponsored by FLRTC

Friday, November 8, 2024, 8:00am – 3:30pm

Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, 955 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14203

Ronald I. Dozoretz Auditorium (Room 2220)

[Register Here](#)

Pediatric Emergency Assessment, Recognition & Stabilization (PEARS)

Sponsored by FLRTC

Friday, November 8, 2024, 9:00am - 3:30pm

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, 621 Tenth Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14302

Enroll in LMS Course: [OHEP-WRHTC-PEARS-BP1](#)

NEW! CTI-120 (2024-2025) - HERDS Data Entry & Reports Training

Sponsored by NYSDOH CTI

Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 2-3pm

Enroll in LMS Course: [CTI-120](#)

NEW! Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Spanish

Sponsored by The Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention

Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 11am-12pm

[Register Here](#)

NEW! Log-in2Learn: Mastering the Art of De-Escalation: Strategies for Field Visits

Sponsored by Region 2 Public Health Training Center

Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 12-1pm

[Register Here](#)

NEW! Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning English

Sponsored by The Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention

Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 2-3pm

[Register Here](#)

Pediatric Emergency Assessment, Recognition & Stabilization (PEARS)

Sponsored by FLRTC

Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 9:00am - 3:30pm

St. Joseph's Hospital, 555 St. Joseph's Blvd., Elmira, NY 14901

Enroll in LMS Course: [OHEP-WRHTC-PEARS-BP1](#)

NEW! Commissioner's Grand Rounds on Long COVID

Sponsored by NYSDOH

Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 12-1pm

[Register Here](#) | **Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits:** To receive Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits, register using the same email you use for completing the post-test.

TARGET AUDIENCE: *The Grand Rounds series is designed for New York physicians, others are welcome to join. Certificates of Attendance can be submitted to your accrediting body for credit.*

EMAIL: grand.rounds@health.ny.gov with any questions you would like addressed

NEW! Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Chinese Cantonese

Sponsored by The Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention

Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 2pm-3pm

[Register Here](#)

Tribal Preparedness Webinar

Sponsored by FEMA Region 9

Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 6:30-7:30pm

[Register Here](#)

NEW! CDC COCA Call: 2024-2025 Recommendations for Influenza Prevention and Treatment in Children: An Update for Pediatric Providers

Sponsored by Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)

Thursday, November 14, 2024, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

[View Here](#)

CERT Promising Practices Webinar

Sponsored by FEMA Region 10

Thursday, November 14, 2024, 9-10pm

[Register Here](#)

CTI-200 (2024-2025) - Communications Directory/Coordinator Certification

Sponsored by NYSDOH CTI

Monday, November 18, 2024, 10-11:30am

Enroll in LMS Course: [CTI-200](#)

New York Responds Incident Management System Training (NYR)

Sponsored by the NYS Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: NYS OEM; 1220 Washington Ave., Building 22; Albany, NY 12226 on the State Campus

[Register Here](#)

NEW! Medical Matters: Disaster Medicine: Every Physician's Second Specialty

Sponsored by the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY)

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 7:30am

[Register Here](#)

State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

Sponsored by the NYS Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

November 20-21, 2024, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: NYS OEM; 1220 Washington Ave., Building 22; Albany, NY 12226 on the State Campus

NEW! CTI-300 (2024-2025) - Integrated Health Alert Network System (IHANS) Training & Certification

Sponsored by NYSDOH CTI

Thursday, November 21, 2024, 10-11:30am

Enroll in LMS Course [CTI-300](#)

Third Thursday Tips: Shelter in Place

Sponsored by FEMA Region 10

Thursday, November 21, 2024, 2-3pm

[Register Here](#)

NEW! CTI-502 (2024) – eFINDS

Sponsored by NYSDOH CTI

Friday, November 22, 2024, 9-10am

Enroll in LMS Course [CTI-502](#)

New York Responds Refresher Training for NYS Agencies

Sponsored by the NYS Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Friday, November 22, 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

[Register Here](#)

New York Responds Refresher Training for County Personnel

Sponsored by the NYS Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Friday, November 22, 2024, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

December

New York Responds Incident Management System Training (NYR)

Sponsored by the NYS Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 8:00am to 3:00pm

[Register Here](#)

State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

Sponsored by the NYS Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Wednesday – Thursday, December 4-5, 2024, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

New York Responds for County Personnel

Sponsored by the NYS Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Friday, December 6, 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Virtual

[Register Here](#)

NEW! CTI-200 (2024-2025) - Communications Directory/Coordinator Certification

Sponsored by NYSDOH CTI

Monday, December 08, 2024, 9:30-11am

Enroll in LMS Course: [CTI-200](#)

Advanced Burn Life Support Course (ABLS)

Sponsored by FLRTC

Monday, December 16, 2024, 7:30am – 4:30pm

University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, 601 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, NY

[Register Here](#)

NEW! CTI-300 (2024-2025) - Integrated Health Alert Network System (IHANS) Training & Certification

Sponsored by NYSDOH CTI

Monday, December 16, 2024, 1-4pm

Enroll in LMS Course [CTI-300](#)

NEW! CTI-502 (2024) – eFINDS

Sponsored by NYSDOH CTI

Tuesday, December 22, 2024, 2-3pm

Enroll in LMS Course [CTI-502](#)

NEW! CTI-120 (2024-2025) - HERDS Data Entry & Reports Training

Sponsored by NYSDOH CTI

Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 10-11am

Enroll in LMS Course: [CTI-120](#)

Third Thursday Tips: Home Hazard Hunt

Sponsored by FEMA Region 10

Thursday, December 19, 2024, 2-3pm

[Register Here](#)

New & OnDemand Content - NYLearnsPH.com LMS

Developing a Response Plan to Misinformation in Public Health

Sponsored by Public Health Communications Collaborative

Recorded September 25, 2024

Enroll in LMS Course: [PHCC-20240925](#)

Crisis Management: Critical Thinking in Crisis Preparation

Sponsored by South Central Partnership

Self-Paced Course | Enroll in LMS Course: [SCP-0191](#)

Climate Change and Flooding Risk: How Local HDs and Communities Can Prepare

Sponsored by Region 2 Public Health Training Center

Self-Paced Course | Enroll in LMS Course: [Reg2PHTC-Flooding](#)

A Systems Approach to Reduce Gun Violence

Sponsored by Region 2 Public Health Training Center

Self-Paced Course | Enroll in LMS Course: [Reg2PHTC-GunViolence](#)

[HTC Webinar Series - BP5\(2023-2024\) PROGRAM: Sessions 1-11](#) – Enroll and complete all 11 parts to receive a program certificate on the NYSDOH LMS!

2024 Western Region Health Coalition Emergency Management Seminar: Healthcare Readiness and Response to HAZMAT Events

Sponsored by WRHC

Recorded May 14, 2024

Enroll in LMS Course: [OHEP-WRHTC-WRHEMS2024-HAZMAT](#)

NYSDOH Disaster Mental Health Annual Webcast - RECORDING (HPP Del 4) – Disaster Response and Disaster Mental Health in New York State: Back to Basics

Sponsored by NYSDOH OHEP, OMH & IDMH at SUNY New Paltz

Recorded May 3, 2024

Enroll in LMS Course: [OHEP-BP5-HPP4](#) | **Note: Meets BP-5 (2023-2024) & HPP Deliverable 4**

Preparing For Measles: Review of POD Operations – 2024

Sponsored by OHEP

Recorded March 15, 2024

Enroll in LMS Course: [ClinOps-202403](#)

BPR-6 Population Data Systems to Improve Planning Training Webinar

Sponsored by OHEP

Recorded March 7, 2024

Enroll in LMS Course: [OHEP-BP5-BPR6](#)

Log-In2Learn: Flourishing through Adversity: How Can Stress and Emotional Experiences Make Us Resilient and Avoid Burnout

Sponsored by Region 2 Public Health Training Center

Recorded February 6, 2024

Enroll in LMS Course: [Reg2PHTC-L2L202402](#)

Psychological First Aid

Sponsored by NYSDOH OHEP

Enroll in LMS Course: [OHEP-OMH-PFA-NY](#)

Evidence-Based Approaches for Post-Disaster Mental Health Disorders

Sponsored by South Central Partnership

Enroll in LMS Course: [SCP-2055](#)

Additional Training of Interest - (On Demand)

NEW! IDWeek 2024 Insights: Other Emerging Influenza Viruses w/ Species Crossover Potential

Sponsored by VuMedi | Recorded October 22, 2024

NEW! Mind-Body Medicine to Build Stress Resilience

Sponsored by UCTV | Recorded October 22, 2024

NEW! Durability of Protection Following Administration of Recombinant Antigen RSV Vaccine, the Effect of COVID-19 on Regions of the Brainstem, and does COVID-19 Double the Risk...?

Sponsored by VuMedi | Recorded October 16, 2024

Advancing Data Sharing to Strengthen One Health Effectiveness: Relevance and Intersections with Climate Change: A Webinar | Sponsored by NASEM | Recorded August 29, 2024

[Prepare Your Clinics and Patients for Fall and Winter Respiratory Virus Season](#)

Sponsored by Project Firstline | Recorded Aug 6, 2024 | Free Continuing Education (CE)

[Strengthening Indigenous America: Building Resilience through Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery: A Workshop](#) | Sponsored by NASEM | Recorded July 8-9, 2024

[New First Receiver Training](#) - CNY HTC's 8-episode video series on first receiver decontamination

[Dealing with Stress in Disasters: Building Psychological Resilience](#)

Sponsored by Boston University School of Public Health | on-line course

[Public Health Prepared Training Catalog](#)

Sponsored by U of Michigan Center for Infectious Disease Threats & Pandemic Preparedness

The National Center for Disaster Preparedness through its FEMA training grants, will be offering the following free upcoming trainings. The training hosts are in the locations below; however, learners throughout the FEMA regions are welcome to attend.

Live Virtual Learning (January-March 2025)

- **January 8, 2025 - New York, FEMA Region 2 (Users will register on NYHSES)**
 - [New Account: New York Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services \(DHSES\)](#)
 - [PER-406: Mass Care Shelter and Relocation Capacity Building](#)
- **January 15 and 16, 2025 - Alaska, FEMA Region 10**
 - [PER-406: Mass Care Shelter and Relocation Capacity Building](#)
- **January 22, 2025 - Texas, FEMA Region 6**
 - [PER-406: Mass Care Shelter and Relocation Capacity Building](#)
- **February 25 and 26, 2025 - Minnesota, FEMA Region 5**
 - [PER-419: Understanding Climate Change and Social Vulnerability for Disaster Management](#)
- **March 6, 2025 - Connecticut, FEMA Region 1**
 - [PER-406: Mass Care Shelter and Relocation Capacity Building](#)

Instructor-led In-Person or Hybrid Learning (November 2024-March 2025)

- **November 12, 2024 - Cheyenne, Wyoming, FEMA Region 8, Hybrid - Virtual and In-Person Delivery**
 - [MGT-488: Pandemic Planning Emergency Management and Public Health Coordination](#)
- **February 12, 2025 - Westchester County, New York, FEMA Region 2 (Users will register on NYHSES)**
 - [New Account: New York Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services \(DHSES\)](#)
 - [MGT-487: Mass Care – Shelter and Relocation Coordination](#)
- **March 26, 2025 - Sacramento County, California, FEMA Region 9**
 - [MGT-487: Mass Care – Shelter and Relocation Coordination](#)

Self-Paced Hospital Radiological Emergency Operations Series

Sponsored by NCDP Counterterrorism Operations Support —CTOS

- **AWR-410-W | Hospital Radiological Emergency Operations: Hazards and Countermeasures**

- [AWR-411-W | Hospital Radiological Emergency Operations: Personal Protective Equipment](#)
- [AWR-412-W | Hospital Radiological Emergency Operations: Pre-Arrival and Recovery](#)
- [AWR-350-W | Hospital Radiological Emergency Operations: Hospital Operations Plan](#)

[Register Here](#)

OTHER FEDERAL and NATIONAL PROVIDER RESOURCES:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Health Alert Network (HAN) – [HAN Messages | Health Alert Network \(HAN\)](#)

NEW! 0518 – 10/16/2024 - [Disruptions in Availability of Peritoneal Dialysis and Intravenous Solutions from Baxter International Facility in North Carolina](#) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to inform healthcare providers, pharmacists, healthcare facility administrators, and state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments of a supply disruption of peritoneal dialysis (PD) and intravenous (IV) solutions from the Baxter International's North Cove facility in North Carolina, due to Hurricane Helene. The supply disruption may impact patient care and require adjustments to the clinical management of patients. Healthcare providers, pharmacists, healthcare facility administrators, and state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments, regardless of supply chain disruptions, should immediately assess their supply and develop plans and mitigation strategies to reduce the impact on patient care.

ICYMI:

- 0517 – 10/03/2024 - [First Marburg Virus Disease Outbreak in the Republic of Rwanda](#)
- 0516 – 09/23/24 - [Prevention Strategies for Mpox, including Vaccinating People at Risk via Sexual Exposure, for U.S. Travelers Visiting Countries with Clade I Mpox Outbreaks](#)

CDC Resources:

NEW! October 23, 2024

***Mycoplasma* Bulletin** — As we approach the fall and winter virus season, we also need to stay vigilant for bacterial infections. CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases released a [Bulletin](#) about **increases in *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* infections** in the United States. After low levels of detected infections since 2019, *M. pneumoniae* infections increased in the United States since late spring and have remained high. The proportion of patients discharged from emergency departments with a diagnosis of *M. pneumoniae*-associated pneumonia has been increasing across the United States over the past six months, peaking in late August.

The increase in younger children (2–4-year-olds) is notable because a rise in *M. pneumoniae* has historically not been recognized as a leading cause of pneumonia in this age group. CDC is continuing to track infections to better understand any differences in demographics of affected patients, severity of illness (including extrapulmonary conditions), or outcomes as compared to tracking *M. pneumoniae* infections pre COVID-19 pandemic.

We recommend that healthcare providers:

- Consider *M. pneumoniae* as a possible cause of infection among children hospitalized with community-acquired pneumonia and have increased suspicion of suspect *M. pneumoniae*

among patients with community-acquired pneumonia who aren't clinically improving on antibiotics that are known to be ineffective against *M. pneumoniae*, such as cases not improving with antibiotics like beta-lactams.

- When *M. pneumoniae* infection is suspected, especially in hospitalized children, to ensure appropriate antibiotic therapy is administered.
- Consider [swabbing both the throat and the nasopharynx](#) to improve the likelihood of detection in respiratory swab specimens.
- Consider using a second-line antibiotic regimen, such as fluoroquinolones or tetracyclines, to treat patients with suspected or confirmed *M. pneumoniae* infection who aren't improving on macrolides. Be mindful of potential adverse effects in children or pregnant individuals when using [fluoroquinolones](#) or [tetracyclines](#).
- Promote the judicious use of antibiotics and minimize the risk of antibiotic resistance by not prescribing antibiotics unless indicated by clinical and/or laboratory evidence.

More information:

- [Clinical features of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* infection](#).
- [Mycoplasma pneumoniae clinical care and treatment guidance](#).
- [Laboratory testing for *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*](#).
- [Mycoplasma pneumoniae surveillance in the United States](#).

[Notes from the Field: Reemergence of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* Infections in Children and Adolescents After the COVID-19 Pandemic, United States, 2018–2024](#).

Sign up for V-safe! CDC wants to know how you feel after vaccination — As we head into another fall and winter virus season, please help CDC increase awareness of [V-safe](#) among your networks. Through V-safe participation, CDC obtains data about post-vaccination experiences that informs vaccine research and recommendations. Anyone who receives an updated 2024-2025 **COVID-19 vaccine** (or their parent/caregiver), a **RSV vaccine**, and/or a **maternal RSV vaccine** can [sign up for a V-safe account](#) to begin receiving and completing check-ins to share with CDC how they feel after vaccination.

Help promote V-safe:

- Visit and share our [new V-safe webpage](#) to learn about V-safe and see what's new.
- Distribute our [V-safe info sheet](#) to vaccine recipients and in places where people receive vaccines.
- Hang [V-safe posters](#) in waiting areas and other places that vaccine recipients can easily view.
- Talk to community leaders, healthcare providers, pharmacies/pharmacy organizations, and other partners and organizations in your network about V-safe. Ask them to share our [print](#) and [web resources](#).

We appreciate your assistance and your commitment to patient safety. With your help, we hope to enroll as many people in V-safe as possible to help CDC's vaccine safety monitoring efforts.

In case you missed it: Check out the latest [CDC Medscape Commentary on medication safety](#).

Earn free CE with [CDC Learning Connection's](#) featured trainings!

NEW! October 21, 2024

A NEW, FREE, self-paced training called [Training with Intention](#) helps public health professionals use [CDC's Quality Training Standards](#) to effectively design, develop, and revise trainings.

Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose when given in time. Clinicians and other health professionals can learn how to start a conversation with patients about naloxone and educate them about how naloxone can prevent fatal overdoses with this training, [Engaging Patients in a Conversation About Naloxone](#). **Earn FREE CE.**

Blood clots can cause serious medical conditions that can lead to illness, disability, and death if not treated early. Register to take [Stop the Clot® - What Every Healthcare Professional Should Know](#) to learn current information and best practices for identifying, treating, and managing patients who have blood clots. **Earn FREE CE**

[Sign up](#) for the CDC Learning Connection newsletter to stay informed about quality public health trainings from CDC and partners

Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC)

October 29, 2024

Watch: Communicating the Connection Between Civic Engagement and Public Health

Education, housing, the environment, the economy, and other factors influence a person's health. And they're all on the ballot. The 2024 General Election is one week from today, but communicating the connection between civic engagement and public health is critical year-round.

[Watch last week's webinar](#) on *Communicating the Connection Between Civic Engagement and Public Health* and view the presentation slides to learn tactics to engage your communities and workplaces today and into the future. You can also download customizable [Get Out The Vote social media graphics](#) in English and Spanish to help your communities make a voting plan this week.

Visit these additional resources about increasing civic engagement to support public health:

- **In Your Community**
 - [Why and How Should Public Health Promote Voting?](#) | JPHMP Voting
 - [Health & Democracy Index](#) | Healthy Democracy Healthy People
 - [Voting Is Critical To The Pursuit Of Health Equity](#) | Health Affairs
- **In the Workplace**
 - [How to Talk About Politics in the Workplace](#) | Health Action Alliance
 - [Belonging in the Workplace: A Guide for Employers](#) | Health Action Alliance
 - [Thrive Through Civic Health: We Will Vote](#) | Healthy Democracy Healthy People

On Our Radar

- Article: [Make it Plain: Why We Need Clear Language to Reach the Future We Want](#) (M. Allyn Brooks-LaSure, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)
- Podcast: [AI for Good: Maximizing AI in Health Communication](#) (Dr. Betsy Mitchell, CDC)
- Blog: [Additional COVID vaccines approved for everyone ages 65+](#) (Those Nerdy Girls)
- Blog: [The Dose](#) (Your Local Epidemiologist)
- Article:

Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA)

ICYMI: October 3, 2024 FEMA Establishes National Disaster and Emergency Management University -- Emergency management is constantly shifting to address the nation's most pressing threats, risks, and hazards from climate change to cyber to pandemic preparedness. To better address these needs, FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) is creating the National Disaster & Emergency Management University, or NDEMU, to help emergency managers build capacity today to meet the hazards of tomorrow.

NDEMU will offer comprehensive training across the entirety of an emergency manager's career and close an identified gap in mid and advanced career professional development. The new NDEMU will be a three-school institution:

- EMI will continue as a brand within NDEMU to provide foundational training and development for early career emergency managers.
- The School of Disaster Leadership is for mid- and late-career emergency managers seeking professional development and continuing education. It will emphasize leadership development and include programs like the Vanguard Executive Crisis Leaders Fellowship and targeted certificate programs.
- The School of National Resilience will serve as a bridge between the emergency management profession and stakeholders within the field of emergency management. It will include deeper dives into disaster risk reduction for specific sectors such as health, planning, and climate change adaptation.

FEMA continues to provide excellent training through partners such as the [Center for Domestic Preparedness](#), [National Domestic Preparedness Consortium](#), [Naval Postgraduate School](#), and [others](#). We expect NDEMU to help emergency management grow as a profession and ensure the pipeline of future talent has the depth of knowledge needed to face future hazards.

Visit [FEMA National Disaster & Emergency Management University \(NDEMU\)](#) to learn more.

U.S. Fire Administration - National Fire Academy

NEW! October 16, 2024 Applications for the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program will be accepted Nov 1 – 30, 2024 or when the first 500 applications are received; whichever come sooner. For more information, please visit Executive Fire Officer Program Requirements and How to Apply ([fema.gov](#)).

ICYMI: The U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy is accepting applications for resident courses with vacancies, especially the following course deliveries between Oct. thru Dec:

- [R0314 - Command and Control of Incident Operations](#)
- [R0254 - Special Operations Program Management and Leadership](#)
- [R0393 - Plans Review for Fire and Life Safety](#)
- [R0645 - Leadership in Supervision](#)
- [R0670 - Community Risk Reduction: A Policy Approach](#)
- [R0655 - Advanced Science of Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Response](#)
- [R0673 - Service Area Risk Reduction](#)
- [R0233 - Chemical Hazard Analysis for Risk-Based Response](#)

- [R0763 - New Executive Chief Officer](#)
 - [Click here](#) for the current vacancy listing for ALL resident courses.
 - For help completing your application, contact our Admissions Office, Monday - Friday between 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST, at 800-238-3358, ext. 1035 or by email at netcadmissions@fema.dhs.gov.
-

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)

NEW! October 31, 2024

REPORT: [State Resiliency Planning Considerations | ASTHO](#)

BLOG: [Tackling Climate Change Using the One Health Approach | ASTHO](#)

NEW! October 24, 2024

[Federal Policies Search for Insights and Solutions into Long COVID](#) Millions of adults in the United States have experienced Long COVID, which can affect multiple organs and cause lasting symptoms like fatigue and brain fog. Groups at higher risk include women, people with underlying conditions, those who had severe COVID-19 cases, and Hispanic individuals. Federal and legislative initiatives aim to improve quality and equity of care. Find more details on governmental responses in a new *Federal Health Policy Update*.

[Improving Access to Critical Medications](#) | A recent *CDC Health Alert Network* touched on peritoneal dialysis and intravenous solution availability during Hurricane Helene. As a helpful asset to partners, the advisory cited an ASTHO policy toolkit as a valuable public health agency resource for improving access to essential medications. [Learn more](#).

Resource: [Community Action Plan Templates for Children's Environmental Health](#)

Resource: [HAI Roadmap](#)

Report: [Early Childhood Nutrition Security](#)

NEW! October 17, 2024

REPORT: [Integrating Environmental Justice and Health Equity into Statewide Climate Planning](#)

BLOG: [How Emergency Preparedness Can Better Protect Children's Health | ASTHO](#)

NEW! October 10, 2024

[Pathway To A Healthier America](#) | Trust for America's Health (TFAH) held a national convening in April 2024 where organizations and leaders discussed the state of public health across the country. Those discussions supported the development and publication of TFAH's latest report, *A Blueprint for Strengthening Public Health for the Next Administration and Congress*. A **[TFAH news release](#)** further highlights background information on the report. Read the **[full report](#)** now.

BLOG: [Responding to Environmental Health Threats Following Hurricanes | ASTHO](#)

BLOG: [Preparing for and Responding to Infectious Disease Threats Following Hurricanes | ASTHO](#)

RESOURCE: [Community Action Plan Templates for Children's Environmental Health | ASTHO](#)

American Journal of Public Health (AJPH)

November 2024 – Connecting Local Public Health Experiences

The November issue of *AJPH* features a special section on Notes From the Field highlighting the importance of sharing field experiences that public health practitioners and researchers can reproduce in their own communities. Select articles cover community engagement, migrant health, wastewater monitoring, and vaccine mandates in a university setting. Other articles in this issue address wastewater monitoring in jail settings, nonfatal overdose rates, maternal health equity, and more. [American Journal of Public Health – November 2024 - Volume 114, Issue 11](#)

Supplement 7 2024 – CDC’s Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities: Lessons

Learned - This supplement issue of *AJPH* focuses on practices and lessons learned in addressing COVID-19-related health disparities and advancing health equity. Articles address various social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19 including obstacles such as transportation, language barriers, and environmental conditions, among other factors, that exacerbated COVID-19-related health disparities. Flexible funding from the CDC’s COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant gave health departments the tools they needed to establish essential capabilities to address ongoing health disparities and strengthen public health infrastructure. [Read Issue](#)

ICYMI:

- [September 2024 - COVID-19: Excess Overall Mortality Across US States - Volume 114, Issue 9](#)
 - [July 2024 – Opioids, COVID-19, & Fatal Overdoses - Volume 114, Issue 7](#)
-

Trust for America’s Health

NEW! October 31, 2024 The Center for American Progress released the report [How Congress Can Protect Families From Dangerous Heat and Ensure Cool and Healthy Homes for All](#). The report lays out recommendations for Congress to protect Americans from the health risks and costs of longer and more intense heat events driven by climate change. Specifically, the report calls on Congress and other federal policy leaders to build on recent climate progress.

Earlier this week, the [2024 Lancet Countdown on Health & Climate Change](#) was released. The report tracks the relationship between health and climate change across five key domains and 56 indicators, providing the most up-to-date assessment of the links between health and climate change.

The American Lung Association released the new report [Something in the Air: Bridging the Air Quality Data Gap with Satellite Technology](#). The report emphasizes how emerging technologies, such as satellites, can help provide critical air quality information to underserved communities lacking official monitoring data.

NEW! October 24, 2024 The National Academies recently released the Proceedings of a Workshop document [Strengthening Indigenous America: Building Resilience through Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery](#). The brief summarizes a July 2024 public workshop that explored opportunities to support the capacity of Indigenous American and tribal communities and nations to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and public health emergencies.

National Association of Science Engineering and Medicine (NASEM)

NEW! October 24, 2024

Strengthening Indigenous America: Building Resilience through Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

Indigenous American and tribal nations and communities represent an important component of the U.S. medical and public health emergency preparedness and response system. As public health threats grow, Indigenous knowledge and practices are and will be critical to improving preparedness and response systems. The National Academies [Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies](#) hosted a public workshop in July 2024 to explore opportunities to support the capacity of Indigenous American and tribal communities and nations to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and public health emergencies. This proceedings highlights the presentations and discussions that occurred at the workshop. [READ NOW](#)

Interactive Resource

The public health emergencies the U.S. and its Indigenous communities face are likely to increase in number, severity, and complexity. Indigenous American and tribal nations and communities must have the necessary capacities, capabilities, and partnerships to address disasters and public health emergencies. Learn how Indigenous American and tribal community preparedness can be bolstered in this interactive resource. [EXPLORE NOW](#)

Johns Hopkins University - Health Security Decoded

NEW! October 24, 2024

New episode of *The BWC Global Forum* podcast examines use of open-source data to monitor Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)-related activities

In the [latest episode](#) of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security's podcast, [The BWC Global Forum: Biotech, Biosecurity & Beyond](#), hosts Amanda Mui, MPH, and Gigi Gronvall, PhD, discuss the availability and use of open-source data to monitor Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)-related activities with guest Dr. Yong-Bee Lim, deputy director of the Converging Risks Lab at the Council on Strategic Risks (CSR) and Biosecurity Projects Manager for CSR. Dr. Lim is leading a study to identify tools, techniques, and sources to support the ability to identify, track, and evaluate biological activities using publicly available information.

The BWC Global Forum features some of the world's foremost experts across the broad scope of biology and biotechnology to identify and investigate emerging capabilities and future trends and consider their potential impact on the BWC itself and biological weapons nonproliferation policy and practice. For more information and to access past episodes, visit

<https://centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/research-projects/the-bwc-global-forum-biotech-biosecurity-beyond>.

Number of confirmed human bird flu cases reaches 27, with additional 4 presumptive positive cases; public health experts call for stronger surveillance, response efforts

Since we last reported on October 17, the total number of US human cases of avian influenza A(H5) in [California has risen from 11 to 15](#), with [2 confirmed on October 18](#) and [2 additional cases confirmed yesterday](#). All these cases occurred in dairy workers on farms known to have infected cows, all reportedly experienced mild symptoms, including eye redness or discharge (conjunctivitis), and none were hospitalized. The total number of confirmed human bird flu cases now stands at [27 in 5 US states](#) since the beginning of the year. This total does not include [4 presumptive positive cases reported in poultry workers in Washington state](#). Washington, as well as Utah, last week recorded their first cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in [commercial egg-laying flocks](#) in at least a year, resulting in the culling of more than 2.6 million chickens.

Continued calls for more robust response

The growing number of human cases raises the risk of the virus developing the ability to more easily spread to people other than dairy and poultry workers. Additionally, in California—where [cows are dying at much higher rates of bird flu](#) than in other states—the [dead mammals are being left to rot in the open](#), leaving them to be picked over by scavenger animals that could facilitate the virus's spread to other birds or wild mammals. Such developments are leading public health experts to call for [more proactive approaches](#) to track and respond to avian flu. Research presented recently at IDWeek shows that [wastewater surveillance can provide an early warning tool](#) for tracking and flagging bird flu and other zoonotic viruses in agricultural facilities before cases appear in animals or people.

USDA response questioned

When veterinarians involved in first recognizing bird flu in cattle, as well as barn cats and wild birds on affected farms, they [expected the US Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) to mount a robust response, but they say that did not happen](#). In fact, [USDA weakened an emergency order](#) meant to prevent infected cows from moving across state lines, folding to industry pressure. With [at least 339 herds in 14 states affected](#), there remains no formal national surveillance program for the disease, many farmers oppose testing their animals, and few farm workers are being tested for the virus.

New commercial H5 test available; experts call for vaccination preparedness

Quest Diagnostics, with support from US CDC, plans to launch a [new test for H5N1 bird flu](#) at the end of this month, to provide commercial testing capacity beyond that currently provided by state and local public health laboratories and CDC. The test uses respiratory or eye specimen samples collected from individuals who either show symptoms of the virus or meet CDC testing guidelines. In a paper published this week, vaccine experts call on public officials, policymakers, and researchers to “urgently and honestly assess whether the United States is [adequately prepared to rapidly launch a mass vaccination campaign](#) to protect both children and adults” against bird flu.

Mpox outbreak continues to grow in Africa, with more than 1,100 deaths; more vaccine doses, especially for children, urgently needed

The mpox outbreak [continues to grow](#), with Africa CDC reporting 3,051 new cases and 50 additional deaths in the week leading up to October 17. So far this year, the [total number of cases stands at 42,438, with 1,100 fatalities](#). Several cases have been reported in countries that have never before reported cases, including Zambia and Zimbabwe. Additionally, mpox is spreading in at least 2 prisons in Uganda, and cases continue to rise in internally displaced person camps in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), presenting challenges to stemming transmission because of crowded conditions, lack of hygiene facilities, and lack of access to infection prevention and control methods.

Various mpox clades circulating globally

The mpox strain that caused the 2022 outbreak, clade II, mostly infected adults and was primarily spread through sexual contact, especially between men, and is [still circulating, as is clade Ia](#), which is endemic to parts of Central Africa. Notably, however, a new strain, clade Ib, which spreads more easily, is posing new concerns, particularly in DRC and surrounding countries. Additionally, travelers have brought the strain to several countries outside the continent, including Sweden, India, Thailand, and, more recently, [Germany](#), raising concerns about [potentially unrecognized transmission](#) in countries not closely monitoring for the disease.

“The response to these outbreaks is demonstrating that there’s more we need to do around outbreak control. They’re all tests of the system, and I’m not sure we’re passing.” – Caitlin Rivers, PhD, MPH, senior scholar at the Center for Health Security

Vaccination important tool for stemming outbreaks

Vaccination against the disease has begun in [DRC](#) and [Rwanda](#), and Nigeria was expected to begin its campaign this week. In DRC, [children are being disproportionately infected](#) with clade Ib mpox, most likely through household contact and peer interactions, and [girls and young women may also be more susceptible](#) to the newer strain. According to a new analysis,

DRC would significantly reduce the number of deaths in the country. Interim trial results presented recently at IDWeek showed the Bavarian Nordic mpox vaccine, known in the US as Jynneos, is [safe and elicits an antibody response in adolescents](#) similar to that in adults. WHO [recently approved](#) the use of that vaccine in adolescents aged 12 to 17. However, [African nations need more vaccine doses and concerted on-the-ground action](#) to stop the outbreak, according to Africa CDC Director-General Dr. Jean Kaseya.

“The best way to stop an outbreak is to get the vaccines where they’re needed most as soon as possible to interrupt transmission, stop the spread, and save lives.” – Alexandra Phelan, SJD, LLM, LLB, senior scholar at the Center for Health Security

NEW! October 10, 2024

UK publishes voluntary guidance for providers and users of synthetic nucleic acids

The UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) this week [published voluntary gene synthesis guidance](#) for all individuals and organizations that provide, use, or transfer synthetic nucleic acids and associated benchtop equipment in the UK. The [UK Biological Security Strategy](#) and the [National Vision for Engineering Biology](#), published in June and December 2023, respectively, laid the foundation for the UK to be a leader in responsible innovation in engineering biology. The [new screening guidance](#) delivers on that commitment by championing and enabling the legitimate use of nucleic acid synthesis technologies while reducing the risks that could result from accidental or purposeful misuse.

The guidance makes recommendations to providers and users of synthetic nucleic acid to promote screening practices. It supports the safe study and engineering of existing or novel biological systems to help promote the technology’s benefits in applications across healthcare, chemical and materials, low carbon fuels, agriculture and food production, and waste and environment. The guidance identifies areas for further work and welcomes input from academia, industry, and think tanks to shape future interventions. Uptake of the guidance will be reviewed to ensure it provides appropriate guardrails.

“This is valuable and important government action that will reduce big risks related to synthetic manufacturing of dangerous pathogens, and I am hopeful that additional governments will move in this direction soon.” – Dr. Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security, writing on [LinkedIn](#)

US CDC confirms 3 additional human bird flu cases in California; US to double stockpile of emergency bird flu vaccines

Since we last reported on [October 3](#), the [US CDC has confirmed 3 new human cases of H5 bird flu](#) in California. All 3 cases occurred in dairy workers from 3 different affected farms who reported exposure to infected dairy cows, suggesting animal-to-human spread. Sequences from the first 2 cases confirmed the infections are the clade 2.3.4.4b A(H5N1) viruses that are closely related to viruses obtained from dairy cattle and [do not have genetic changes](#) known to be associated with increased transmissibility or reduced susceptibility to antiviral drugs.

Including these most recent cases, 17 human cases of H5 bird flu have been reported in the US this year. One of those cases, in Missouri, had [no known contact with an infected animal](#) and several of their contacts, including 6 healthcare workers, experienced respiratory disease symptoms. CDC said it is awaiting confirmatory test results from the Missouri patient’s contacts as well as 2 additional presumptive positive specimens from California.

More surveillance needed

While precautions such as the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) on farms, testing of humans and cows, and stockpiling of vaccines are underway,

[these and other measures](#), including more surveillance measures such as intensive contact tracing and more testing on farms. They warn that the more the virus spreads, the more chance it has to evolve to potentially become more infectious to humans.

“We’ve always known that there’s likely more cases that have been missed, particularly among dairy farm workers that never were tested. The testing among dairy cattle is not very robust, and the amount of proactive action taken by certain states is not enough to give a lot of confidence that this is being handled properly.” – Dr. Amesh Adalja, senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security

[California quickly became the epicenter](#) for bird flu in dairy cattle, reporting more than 80 affected herds since late August. Farmers and veterinarians in the state are warning that the virus is presenting more severely in dairy herds than it has in other states, with a higher percentage of symptomatic and dead cows in affected herds. California, the nation’s largest milk producer, is [bulk testing milk tanks](#) in areas where herds test positive.

US increasing vaccine stockpile

US officials last week said they plan to [more than double the stockpile of emergency bird flu vaccines](#) out of “an abundance of caution” as more people become infected with the disease. The US government announced [US\\$72 million in funding](#) for companies CSL, Sanofi, and GSK to increase the nation’s supply of ready-to-use vaccine doses to 10 million within the first quarter of 2025. The companies will also make [additional bulk vaccine ingredients](#) matched to circulating bird flu strains.

Rwanda begins vaccinating healthcare workers, close contacts of people infected with Marburg virus; US issues level 3 travel notice prompting criticism from Africa CDC director

Rwanda’s first-ever [outbreak of Marburg virus has killed 13 people out of a total of 58 cases](#) confirmed since the index case was reported last month. [Most of those infected are healthcare workers](#), particularly those working in intensive care units in hospitals in the capital, Kigali. Health officials in the east African country [began administering an experimental vaccine](#) against the disease on October 6, with a focus on healthcare workers and close contacts of confirmed cases. Rwanda has received shipments of experimental vaccine doses, [diagnostic kits](#), and therapeutic drugs for Marburg from several sources, including the [US government](#), the [Sabin Vaccine Institute](#), [Gilead](#), and [Mapp Biopharmaceuticals](#).

Travel advisories, screening

The US CDC this week issued a [level 3 travel health notice for Rwanda](#), encouraging individuals [reconsider nonessential travel to the country](#). This is up from the previous level 2 notice, which advises enhanced precautions for travelers. Additionally, the [US will begin traveler screening](#) on October 14 at 3 major airports for people who have visited Rwanda in the past 21 days, the incubation period of the virus. [Rwanda’s health ministry also is screening travelers](#) departing from the country, stopping anyone who has been exposed to the virus from leaving the country. There are no confirmed Marburg cases outside Rwanda, and the [risk to the US is low](#), according to health officials. Africa CDC Director-General Dr. Jean Kaseya this week [criticized the US decision to up its travel advisory](#), calling it “unfair” because Rwanda “is doing all that can be done to stop the disease.” He also called for fast-tracking efforts to bring vaccine manufacturing to the continent.

Center for Health Security Senior Scholar Caitlin Rivers’ new book, *Crisis Averted*, explores public health lessons, provides insight into future pandemic preparedness efforts

When public health works, the results are often invisible—a disease outbreak does not grow into a pandemic, children have sufficient nutrition, or a would-be smoker never lights a cigarette. [Crisis Averted](#), the new book from [Caitlin Rivers, PhD, MPH](#), senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and associate professor in the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering

at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, explores the science and stories behind managing public health problems, highlighting the often-invisible work of epidemiologists, from controlling outbreaks to supporting community resilience.

Drawing on her extensive experience, Dr. Rivers examines the successes and challenges of modern epidemiology, offering practical insights for improving crisis prevention and response for public health professionals, policymakers, and the public. “This book is an invaluable contribution to public health,” said Tom Inglesby, MD, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. “Dr. Rivers has chronicled the responses to major outbreaks, including the COVID-19 pandemic, with remarkable clarity and has written *Crisis Averted* in a way that is accessible to all audiences—whether you’re a seasoned expert or just beginning to understand the complexities of health security.”

Learn more about the book here: <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/704843/crisis-averted-by-caitlin-rivers-phd/>

Center for Health Security to co-lead effort to establish Regional Center for Public Health Preparedness and Response

The Johns Hopkins University has been selected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Office of Readiness and Response (ORR) [Division of Readiness and Response Science \(DRRS\)](#) to establish the Regional Center for Public Health Preparedness and Response (PHPR) for the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Region 3, which includes Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. This work, led by the Center for Health Security (CHS) and the Johns Hopkins Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response (CEPAR), is part of a national initiative to enhance public health preparedness and response (PHPR) capabilities across the United States, with funding awarded to one institution in each HHS region.

Read more about the project here: <https://centerforhealthsecurity.org/2024/the-johns-hopkins-university-selected-as-regional-center-for-public-health-preparedness-and-response>

[Newsletter Sign Up | Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security](#)

The NATIONAL CENTER FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS (NCDP)

NEW! October 30, 2024

Hurricanes Helene and Milton Show that Storm Impacts are Becoming More Complex and More Unequal

In an era of anthropogenic climate change and increasing natural disasters, the impacts of tropical cyclones and hurricanes are increasing in severity. As the atmosphere warms, its capacity to hold water vapor increases; as moisture in the air increases, we tend to see heavier rainfall episodes. In other words, the size and strength of Hurricanes Helene and Milton show an undeniable “fingerprint” of global atmospheric warming.

Helene and Milton also demonstrate how tropical cyclones and hurricanes evolve into complex, multi-hazard events. Storm-related hazards now occur at different points in time and at different locations than before, interacting with each other in complex ways. While climate change plays an important role, other factors contribute to hazards, vulnerability, and risk. We must recognize that socioeconomic and demographic factors drive the inequality of storm impacts. The increasing availability of data means there are growing opportunities to understand and develop more equitable solutions for addressing risk, remarked [Andrew Kruczkiewicz](#), a meteorologist at the National Center for Disaster Preparedness (NCDP), Columbia Climate School.

As part of broader federal efforts to mitigate and adapt to climatological challenges, NCDP has created a national climate resilience curriculum focusing on equity and risk for today's state, local, Tribal, and territorial emergency managers. [AWR-433-W: Climate Literacy for Emergency Managers](#), an awareness-level, free, web-based training, gives learners an overview of climate change and how it relates to emergency management. The course reviews the root causes of climate change and addresses its impacts on communities.

In addition to this climate literacy training, you can obtain a FEMA certificate in pandemic planning and response, mass care and sheltering, and financial disaster recovery in as little as two hours. These free, web-based trainings can be completed on your own time and provide knowledge geared for your role. Trainings are available for individual learners or can be incorporated into the curriculum for volunteer groups, university courses, healthcare and hospital systems, and more. To learn about and register for these trainings, please visit our training portal at <https://training.ncdpcourses.org/>.

[Take Web-based Trainings Today](#)

[NCDP is Looking for Training Hosts for PER-419-V: Understanding Climate Change and Social Vulnerability for Disaster Management](#)

Our training on climate resilience and equitable disaster response has been FEMA-certified and is ready to be scheduled. Currently, we are seeking training hosts to conduct a virtual training for [PER-419-V: Understanding Climate Change and Social Vulnerability for Disaster Management](#). This performance-level, live virtual training provides participants with an overview of climate change and its impact on disaster management and vulnerable populations. The course is geared for emergency managers and stakeholders involved in emergency preparedness, climate, and equity issues.

[Contact NCDP to Become a Training Host](#)

NEW! October 24, 2024

[The Columbia Climate School, Columbia University Launches a New Master of Science in Climate](#)

Earn an MS Degree in Climate, with an Advanced Degree in Climate and Disaster Management, at the Columbia Climate School.

PODCASTS:

ICYMI: AJPH PODCASTS:

- Public Health Students About Responding to and Preventing War
 - Podcast: Listen to the [audio](#) | watch the [video](#)
- Voting Rights are a Political Determinant of Health
 - Podcast: Listen to the [audio](#) | watch the [video](#)
- Exploring the Impact of Voting Rights on Public Health
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- [BWC Global Forum, discusses AI and drug discovery](#)
- [Episode 774 - Why We Desperately Need & Still Don't Have—A Global Pandemic Treaty.](#)

ICYMI: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps Podcast

- [Strengthening Democracy For Better Health Series](#)