

Thursday, November 20, 2025

REGION 2 RESPTC PARTNER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Happy Thanksgiving! This season, we are grateful for all of our incredible partners that strengthen the resilience of our region to special pathogen threats. The Region 2 RESPTC at NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue serves as a National Special Pathogen System (NSPS) Level 1 facility and leads special pathogen preparedness efforts for New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Learn more about RESPTC updates, resources, and partner events [here](#).

OUTBREAK AND SPECIAL PATHOGEN NEWS



Image Source: WHO image of the last patient discharge in the DRC.

Ebola Virus Disease in DRC

On 4 September 2025, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) declared an outbreak of Ebola virus disease in the country's Kasai Province. No cases have been reported outside of the DRC and the risk of infection in the United States is [low](#). As of November 5th, there were [64 cases and 45 deaths](#). The last Ebola patient in DRC was [discharged](#) on October 19, and no new cases have been reported since September 25. If no new cases are detected, the outbreak will be declared over in early December 2025.

Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)

[Kazakhstan](#) is experiencing an unusual seasonal increase in CCHF and Iraq is reporting a notable increase in cases in recent years. Symptoms include fever, headache, myalgia, nausea, and abdominal pain.

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Funding Opportunity for Health Care Facilities

We are excited to announce the launch of the **NSPS Level 2 Special Pathogen Treatment and Network Development (STAND) Award**, a \$37.5 million grant initiative funded by the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR). [The application is now OPEN.](#)

This award is designed to expand the **National Special Pathogen System (NSPS)** Level 2 facility network, building a stronger, more coordinated, and resilient approach to high-consequence infectious disease (HCID) response across the U.S.

Award at a Glance:

- **Award amount:** \$500,000 per facility
- **Awards available:** Up to 75 U.S. healthcare facilities
- **Total funding:** \$37.5 million
- **Application deadline:** December 2, 2025, at 4 p.m. CST
- **Anticipated performance period:** January 2 - June 29, 2026

Why Apply?

Awardees will:

- Enhance institutional and regional readiness
- Gain national visibility as leaders in special pathogen preparedness
- Access training, consultation, and technical support from NETEC
- Join a national Community of Practice dedicated to HCID response

Eligibility:

U.S.-based healthcare facilities (excluding federal facilities and Level 1 RESPTCs) with the infrastructure and workforce capacity to care for suspected or confirmed patients with a special pathogen.

[Start the application here.](#)

November Travel Screening Country List

The New York City Health + Hospitals/Bellevue Travel Screening List reviews current special pathogen disease outbreaks that require prompt identification, isolation and/or specialized evaluation and management. The Bellevue Special Pathogens Program team develops this list in partnership with colleagues at NYU, Toronto University Health Network, and the Japan Institute for Health Security. This list, which may be found [here](#), can serve as a resource while screening patients.

Current Infectious Disease Outbreaks for New York City Providers

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH) offers a list of current infectious disease outbreaks as a resource for healthcare providers in New York City. Find the resource [here](#).

REGION 2 NEWS



IDWeek Film Features Bellevue

The Region 2 RESPTC at NYC Health + Hospitals / Bellevue was featured at IDWeek -- the joint annual meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, the HIV Medicine Association, the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society and the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists. **Watch the video [here](#) to learn about Bellevue's historic role in protecting New York from special pathogen threats.**



Trainees from Albany Airport Fire Department, Albany County Sheriff's Office, American Medical Response, Colonie EMS, Fire Department of New York (FDNY), Monroe Ambulance, New York State Department of Health, Northwell EMS, Ny Presbyterian EMS, New York State EMS, NYC REMSCO, and Robert Wood Johnson Hospital EMS.



Trainees practicing moving a patient while in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).



Dr. Mukherjee, NETEC PI and Bellevue Special Pathogens Program Chief, providing opening remarks.



Wade Miles (NETEC) discussing patient transport Isopods.

Special Pathogen EMS Training

New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) partnered with the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center ([NETEC](#)) and the HHS Region 2 Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center ([RESPTC](#)) to offer a training on special pathogen response skills for EMS agencies at the Albany Airport Fire Department on November 5-6th. The course trained over 10 EMS agencies from across New York State, New York City, and New Jersey on how to don/doff Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), dress an ambulance for special pathogen transports, and conduct special pathogen waste management. Ultimately, this course will enhance the state's ability to safely transport special pathogen patients while protecting the healthcare workforce.

Thank you to our partners at NYSDOH, including Matt Wiley, for hosting the training and to our partners at NETEC for sharing their expertise with Region 2!

Call-Down Drill Video

The Region 2 RESPTC published a video overviewing a recent research publication analyzing a no-notice pediatric HCID patient drill. Learn more [here](#).

OUTBREAK ADVISORIES AND RESOURCES

Ebola Virus Disease

Clinicians should review the "Recommendations for Clinicians" section of the recent CDC [Health Alert Network](#) (HAN). These recommendations include:

- "Systematically **assess patients with compatible symptoms (e.g., fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, fatigue, loss of appetite, gastrointestinal symptoms, or unexplained bleeding)** for exposure risk and the possibility of viral hemorrhagic fevers (VHFs) including EVD through a triage and evaluation process including a travel history. Early identification of EVD or other VHFs is important for providing appropriate and prompt patient care and preventing the spread of infection"
- "**Immediately isolate** and hospitalize patients who have both an exposure risk AND any symptoms compatible with EVD"
- "If [EVD is suspected](#), **contact your** state, tribal, local, or territorial **health department immediately** (via [24-hour Epi-on-call contact list](#))"

Additional Resources

- NETEC [Ebola Resource Library](#)
 - This resource library includes outbreak updates, EVD information, Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) preparedness checklists, Tip Sheets, Job Action Sheets, and PPE resources
- CDC [Ebola Disease Basics](#)
- WHO [Ebola Disease Fact Sheet](#)
- WHO [Disease Outbreak News \(DONs\)](#)
- [Laboratory Testing for Patients with a Suspected VHF or High-Consequence Disease](#)
- [Interim Guidance for EMS Systems and 9-1-1 Answering Points | Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers \(VHFs\)](#)

H5N1 Avian Influenza

Providers should consider the possibility of H5N1 in patients who had contact with potentially infected sick or dead animals in the past week and show the following symptoms:

- fever,

- cough,
- sore throat,
- body aches,
- headaches,
- fatigue,
- eye redness (or conjunctivitis), and/or
- shortness of breath

Source: [CDC](#)

Providers should report any non-sub typeable influenza A cases to their Department of Health.

Resources

- [Region 2 RESPTC H5N1 Avian Influenza Webinar Recording](#)
- CDC HAN | [Accelerated Subtyping of Influenza A in Hospitalized Patients](#)
- [NETEC Influenza A Resource Repository](#)
- [NETEC Webinar Series \(8/14/2024\): H5N1 Town Hall: Updates for Frontline Staff](#)
- NETEC [Laboratory Resources: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\)](#)
- CDC [Bird Flu News and Spotlights](#)

New York State Reporting

To report sick or dead poultry in New York State, call the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets at [518-457-3502](tel:518-457-3502).

WHAT'S NEW ON THE REGION 2 RESPTC WEBSITE?

The Region 2 RESPTC website is a one-stop shop for all things related to special pathogen preparedness and response in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The team has updated the [Tools and Resource page](#) with new resources including the latest Travel Screening List and resources dedicated to the H5N1 response. You can also read or re-read past newsletter issues [here](#).

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