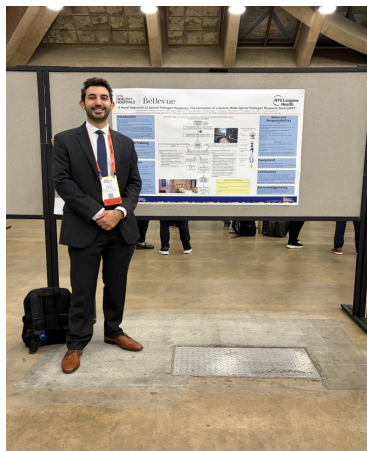


Update date April 28, 2026

REGION 2 RESPTC PARTNER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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](#).



R2RESPTC on the move! Left to Right: Anthony Lo Piccolo, Senior Research Coordinator, presenting at the NACCHO Preparedness Summit; Dr. Justin Chan, Dir. of Infection Prevention & Control, presenting at SHEA Spring Conference; and Trish Tennill, Director of Nursing, teaching frontline workers in New Jersey

OUTBREAK AND SPECIAL PATHOGEN NEWS

Avian Influenza A

Taiwan [reported](#) a case of locally acquired H7N7 influenza A. The patient received antiviral treatment and improved. No cases of human-to-human transmission have been detected. The case was most likely due to occupational exposure in poultry farming.

Italy [detected](#) a case of H9N2 avian influenza A infection in a returning traveler from a non-European country. All contacts of the case were identified and monitored. There have been no reports of secondary transmission.

Cambodia reported its third human [case](#) of H5N1 avian influenza A for 2026. The patient is a 3-year-old child, and there were reports of sick and dead poultry at the patient's home.

On April 13, five dairy cattle herds in Idaho were confirmed [positive](#) for H5N1 avian influenza A, marking the first detections in the United States since December 2025. This detection after a prolonged gap raises concerns about undetected circulation in other regions. The last confirmed human [cases](#) of H5N1 in the US were in February 2025. The spring migration season for waterfowl may contribute to environmental contamination and exposure risk for cattle and farm workers.

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Project ECHO Healthcare Preparedness Virtual Learning Sessions for HHS Region 2

NYC H+H/Bellevue Hospital is hosting a series of virtual Project ECHO learning sessions and conversations to engage audiences of public health practitioners, emergency managers, healthcare organizations, and community-based organizations to co-design equitable, coordinated, and resilient emergency preparedness and response systems. We are currently offering sessions focused on FIFA World Cup preparation. If you are interested in learning more about this initiative and would like to implement topics, please fill out this [form](#). To access prior sessions please visit the Region 2 RESPTC webinar library at <https://www.r2resptc.org/tools.php>.

April 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/NETEC NEWS

[New Blog Post: Biosafety Cabinets 101: Foundation for Safe Handling of Special Pathogens](#)

Biosafety cabinets (BSC) are a critical line of defense when handling high-consequence infectious diseases—but only when they're used correctly. A new blog post breaks down BSC classes, airflow, HEPA filtration & safe work practices from our latest webinar.

[New Podcast Episode: NSPS Executive Director Dr. Laura Evans' Vision](#)

Jill Morgan (Emory University Hospital) sits down with Dr. Laura Evans (University of Washington), Executive Director of the National Special Pathogen System, to discuss the future of special pathogen preparedness. From leadership to national coordination, Dr. Evans shares her vision for a stronger, more connected system.

Situation Report: Lassa Fever Update: Rising Cases in Nigeria

Lassa fever cases in Nigeria are increasing, with a higher-than-usual fatality rate and growing impact on healthcare workers. In this update, NETEC expert Dr. Gavin Harris (Emory University) highlights key considerations for clinicians, including transmission risks and preparedness priorities.

R2RESPTC holds pediatric training course to expand dialysis capacity

Bellevue recently hosted a two-day training session for 18 nurses, equipping the Special Pathogens program to treat pediatric patients needing dialysis in-house rather than transferring them out.

TRAINING TIP OF THE MONTH

If staff are having difficulty attending training sessions, consider bringing the training directly to them. Coordinate with their leadership to identify a suitable space within their unit so they don't have to leave their work area. At the same time, be sure to reinforce learning within the actual environment where they will be applying these skills.

OUTBREAK ADVISORIES AND RESOURCES

Lassa Fever

Lassa fever is primarily found in West Africa and is spread through exposure to rats.

Symptoms typically occur within 1 to 3 weeks after infection and can include:

- fever,
- headache,
- bleeding,
- difficulty breathing,
- vomiting,
- facial swelling,
- pain in the chest, back, and abdomen, and
- shock

Resources

- [CDC Lassa Fever Guidance](#)

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](#)
- [NYC and NYS DOH health advisory on Influenza A subtyping](#)

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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