

June 25, 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](#).



Region 2 team members were joined by NETEC subject matter experts for the RESPTC Annual Readiness Consultation, a comprehensive, collaborative evaluation to assess and enhance how Bellevue manages high-consequence infectious diseases. The team was also able to drill protocols on how to perform advanced life support in the biocontainment unit.

OUTBREAK AND SPECIAL PATHOGEN NEWS

Ebola Disease Outbreak (Bundibugyo Virus Disease)

The outbreak of **Bundibugyo virus disease (BVD)**, a form of Ebola disease, continues to [expand](#). As of June 22, 2026, there are more than one thousand confirmed cases and 254 deaths in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and 20 confirmed cases and 2 deaths in Uganda. The DRC remains the epicenter, with 93% of cases concentrated in Ituri Province, and new cases confirmed [daily](#). No new cases have been reported in Uganda since June 5. Transmission in DRC is exacerbated by high population mobility, suboptimal contact tracing, security incidents, and significant funding gaps. There are no licensed treatments or vaccines for BVD.

Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) Surge

In Iraq, **Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF)** has seen a [surge](#), with 145 confirmed cases and nine deaths reported as of June 8, 2026, with the first case of the year recorded on May 7. The highest burden is in the Dhi Qar Governorate in southern Iraq, though a family cluster of five cases emerged in Wasit Governorate. CCHF is a severe viral disease transmitted through *Hyalomma* ticks or contact with blood, tissues, or bodily fluids of viremic livestock during unprotected slaughter or meat handling. Human-to-human transmission can occur through contact with infected blood or secretions. There are no licensed treatments or vaccines.

Andes Hantavirus Outbreak

Andes virus cases linked to the outbreak that started on the *MV Hondius* ship remain at 13. US and Argentine investigators are conducting rodent [surveillance](#) in Mendoza Province, Argentina, to identify potential sources of transmission. All American who have returned to the US have completed their incubation periods without any conversions to active illness.

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

NETEC Launches Second Round of NSPS STAND Awards

Following the successful selection of 54 health care facilities in the program's first funding round, NETEC will award up to 21 additional grants of up to \$500,000 each to eligible US hospitals seeking to strengthen their capabilities as NSPS Level 2 Special Pathogen Treatment Centers (SPTCs). Together, the two funding rounds will support the development of a nationwide network of 75 Level 2 facilities prepared to safely and effectively care for patients with high-consequence infectious diseases (HCIDs). Full application details are available [here](#).

Project ECHO Healthcare Preparedness Virtual Learning Sessions for HHS Region 2

REGION 2 RESPTC PROJECT ECHO VCoP: SUMMER SCHEDULE

**11****JUN****EBOLA OUTBREAK: SITUATION UPDATE & REGIONAL PREPARATION**[Register here!](#)**25****JUN****NSPS ONBOARDING: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOCUS**[Register here!](#)**16****JUL****PUTTING THE PUZZLE PIECES TOGETHER – AN INTERDISCIPLINARY
REVIEW FOR HCID PREP**[Register here!](#)**23****JUL****ALL HAZARDS: WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS**[Register here!](#)**13****AUG****ALL HAZARDS: HURRICANE & TSUNAMI PREPAREDNESS**[Register here!](#)

🕒 12-1pm EST

If you are interested in attending these sessions,
please join our mailing list [here](#) or scan the QR code!

📺 Zoom

Sessions will be recorded and can be found on the
Region 2 RESPTC site [here!](#)Any logistical questions, please email
Amanda.Chang@nyulangone.org

Bellevue Project ECHO has conducted 12 VCoP sessions thus far with nearly 2500 participants joining us across all our sessions! We have numerous sessions planned over the summer ranging from NSPS Onboarding to Emergency Preparedness topics. Our next session will be a NSPS Onboarding session with a focus on Emergency Medical Services. This session will be on **Thursday, June 25th, from 12-1pm over Zoom** (RSVP [here](#))! Here is the schedule for the summer and we hope to see you all soon!

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>.

Region 2 RESPTC Publications

NYC H+H/Bellevue, in collaboration with the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals, Greater New York Hospital Association, John Hopkins Hospital, and the Washington D.C. Hospital Association, published a manuscript in *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology* entitled: "Assessing current capabilities and barriers to performing routine laboratory tests on patients with suspected high consequence infectious disease at frontline acute care hospitals." The authors surveyed frontline acute care hospitals in Boston, New York City, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. on which routine laboratory tests they would conduct on a suspected special pathogen patient. While many hospitals could perform on-site blood gas (70%), hemoglobin/hematocrit (68%), and lactate (68%) tests on a suspected HCID patient, fewer could safely perform a chemistry panel (64%), a urinalysis (60%), a complete blood count with differential (56%), and a malaria rapid diagnostic test (RDT) (48%), with patient and staff safety, infection control, lack of appropriate space, and funding being the biggest reported barriers. The inability to conduct these routine lab tests may result in delays to patient care. [Click here](#) to read the full manuscript.

Earlier this month we published a manuscript in *CHEST: Critical Care* entitled "Outcomes of Severe Mpox Admitted to ICUs at 2 Large New York City Health Systems, 2022-2024." To inform clinical management of mpox in ICU settings, this case series reports the demographics, clinical features, and outcomes of patients with severe mpox admitted to ICUs at NYC Health+Hospitals and NYU Langone Health hospital systems. Patients in this case series had uncontrolled immunocompromising conditions and delays to medical care which may have contributed to their severe mpox manifestations. [Click here](#) to read the full manuscript.

Lastly, we published a commentary manuscript in *Epidemiologia* entitled "From Ebola to H5N1: Strengthening the U.S. Special Pathogen Response System". We explore the

financial, societal and health system impacts of HCID outbreaks to delineate the necessity of strengthening the preparedness of National Special Pathogens System (NSPS) Level 4 facilities. In addition, we break down the new Joint Commission requirements regarding enhancing hospital preparedness for HCIDs and offer guidance and resources for NSPS Level 4s to meet those standards. [Click here](#) to read the full manuscript.

June 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 Resources for New York City Providers

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH) is preparing for an increase in healthcare utilization over the summer due to locals and visitors participating in FIFA World Cup, America250 and other summer activities. Providers can find resources [here](#) and [here](#).

REGION 2/NETEC NEWS

Upcoming Webinar/Save the Date

NETEC + SCCM webinar - Join NETEC and the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) on July 1 at 1:00 PM ET for a webinar on the current Ebola outbreak. Learn evidence-based approaches to clinical care, PPE, staff safety, and preparedness. SCCM CE credits available. Register [here](#).

New and Updated Resources

[PPE Donning and Doffing for VHF](#) – The new printable infographic supports healthcare worker safety when caring for patients with suspected or confirmed viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF). The guide provides step-by-step instructions for safely donning and doffing a non-PAPR PPE ensemble.

[PPE Donning and Doffing for Andes Hantavirus](#) – Use the new printable infographic for caring for patients with suspected or confirmed Andes hantavirus. The guide provides step-by-step instructions for safely donning and doffing PPE and supports staff training and preparedness.

[Ebola Virus Disease \(EVD\) FAQ](#) – The EVD FAQ was updated to support healthcare facilities in strengthening preparedness for Ebola Bundibugyo Virus Disease (BVD). This customizable resource provides current information, answers common questions, and supports consistent communication.

New Podcast

[Bugs, Bites, and Bathrooms](#) - In the latest episode of *Transmission Interrupted*, host Jill Morgan sits down with pediatric infectious disease expert Dr. Andi Shane to discuss practical ways to help children stay healthy during summer travel, camp, outdoor activities, and the return to school.

New Blog Post

[Healthcare Preparedness During the 2026 FIFA World Cup](#) - As the World Cup brings millions of international visitors to North America, NETEC experts discuss HCID

preparedness, outbreak monitoring, patient screening, PPE, regional coordination, and practical strategies for healthcare organizations. Read the blog for key takeaways and FAQs.

Newsworthy

[PAHO Ramps Up Preparedness Across the Americas](#) - NETEC and RESPTC representatives from Johns Hopkins University and Emory University recently joined experts from across the globe during a Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) technical exchange focused on Ebola preparedness in the Americas.

TRAINING TIP OF THE MONTH

The skills learned during PPE training for special pathogens should also be applied in everyday patient care. Proper donning and doffing, frequent hand hygiene, and situational awareness are fundamental practices for all healthcare workers.

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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