

Thursday August 29, 2024

August Region 2 RESPTC Newsletter

REGION 2 RESPTC PARTNER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Thank you for reading the Region 2 Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) Partner Community Newsletter! The Region 2 RESPTC at NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue Hospital 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 below:

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

August is National Immunization Awareness Month

August is National Immunization Awareness Month! This is an annual observance to raise awareness about the importance of vaccinations. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has put together a wide array of resources including immunization training and promotional materials (in both English and Spanish). Find those resources and more [here](#).

August Travel Screening Country List

The New York City Health + Hospitals Travel Screening List reviews current special pathogen disease outbreaks that require prompt identification, isolation and/or specialized evaluation and management. This list, which may be found [here](#), can serve as a resource while screening patients.

Measles Advisory:

Measles cases are continuing to occur in our region. Please be aware of patients who have recently traveled abroad and who have symptoms consistent with measles, including:

- febrile rash illness,
- cough,
- coryza, and/or
- conjunctivitis

Travel Screening Country List – August 2024



This document is not meant to be an exhaustive list but is focused on select, current special pathogen disease outbreaks that require prompt identification, isolation and/or specialized evaluation and management.

Country	Diseases with Active Cases	Surveillance Window (max time from exposure to symptom onset)	Case Definition and Guidance	PPE/Precautions
Numerous Countries	Measles	21 days	Measles Clinician Fact Sheet	Airborne + Contact + Standard
Numerous Countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo Central African Republic, Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda 	MPox, Clade Ia & Ib	21 days	Mpox Clinician Fact Sheet	Special Pathogens Level 1
Cambodia	Avian Influenza (H5N1)	17 days	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Clinician Fact Sheet	Special Pathogens Level 1
India	Nipah Virus	14 days	Nipah Virus Clinician Fact Sheet	Special Pathogens Level 1
Iraq	Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever	21 days	Crimean Congo HF Clinician Fact Sheet	Special Pathogens Level 2 VHF
Pakistan	Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever	21 days	Crimean Congo HF Clinician Fact Sheet	Special Pathogens Level 2 VHF
Nigeria	Lassa Fever	21 days	Lassa Fever Clinician Fact Sheet	Special Pathogens Level 2 VHF
Recent Health Alerts/Advisories		General Notes and References for Local & National health alerts/advisories		
National	H5N1/Bird Flu:	CDC continues to respond to the public health challenge posed by a multistate outbreak of avian influenza A(H5N1) virus, or "H5N1 bird flu," in dairy cows, poultry and other animals in the United States. Since April 2024, 13 human cases of avian influenza A(H5) infection have been reported in the United States. Four of these cases were associated with exposure to sick dairy cows and nine were associated with exposure to avian influenza		

Health Training Center (HTC) Monthly Webinar

Description: In this webinar, the Region 2 NSPS Level 1 RESPTC at NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue will provide NYS Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition (HEPC) partners with a variety of available resources and services to support NYS facilities with special pathogen preparedness and response.

Date/Time: September 30, 2024 @ 1:00pm – 2:30pm ET

Register Here: [OHEP-HTC-BP1-S3-092024-WR](https://ohep-htc-bp1-s3-092024-wr)

National Special Pathogen System (NSPS): Path to Preparedness Webinar

Description: Join the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC) for a webinar on the NSPS, a nationwide system for preparing for and responding to special pathogens. The webinar will cover the history, mission, and vision of the NSPS, as well as the minimum capabilities required for health care facilities in the tiered system of care.

Date/Time: September 11, 2024 @ 1:00pm – 2:00pm ET

Register

Here: https://unmc.zoom.us/webinar/register/3517244300311/WN_xTOIjsUtQZWdTNo8hoJKTQ

New Region 2 Team Member: Laura Hillard

The Region 2 RESPTC Team would like to welcome our new Director of Regional Preparedness, Laura Hillard! Laura will lead Region 2 special pathogen community outreach, planning, and coordination efforts. Learn more about her [here](#).

Dengue Resources

Puerto Rico declared a public health emergency due to the over 2,000 cases of Dengue since January. Signs of progression to severe dengue include:

- persistent vomiting,
- severe abdominal pain,
- fluid accumulation,
- mucosal bleeding,
- lethargy/restlessness,
- postural hypotension,

- liver enlargement, and/or
- progressive increase in hematocrit

Source: [CDC](#)

Puerto Rico Department of Health Resources

- [Denque Situation Report](#)

CDC Resources

- [CDC Health Advisory](#)
- [CDC Fact Sheet: Clinical Features of Dengue](#)

H5N1 Resources

Human cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) virus infection have been reported in the United States. 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](#)

NETEC Resources

- [NETEC Webinar Series \(8/14/2024\): H5N1 Town Hall: Updates for Frontline Staff](#)
- [Laboratory Resources: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\)](#)

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.

Mpox Resources

Given the upsurge of mpox cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and neighboring nations, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared [a public](#)

[health emergency](#) of international concern. Providers should test for mpox in any patient with compatible rash and symptoms and screen for recent travel to or close contact with someone who recently returned from the affected region. Please contact your local health department to arrange for Clade I testing if indicated.

Symptoms include:

- rash,
- fever,
- chills,
- swollen lymph nodes,
- exhaustion,
- muscle aches,
- headache, and/or
- respiratory symptoms

Source: [CDC Health Alert](#)

NETEC Resources

- [NETEC Webinar Series \(6/228/2024\)/Online Course: Mpox in 2024: Updates and Considerations for Frontline Staff](#)

The Pandemic Response Institute (PRI) Mpox Fact Sheet

PRI updated its Mpox fact sheet to provide information on the Mpox outbreak, including transmission, symptom, and prevention information. The fact sheet can be found [here](#).

Recent Mpox Publications

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDOHMH)'s recent article discusses the city's rapid response to the 2022 mpox outbreak. The article can be found [here](#).

Oropouche Resources

There has been an increase in Oropouche virus disease in endemic areas in the Amazon basin and new areas in South America and the Caribbean. Travel-associated Oropouche virus disease cases have been identified in the United States. Providers should evaluate and test patients who recently traveled to impacted areas and have signs and symptoms consistent with Oropouche virus infection, including:

- fever,
- headache,
- myalgia,

- arthralgia,
- photophobia,
- retroorbital/eye pain, or
- signs and symptoms of neuroinvasive disease (e.g., stiff neck, altered mental status, seizures, limb weakness, or cerebrospinal fluid pleocytosis); AND
- no respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, rhinorrhea, shortness of breath)

Testing can be arranged through your local or State health department.

Source: [CDC](#)

Region 2 Training Tip of the Month

Per the new Joint Commission Standards, identify procedures for screening at the points of entry. This includes the emergency department, urgent care, and ambulatory clinics. Revisit the new Joint Commission Standards via the [Region 2 webinar](#).

August Community Spotlight | Michelle F. Pedrani MS, RN, CIC, CSN-NJ



Michele Pedrani is the Director of Infection Prevention at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Jersey, an NSPS Level 2 facility. She has been a registered nurse for 30+ years, an infection preventionist for 14 years, and the Director of Infection Prevention for three years. In her role as the Director of Infection Prevention, she is responsible for establishing and implementing policies and procedures to minimize infection risk and outbreaks at the local level.

Michele, with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, has had a longstanding partnership with Bellevue and Region 2. With this critical partnership, the facility has been able to optimize their operations and identify areas of improvement. Michele also helped shape the upcoming Region 2 priorities and future initiatives

thanks to her crucial feedback on training and communications. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Trenton State College and a Masters in Health Education and School Nursing from New Jersey City University.

We want to highlight your work to prepare for and respond to special pathogen threats. If you have a special pathogen preparedness or response story, person, or team to spotlight, please send it to BellevueSPP@nychhc.org.

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 the [About Region 2 Page](#) with the new Region 2 Facility Map. You can also read or re-read past newsletter issues [here](#).

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