

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](#).

OUTBREAK AND SPECIAL PATHOGEN NEWS**Nipah Virus Disease**

India's Kerala state reported [at least 4 cases](#) and two deaths from Nipah Virus Disease between May and July. Nipah Virus is spread through contact with infected animals, consuming soiled food/drinks, or contact with bodily fluids of an infected person. [Symptoms](#) include fever, headache, cough, sore throat, and difficulty breathing. Symptoms may progress to include brain swelling, confusion, and seizures.

H5N1 Avian Influenza

Globally, cases of H5N1 continue to rise. [Cambodia](#) reported a spike of cases this summer, bringing the annual total to 15 human cases in 2025. There are no reported human cases

of H5N1 in New York State. The CDC ended the [H5N1 emergency response](#) on July 7th, 2025. See the "Outbreak Advisories and Resources" section below for H5N1 resources.

Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)

In July, [Spain](#) confirmed their second case of CCHF in 2025. [Iraq](#), where CCHF is endemic, reported 16 new cases and two deaths, bringing Iraq's 2025 total to 231 cases. CCHF is spread through exposure to ticks or contact with bodily fluids of infected humans or animals. Symptoms include fever, headache, myalgia, nausea, and vomiting.

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

New Resource! Travel Screening List Case Study

Understanding a patient's travel and exposure history enables early identification of HCIDs, helps prevent the spread of infections within healthcare settings, and reduces the risk of outbreaks. This Case Study outlines how the NYC Health + Hospitals System generates their monthly travel screening list and incorporates it into the system's electronic medical record system. Interested in incorporating this at your facility? Learn more [here](#).

Register Now! Introduction to Identify, Isolate, and Inform Best Practices for All Healthcare Facilities

September 30th | 1:30-2:30 pm

Join the Region 2 RESPTC Team for a free webinar training on how to safely identify patients suspected of high-consequence infectious diseases, isolate them, and inform the appropriate authorities. This webinar content will be applicable to all healthcare facilities, ranging from community health centers to large hospitals. Register [here](#).

New Resource! National Special Pathogen System Level 2 Facility Resource Guide

Request the NSPS Level 2 Hospital Resource Guide to understand what is required to achieve NSPS Level 2 status—and access practical tools to support readiness, safe care, staff protection, and continuity of operations during special pathogen events. Access the form [here](#).

Free Secret Shopper Exercises for your Facilities

The Region 2 RESPTC is working to provide free secret shopper exercises, complete with an After-Action Report, to gauge facilities' preparedness to Identify, Isolate, and Inform at points of entry. The results of these exercises will be provided to your facility to help you better prepare for a special pathogen patient presenting to your site. The information obtained during these exercises will remain private to your facility with the generated reports and assessment tools meant to help assess your own readiness and meet

regulatory requirements. If you are interested in applying for this free offering, please fill out our [interest form](#).

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.

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](#).

CDC Be Ready for Measles Toolkit

The CDC released a Be Ready for Measles Toolkit in June that includes fact sheets, social media graphics, and videos for the public, as well as outbreak-related response tools for clinicians and other public health professionals. Find the resource [here](#).

NETEC Transmission Interrupted Podcast

In this episode of *Transmission Interrupted*, host Jill Morgan sits down with Angie Vasa—one of NETEC's seasoned experts in special pathogens preparedness. Together, they take a deep dive into the Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) Preparedness Checklist: a practical, accessible tool designed to help any healthcare facility—from small rural clinics to large urban hospitals—prepare for the challenges of identifying and caring for patients with high-consequence infectious diseases.

You'll gain practical insights into early identification, isolation, PPE, communication strategies, and more. Whether you're an infection preventionist, emergency nurse, hospital administrator, or anyone involved in preparedness, this episode offers valuable tips to help you get ready for the "what if" moment—because ready or not, patients will come.

Questions or comments for NETEC? Contact them at info@netec.org.

Visit Transmission Interrupted on the web at netec.org/podcast.

REGION 2 NEWS

Portable Isolation Technology Training



Trish Tennill, RN of the Region 2 RESPTC team with NYC Health + Hospitals Central Office (Keira Wickliffe Berger, MSN - Associate Director) and the South Brooklyn Hospital team members at a recent [CareCube](#) simulation for NYC Health + Hospitals | South Brooklyn Health.

TRAINING TIP OF THE MONTH

"A big part of preparedness is to have a plan in place. You want to act, not react!" Trish Tennill, RN (Region 2 RESPTC Director of Nursing | Regional Training & Education)

OUTBREAK ADVISORIES AND RESOURCES

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).

AUGUST SPOTLIGHT | DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PARTNERS

In our region, public health partners play a critical role in safeguarding our community from special pathogen threats. This month, we are highlighting our close partners at New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDOHMH), New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), US Virgin Islands Department of Health (USVIDOH), and the Puerto Rico Department of Health (PRDOH). These partners work tirelessly to ensure that our region is prepared for any public health emergency. Their ongoing efforts are supported by vital federal programs that enhance their readiness and response capabilities.

One such program is the **Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP)**, administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Office of Health Care Readiness (OHCR). Health departments receive and distribute HPP funding along with technical assistance, tools, and other resources to healthcare, EMS, and Emergency Management partners across Region 2. HPP funding is essential to strengthen the ability of healthcare and public health partners to respond to and recover from disasters. This includes enhancing hospital capabilities to treat patients with special pathogens, providing training and resources to healthcare workers, and developing response plans tailored to local needs. Through HPP, hospitals and healthcare systems can quickly mobilize resources, coordinate care, and maintain operations during crises, ensuring that the community receives the care it needs in times of greatest need.

Equally important is the **Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEP)**, administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). PHEP works in tandem with HPP by providing state and local public health agencies with the resources necessary to prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies. This includes the development of surveillance systems, emergency communications strategies, and the public health workforce to support planning and response coordination efforts. PHEP includes the Cities Readiness Initiative ([CRI](#)) that supports public health departments with maintaining plans to distributing medical countermeasures during a response. PHEP helps to strengthen public health infrastructure, ensuring that local communities are equipped to address the unique challenges posed by special pathogens and other health threats.

Together, HPP and PHEP form a powerful partnership that enhances our region's ability to respond to public health emergencies. We extend our deepest gratitude to our Department of Health partners for their unwavering commitment to protecting the health and safety of our communities in Region 2. Their dedication to preparedness, training, and collaboration ensures that, no matter the challenge, our communities will be ready.



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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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