

Thursday, February 27, 2025

## February Region 2 RESPTC Newsletter

### 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](#).

### SPECIAL PATHOGEN NEWS



*The Region 2 RESPTC's Director of Nursing, Trish Tennill, leading a special pathogen skills training in the U.S. Virgin Islands.*

### H5N1 Avian Influenza

70 cases of H5N1 Avian Influenza have been reported in the U.S. since early 2024, including a death of a Louisiana resident from H5N1 avian influenza in January. The current public health risk remains low and the situation is being closely monitored. Review the recent CDC HAN [here](#).

### Sudan Ebolavirus in Uganda

The Ministry of Health of Uganda declared an Ebola outbreak caused by the Sudan virus on January 29th, 2025. There are currently no suspected cases related to the outbreak outside of Uganda. Review the CDC HAN [here](#).

### **Clade Ib Mpox in New York**

A travel associated mpox clade1b case was detected in New York earlier this month. There are no additional known community cases of mpox clade 1b in New York and the risk to the public remains low at this time. Review the New York State Department of Health HAN [here](#).

### **Marburg Virus Disease in Tanzania**

Tanzania confirmed an outbreak of Marburg virus disease – a viral hemorrhagic fever that is clinically similar to Ebola virus disease. The World Health Organization (WHO) deployed rapid response teams to support outbreak investigation and response. Review the CDC Situation Report [here](#).

## **RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS & UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **H5N1 Avian Influenza Webinar Recording**

View the Region 2 RESPTC Special Pathogen Preparedness Partner Community Webinar on H5N1 Avian Influenza [here](#). This session provided an in-depth look at the current status of Avian Influenza, including the following topics:

- Overview: Epidemiology and Transmission
- Clinical Presentation and Screening Strategies
- Public Health Reporting and Surveillance
- Diagnostic Considerations
- Clinical Management
- National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center ([NETEC](#)) and RESPTC Resources

### **February 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.

**Please see below for resources and symptom lists for current outbreaks.**

### **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](#).

## NETEC "Transmission Interrupted" Podcast

In this episode of Transmission Interrupted, join hosts Lauren Sauer and Rachel Lookadoo as they continue their Pathogens in Pop Culture series with a dive into the fascinating intersection of infectious diseases and the entertainment industry with esteemed guest, Dr. Saskia Popescu. Dr. Popescu, an internationally recognized infectious disease epidemiologist and global health security expert, shares her unique experiences providing epidemiological guidance and infection prevention strategies on film sets during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Visit Transmission Interrupted on the web at [netec.org/podcast](https://netec.org/podcast).

## REGION 2 NEWS

### Now Live| 2024 Region 2 RESPTC Annual Report

The Region 2 RESPTC team at NYC Health + Hospitals | Bellevue launched our Annual Report to highlight Region 2's special pathogen preparedness progress in 2024. Key accomplishments included:

- Celebrating the 10-year anniversary of successfully treating an Ebola patient in New York City,
- Training 250+ health care workers in special pathogen skills,
- Piloting a new communication technology for the Special Pathogen Unit (SPU),
- Implementing Global Fever Special Pathogen Panel 2.0 at Bellevue,
- Leading four exercises and drills to test our preparedness,
- Sharing critical resources with over 700 external partners,
- Updating the Concept of Operations (CONOPs) for Region 2 High-Consequence Infectious Disease Patient Transport,
- Launching a Special Pathogen Response Team to rapidly deploy specialized staffing across the NYC Health + Hospitals system, and
- Managing 22 research projects to expand critical special pathogen preparedness knowledge.



The accomplishments detailed in this report were made possible by the dedication of countless healthcare, public health, emergency management, and EMS partners in HHS Region 2. The Region 2 RESPTC extends its heartfelt gratitude to NYC Health + Hospitals leadership, U.S. Congress, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), and NETEC for their leadership and support.



Read the full report [here](#).

### Special Pathogen Training in U.S. Virgin Islands

The U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health hosted the Region 2 and Region 4 RESPTC teams in February to lead a special pathogen skills and PPE training for over 40 healthcare workers and first responders. The RESPTC team led two trainings, one on St. Thomas and another on St. Croix. Training topics included PPE donning and doffing, NSPS resources, the Region 2 Patient Transport CONOPs, Identify/Isolate/Inform, and special pathogen skills.



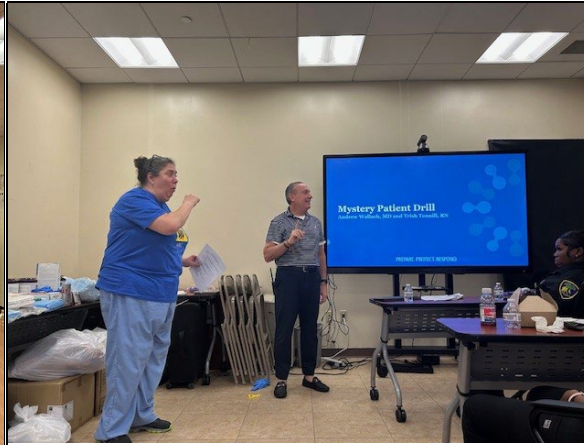
*The RESPTC Team with the USVI Commissioner of Health.*



*St. Thomas training*



*St. Croix Training*



*Dr. Andrew Wallach and Trish Tennill, RN leading a Mystery Patient Drill in St. Thomas*

### New Jersey Health Care Coalitions Hospital Preparedness Program Strategic Planning Symposium

The Region 2 RESPTC Team presented on the National Special Pathogen System and HHS Region 2 High Consequence Infectious Disease Patient Transport Concept of

Operations (CONOPs) at the New Jersey Health Care Coalitions Hospital Preparedness Program Strategic Planning Symposium.



*Laura Hillard, Director of Regional Preparedness, presenting on the Region 2 HCID CONOPs.*



*Dr. Vikram Mukherjee, Medical Director, presenting on recent special pathogen outbreaks.*

## **OUTBREAK ADVISORIES AND RESOURCES**

### **H5N1**

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.

### **Marburg Virus Disease (MVD)**

Marburg is a highly infectious viral hemorrhagic fever that is clinically similar to Ebola. Marburg is spread through contact with blood or bodily fluids of an infected individual. Learn more about transmission [here](#).

Early signs and symptoms include:

- fever,
- chills,
- malaise,
- headache,
- muscle aches,
- sore throat,
- chest pain,
- abdominal pain,
- vomiting,
- diarrhea, and
- maculopapular, erythematous rash.

Symptoms may progress to include:

- jaundice,
- inflammation of the pancreas,
- severe weight loss,
- delirium,
- shock,
- liver failure,
- massive hemorrhaging, and
- multiorgan failure.

### **Resources**

- [CDC| Marburg Virus Disease Situation Summary](#)

- [NETEC Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers \(VHFs\) Matrix](#)
- [Health Care Facility Viral Hemorrhagic Fever \(VHF\) Preparedness Checklist](#)
- [EMS Guidelines for Marburg Virus Disease](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Measures for Marburg Virus Disease](#)

## **Mpox**

A case of clade Ib mpox was identified in New York in February. Historically, Clade I mpox causes more severe illness than Clade II. 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](#)

## **Resources**

- [New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene \(NYCDOHMH\) mpox data and resources](#)
- [NETEC Webinar Series \(6/228/2024\)/Online Course: Mpox in 2024: Updates and Considerations for Frontline Staff](#)
- [Mpox in 2024: 10 Takeaways for Frontline Health Care Staff](#)

## **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](#).

**[SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER](#)**

