

Thursday, September 25, 2025

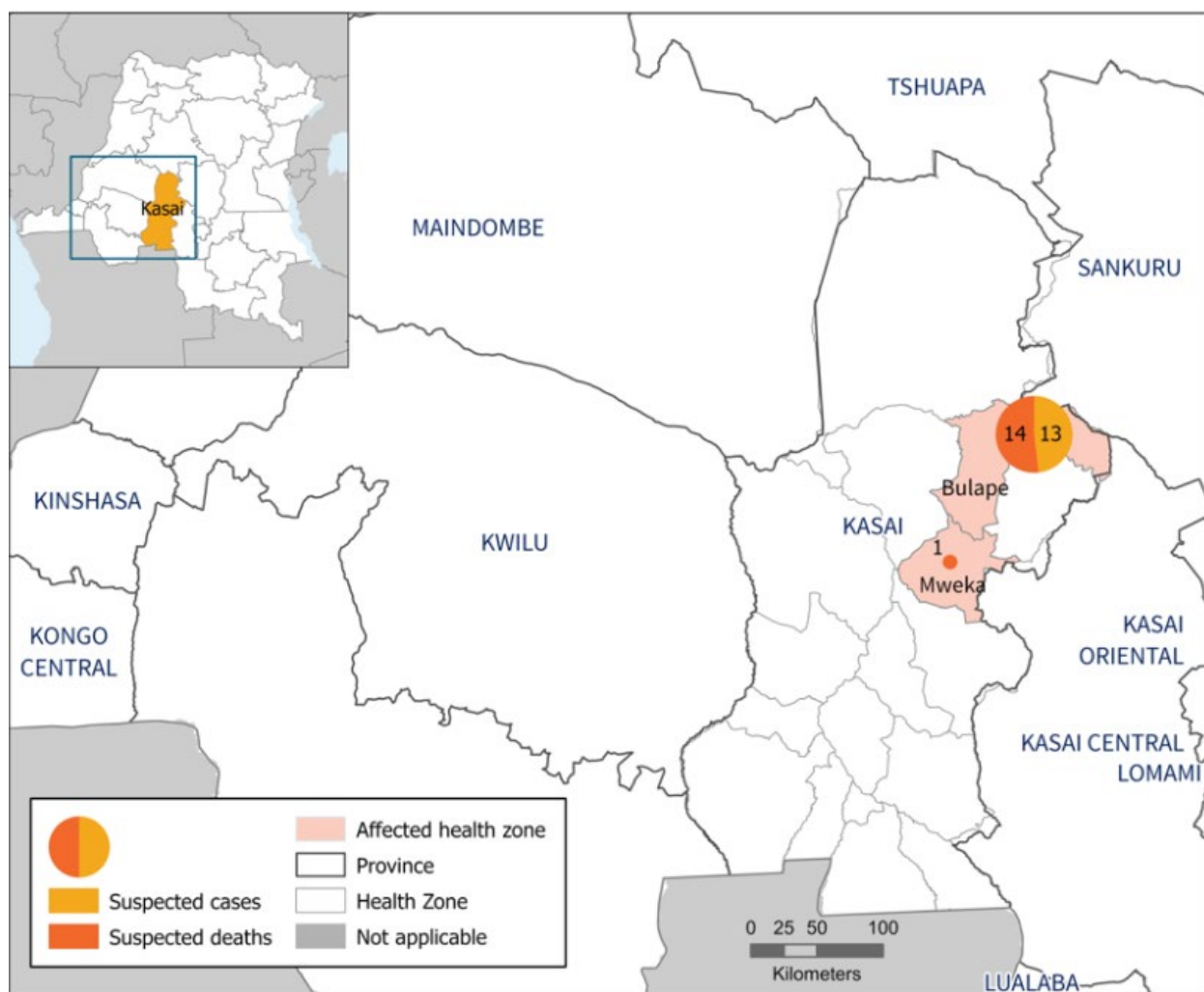
September Region 2 RESPTC Newsletter

REGION 2 RESPTC PARTNER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Happy Preparedness Month from the Region 2 RESPTC Team! Thank you to all of our community members for their continued dedication to special pathogen preparedness.

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



The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WHO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Data Source: World Health Organization, Ministry of Health Democratic Republic of the Congo, GRID3
Map Production: WHO Health Emergencies Programme
Map Date: 5 September 2025



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Image Source: World Health Organization. Case counts are from the original WHO alert. See below for updated counts.

Ebola Virus Disease

On 4 September 2025, the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared an outbreak of Ebola virus disease in the country's Kasai Province. No cases have been reported outside of the DRC and the risk of infection in the United States is [low](#). As of September 15th, there were [36 cases and 16 deaths](#). Over 800 contacts have been identified for follow-up and monitoring. On September 13, Ebola vaccination started in the Kasai province, prioritizing contacts, potential contacts, healthcare workers, and other frontline workers. See below for resources.

Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)

Uganda [reported](#) one confirmed case and three suspected cases of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) in Nakasongola district. As of September 8th, 21 contacts are being monitored. 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. In severe cases, hemorrhage can occur.

Nipah Virus Infection

Bangladesh [confirmed](#) four fatal Nipah virus infection cases between January and August 29, 2025. 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.

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

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](#).

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](#).

September 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](#).

TRAINING TIP OF THE MONTH

"Mitigate potential PPE contaminations by keeping up on environmental hygiene. Time to lean means time to clean!" -- Trish Tennill, RN (Region 2 RESPTC Director of Nursing | Regional Training & Education)

OUTBREAK ADVISORIES AND RESOURCES

Ebola Virus Disease

Clinicians should review the "Recommendations for Clinicians" section of the recent CDC [Health Alert Network](#) (HAN). These recommendations include:

- "Systematically **assess patients with compatible symptoms (e.g., fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, fatigue, loss of appetite, gastrointestinal symptoms, or unexplained bleeding)** for exposure risk and the possibility of viral hemorrhagic fevers (VHFs) including EVD through a triage and evaluation process including a travel history. Early identification of EVD or other VHFs is important for providing appropriate and prompt patient care and preventing the spread of infection"
- "**Immediately isolate** and hospitalize patients who have both an exposure risk AND any symptoms compatible with EVD"
- "If [EVD is suspected](#), **contact your** state, tribal, local, or territorial **health department immediately** (via [24-hour Epi-on-call contact list](#))"

Additional Resources

- CDC [Health Alert Network \(HAN\)](#)
- NETEC [Ebola Resource Library](#)

- This resource library includes outbreak updates, EVD information, Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) preparedness checklists, Tip Sheets, Job Action Sheets, and PPE resources
- CDC [Ebola Disease Basics](#)
- WHO [Ebola Disease Fact Sheet](#)
- WHO [Disease Outbreak News \(DONs\)](#)

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).

SEPTEMBER SPOTLIGHT | THOMAS R. SAUNDERS



Thomas R. Saunders is an emergency preparedness professional with over 20 years of experience spanning public health, higher education, and emergency management. He currently serves as the Emergency Preparedness Manager for the University of Rochester, an NSPS Level 2 Special Pathogen Treatment Center, where he oversees critical emergency planning efforts across Strong Memorial Hospital, River Campus, Golisano Children's Hospital, the Eastman School of Music, and hundreds of ambulatory care centers. Simultaneously, he plays a vital role as Training & Communications Coordinator for the Monroe County Department of Public Health, where he was instrumental in managing COVID-19 vaccine and testing operations, as well as leading large-scale Homeland Security

Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)-compliant drills. Thomas was the Logistics Section Chief for a County Staging Site during the COVID-19 response, which distributed millions of pieces of PPE across the county to protect the healthcare workforce.

For the Special Pathogens Program at the University of Rochester, Thomas coordinates the team to maintain safe program operations, update critical protocols, and drive growth of the program. Thomas created large communication groups to streamline coordination during future special pathogen responses. His team also maintains PPE and equipment for the program.

Thomas holds a BS in Business Administration (Magna Cum Laude) from Argosy University and numerous ICS and HSEEP certifications. His work has been critical in building Rochester's resilience to special pathogen threats.

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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