

July Region 2 RESPTC Newsletter

REGION 2 RESPTC PARTNER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

I hope everyone is staying cool in this summer heat! Thank you for reading the Region 2 Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) Partner Community Newsletter! Learn about tips to staying cool in during these heat waves and about our July Spotlight, Dr. Susan Donelan!

July HIGHLIGHTS

Region 2 Shoutout

Our very own Robert Wood Johnson Hospital is featured on the National Special Pathogen System (NSPS): System of Care homepage! Read about how their facility has leveraged NETEC and Region 2 resources [here](#).

ICYMI: NETEC Mpox in 2024

In case you missed it, NETEC hosted a webinar titled “Mpox in 2024: Updates and Considerations for Frontline Staff” at the end of June. This webinar provided valuable insights from leading experts on the current landscape of Mpox as well as vaccine recommendations. You can watch the webinar [here](#). For more information on Mpox, read [NETEC’s 10 Mpox Takeaways](#).

NYC Health Tips for Staying Cool This Summer!

This season of hot and often humid weather is one of the most dangerous weather events for our Region 2 community. Furthermore, climate change is rendering the summer heat more common and severe. Below are some tips and tricks from NYC Health to keep you and your community safe during the summer heat:

- ✓ **Stay hydrated:** Drink water, smoothies, and eat fruits and vegetables with a high water content. Avoid drinks with alcohol, caffeine, or lots of sugar.
- ✓ **Keep cool:** Use air conditioning or a fan, take cool showers or baths, or go somewhere with cooler air. You can also try placing a bowl of ice in front of a fan to create a DIY air conditioner.
- ✓ **Wear light clothing:** Choose loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing that reflects heat and wicks away sweat. You can also try synthetic fabrics like Coolmax, bamboo pajamas, or aloe-infused pajamas.
- ✓ **Limit physical activity:** Avoid high-energy activities or working outdoors during midday heat. If you do go outside, try to limit your time between 10 AM and 4 PM.
- ✓ **Keep your home cool:** Open windows and use fans at night and in the early morning to create a cooling cross breeze. Close windows near the fan and open a window in a room farthest away to exhaust air out. During the day, close blinds or other window coverings on windows that get a lot of sun exposure.
- ✓ **Apply cold:** Place a cold compress on your forehead, the back of your neck, or your wrists. You can also try spraying yourself with cold water, starting with your wrists.

Region 2 Training Tip of the Month

The new Joint Commission standards went into effect on July 1st. One of the key points and expectations for organizations is to identify procedures for screening at **points of entry**. Points of

entry may include the emergency department or urgent care. For more information on the Joint Commission Standards, watch our Region 2 April webinar [here](#) or read through the presentation [here](#).

JULY COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT | Susan Donelan, MD FSHEA

Dr. Susan Donelan serves as the Medical Director of Healthcare Epidemiology for the Stony Brook Medicine Health System. She also serves as a Clinical Advisor for the MARO region Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program. She is an Infectious Diseases Physician and Infection Control/Healthcare Epidemiology specialist, providing inpatient and outpatient clinical consultation on the adult Infectious Diseases service for nearly three decades. Her infectious diseases expertise includes Ebola, Coronavirus, hospital-acquired infections; she has a particular interest in emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. Furthermore, Dr. Donelan received certified training in Pandemic Planning and Preparedness, as well as certification in Healthcare Leadership and Decision Making from the Department of Homeland Security.

In addition to her role as the Medical Director, she is also an Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine with the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University. Dr. Donelan lends her expertise to Region 2 as a Core Advisory Group member. In this role, she provides input on critical preparedness and response decisions along with other Region 2 and Federal delegates. She received her medical degree from New York Medical College and did her fellowship and residency at Stony Brook University. Outside of work, Dr. Donelan is earning her sixth degree Black Belt in karate in August 2024.

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. If you or a colleague would like to join the Region 2 RESPTC Partner Community, please contact [Alyssa Wong](#).

WHAT'S NEW ON THE REGION 2 RESPTC WEBSITE?

The Region 2 RESPTC website is a one-stop shop of 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 H5N1 resources. You can also read or re-read past newsletter issues [here](#).