

March Region 2 RESPTC Newsletter

REGION 2 RESPTC PARTNER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER: MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Welcome back, thank you for reading the Region 2 Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) Partner Community Newsletter, and happy **Women's History Month!** Our region is incredibly fortunate to have so many fantastic women as members of our community, from our executive sponsor, Marcia Peters, to our March Spotlight, Dr. Tai Hunte-Cesar. Thank you to all the women and allies in our region!

Best,

Dr. Mary Foote, Medical Director of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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 site with the March Travel Screening List as well as new measles resources. All new resources can be found [here](#).

SPECIAL PATHOGEN PREPAREDNESS EDUCATION AND TRAINING RESOURCES

NETEC Joint Commission Standards Webinar

The National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC) hosted a webinar on the exploration of the new infection control requirements established by the Joint Commission on March 15th.

Highlights Included:

- Review of key changes of the standards
- Available resources and tools

Webinar recording and other Joint Commission resources can be found [here](#)

COMING SOON: Region 2 Joint Commission Standards Webinar

Our Region 2 RESPTC team will be hosting a region-specific Joint Commission Standards webinar for our Partner Community the week of April 21st. This will be a time for our community to ask questions and learn more about the standards from a panel of Region 2 experts. Be on the lookout for the invite soon!

MARCH COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT | Dr. Tai Hunte-Cesar

As the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), Dr. Tai Hunte-Cesar has shaped the infectious diseases response in her territory. Notably, for her leadership role during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Hunte-Cesar received the Virgin Islands Medical Society Physician Recognition Award. In addition to her role as Chief Medical Officer, she is also the Founding Dean to the University of the Virgin Islands S. Donald Sussman School of Medicine. The medical school aims to

become the first historically Black College and University (HBCU) medical school to be established since Morehouse School of Medicine in 1975 and the only public medical school in the nation. Recently, she provided the U.S. Virgin Island perspective for the Region 2 RESPTC Concept of Operations for Transport of Patients with High-Consequence Infectious Diseases or “HCID Patient Transport CONOPs”. This perspective helped highlight challenges in the area and helped other Region 2 facilities with their key special pathogen capabilities. “The USVI faces daily, resource-limiting challenges in an effort to provide excellent acute healthcare, but we are at a tremendous advantage when we coordinate efforts among the Region 2 partners for emergency planning such as the highly contagious infectious diseases patient. The sessions navigated potential shortfalls and highlighted strategies to provide best outcomes with shared resources and experiences.”

Dr. Hunte-Cesar also serves as a representative for the U.S. Virgin Islands on the Region 2 RESPTC Core Advisory Group. She is located in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, received her medical degree from Howard University in Washington D.C. and completed an internal and social medicine residency and fellowship in infectious diseases at the Jackson Memorial Hospital at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

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.