

May Region 2 RESPTC Newsletter

REGION 2 RESPTC PARTNER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

I hope everyone had a lovely May and thank you for reading the Region 2 Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) Partner Community Newsletter! We would like to kick-off with a hearty THANK YOU to all of our amazing nurses and nurse practitioners! May 6 -12th was National Nurses Week and we would be lost without our amazing nurses, including our May Spotlight, Patricia Ann Tennill! Patricia serves as the Director of Nursing and the Special Pathogen Program Nurse Lead at Bellevue Hospital. Learn more about her work later in the spotlight section of the newsletter.

May HIGHLIGHTS

May 5th – World Hand Hygiene Day

The 2024 theme is “Promoting knowledge and capacity building of health and care workers through innovative and impactful training and education, on infection prevention and control, including hand hygiene.” We encourage our community to raise awareness on the continued importance of hand hygiene on May 5th and everyday. To learn more about the global holiday, visit the World Health Organization campaign pages [here](#) and [here](#). Furthermore, the CDC created “Clean Hands Count” promotional materials that you can find [here](#). The United States-specific Hand Hygiene Day will be taking place on October 15th.

May 6 - 12th – National Nurses Week

NYC Health + Hospital/Bellevue celebrated the annual Nurses Week in style! The team hosted multiple events, including an awards ceremony where nurses were recognized for their exceptional level of care, an ice cream social, a “care cart” to bring sweets and self-care treats to each nursing floor, and a recreation of the iconic 1880s photo of Bellevue nurses. Bellevue has been setting the standard for nursing since 1873 when the Training School for Nurses opened, the first school in the United States to be run according to Florence Nightingale’s nursing principles.

We are incredibly proud of all our nursing staff and celebrate their dedication to patient care and safety.



NETEC Training: H5N1 Updates and Considerations for Health Care Personnel

Enroll in the NETEC Webinar “H5N1 Updates and Considerations for Health Care Personnel”, an hour-long training designed for frontline workers, physicians, EMS, and infection preventionists, expiring on

July 23rd. The webinar will discuss the global landscape of H5N1 virus, explain the clinical management and supportive care, and more. Sign up for the course [here](#). To get more information on the outbreak, read the NETEC article on laboratory resources [here](#), visit the NETEC list of curated H5N1 resources [here](#), and reference the NYC H+H clinician fact sheet [here](#).

MAY COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT | PATRICIA ANN TENNILL

Patricia Ann “Trish” Tennill is the Director of Nursing and the Special Pathogen Program Nurse Lead at Bellevue Hospital. She brings decades of experience as an ICU nurse, including first-hand experience responding to multiple special pathogen outbreaks and leading special pathogen training and education sessions across the nation and for international partners. Trish has been involved with the Special Pathogens Program since 2014 as a nurse leader responsible for coordinating and overseeing all nursing operations on the Special Pathogens Unit, including the development of protocols concerning the movement and care of patients with special pathogens and the subsequent hands-on training for all staff involved in the Special Pathogens Program. This included the development and facilitation of the Region 2 Special Pathogen Response Skills Training, providing ~20 healthcare facilities in New York and New Jersey guidance on how to care for patients under investigation (PUI) or confirmed with high-consequence infectious disease (HCID). In addition to her work at Bellevue, Trish also serves as the Workgroup Chair of Infection Prevention and Control for the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC). In this role, she teaches fundamentals of safe biocontainment practices to health care professionals across the nation. Furthermore, the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses recently awarded the special pathogens team led by Trish their Beacon Award for the team’s dedication to the care in the unit. We thank her for her continued dedication and care!

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 the May Travel Screening List and High Consequence Infectious Diseases informative presentation. You can also read or re-read past newsletter issues [here](#).

LOOKING AHEAD

Coming Soon: June Partner Community Meeting

The Region 2 RESPTC team will be hosting the next Partner Community meeting on June 20th. This meeting will center around the Region 2 Needs Assessment findings and sharing our training plan for the community. We hope to see you all there!