

Thursday September 26, 2024

September Region 2 RESPTC Newsletter

REGION 2 RESPTC PARTNER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Thank you for reading the Region 2 Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) Partner Community Newsletter! The Region 2 RESPTC at NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue Hospital 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 below:

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

September is National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month! This year's theme is focused on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Island community empowerment. National Preparedness Month is an annual reminder to protect yourself, your organization, and your loved ones. Learn more about this year's theme [here](#) and access New York City Preparedness Month resources [here](#).

Region 2 RESPTC Exercise Templates & Resources

In honor of National Preparedness Month, remember to plan exercises to test your organization's special pathogen preparedness. The Region 2 RESPTC website includes special pathogen exercise templates and resources that can be adapted to your organization's needs. Find the resources [here](#).

NETEC Readiness Assessments

The National Emergency Special Pathogens Education and Training Center (NETEC) offers excellent resources to ensure your organization is prepared for special pathogen threats. NETEC has developed free, online, self-assessment tools that help hospitals and emergency medical service agencies evaluate their operational readiness to respond to special pathogen events.

Access the Hospital Readiness Assessment [here](#).

Access the EMS Readiness Assessment [here](#).

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.

Please see below for resources and advisories for current outbreaks.

Travel Screening Country List – September 2024



This document is not meant to be an exhaustive list but is focused on select, current special pathogen disease outbreaks that require prompt identification, isolation and/or specialized evaluation and management.

Country	Diseases with Active Cases	Surveillance Window (max time from exposure to symptom onset)	Case Definition and Guidance	PPE/Precautions
Numerous Countries*	Measles	21 days	Measles Clinician Fact Sheet	Airborne + Contact + Standard
Numerous Countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burundi • Democratic Republic of the Congo • Republic of the Congo • Central African Republic • Rwanda • Sweden • Thailand • Uganda 	MPox, Clade Ia & Ib	21 days	Mpox Clinician Fact Sheet	Special Pathogens Level 1
Cambodia	Avian Influenza (H5N1)	17 days	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Clinician Fact Sheet	Special Pathogens Level 1
Cuba	Oropuche Virus	3–10 days	CDC Overview of Oropuche Virus	Standard Precautions
Iraq	Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever	21 days	Crimean Congo HF Clinician Fact Sheet	Special Pathogens Level 2 VHF
Nigeria	Lassa Fever	21 days	Lassa Fever Clinician Fact Sheet	Special Pathogens Level 2 VHF
Recent Health Alerts/Advisories		General Notes and References for Local & National health alerts/advisories		
National	H5N1/Bird Flu:	<p>CDC continues to respond to the public health challenge posed by a multistate outbreak of avian influenza A(H5N1) virus, or "H5N1 bird flu," in dairy cows, poultry and other animals in the United States. Since April 2024, 14 human cases of avian influenza A(H5) infection have been reported in the United States, including 1 with unknown/no animal exposure. With the ongoing epidemic of H5N1 among various animal species, clinician should consider the possibility of HPAI A(H5N1) virus infection in persons showing</p>		

Developed by NYC Health + Hospitals System-wide Special Pathogens Program

Description: In this webinar, the Region 2 NSPS Level 1 RESPTC at NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue will provide NYS Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition (HEPC) partners with a variety of available resources and services to support NYS facilities with special pathogen preparedness and response.

Date/Time: September 30, 2024 @ 1:00pm – 2:30pm ET

Register Here: [OHEP-HTC-BP1-S3-092024-WR](https://ohep-htc-bp1-s3-092024-wr)

NETEC Webinar Recording: National Special Pathogen System (NSPS)

Watch the webinar recording on the NSPS, a nationwide system for preparing for and responding to special pathogens. Learn about the history, mission, and vision of the NSPS, as well as the minimum capabilities required for health care facilities in the tiered system of care. Additionally, hear from representatives of different HHS Regions who share their experiences and best practices for implementing the NSPS in their respective regions. Watch:

<https://repository.netecweb.org/items/show/1877>

PPE Resources from NETEC

Check out two new downloadable guides from NETEC on personal protective equipment:

- [Safe PPE Practices](#) provides tips for keeping health care workers safe when using personal protective equipment (PPE). Use it alongside the institution-specific PPE protocols at your facility.
- [PPE Donning and Doffing](#) covers the step-by-step procedures for donning and doffing general PPE. This educational resource can be used to train health care workers in the proper protocols for isolation care.

OUTBREAK ADVISORIES AND RESOURCES

Mpox

Cases of mpox clade II continue to occur in our region. 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](#)

New York City Department of Health and Mental Health (NYCDOHMH) Advisory

- [2024 Health Advisory #12: Updates on Mpox in New York City](#)

NETEC 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](#)

Measles

Measles cases are continuing to occur in our region. Please be aware of patients who have recently traveled abroad and who have symptoms consistent with measles, including:

- febrile rash illness,
- cough,
- coryza, and/or
- conjunctivitis

CDC Resources

- [Measles Symptoms and Complications](#)
- [CDC Resources for Public Health Professionals](#)

Dengue

Puerto Rico declared a public health emergency due to the over 2,000 cases of Dengue since January. Signs of progression to severe dengue include:

- persistent vomiting,
- severe abdominal pain,
- fluid accumulation,
- mucosal bleeding,

- lethargy/restlessness,
- postural hypotension,
- liver enlargement, and/or
- progressive increase in hematocrit

Source: [CDC](#)

Puerto Rico Department of Health Resources

- [Denque Situation Report](#)

CDC Resources

- [CDC Health Advisory](#)
- [CDC Fact Sheet: Clinical Features of Dengue](#)

H5N1

Human cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) virus infection have been reported in the United States. 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](#)

NETEC Resources

- [NETEC Webinar Series \(8/14/2024\): H5N1 Town Hall: Updates for Frontline Staff](#)
- [Laboratory Resources: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\)](#)

CDC Resources

- [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.

Oropouche

There has been an increase in Oropouche virus disease in endemic areas in the Amazon basin and new areas in South America and the Caribbean. Travel-associated Oropouche virus disease cases have been identified in the United States. Providers should evaluate and test patients who recently traveled to impacted areas and have signs and symptoms consistent with Oropouche virus infection, including:

- fever,
- headache,
- myalgia,
- arthralgia,
- photophobia,
- retroorbital/eye pain, or
- signs and symptoms of neuroinvasive disease (e.g., stiff neck, altered mental status, seizures, limb weakness, or cerebrospinal fluid pleocytosis); AND
- no respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, rhinorrhea, shortness of breath)

Testing can be arranged through your local or State health department. CDC is now able to provide clinical diagnostic testing for patients with suspected acute Oropouche virus disease.

Source: [CDC](#)

CDC Resources

- [Interim Guidance for Evaluating and Managing Infants Born to Pregnant People with Confirmed or Probable Oropouche Virus Disease | Oropouche | CDC](#)
- [Clinical Overview of Oropouche Virus Disease | Oropouche | CDC](#)

REGION 2 TRAINING TIP OF THE MONTH

NETEC's new downloadable flyer illustrates how to safely and effectively collect nasopharyngeal swabs. Find the resource [here](#).

SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT | NANG THU THU KYAW, PHD



Dr. Nang Thu Thu Kyaw is a CDC Epidemiologist and U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps scientist assigned to NYC Health Department's Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response. Nang is a lead for special pathogen and biothreat agent preparedness and response and serves on the steering committee for the Region 2 RESPTC. In this role, she coordinates preparedness and response activities among NYC health care facilities and community partners. Nang also serves as an epidemiologist consult and conduct research studies focusing on equity in access to therapeutic during emergency. For the past three years in NYC, Nang played an instrumental role in multiple public health responses including Covid-19, mpox and measles.

Nang started her career in public health 15 years ago when she worked with Doctors Without Borders in her home country of Myanmar. She provided clinical care and led a wide range of projects, including HIV, TB, primary healthcare, health promotion and harm reduction. Having worked in conflict-affected region, planning for contingencies has been a part of her job. Since then, Nang has worked with the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease as a researcher using data to improve healthcare practice and programs.

In 2023, Nang was recognized as a Johns Hopkins Emerging Leader in Biosecurity Fellow. She received multiple awards including Fulbright scholarship, Diane Caves Memorial Award from Georgia State University's Institute of Public Health and Achievement Medal for Covid-19 and mpox response from Commissioned Corps. Nang received her Master and PhD in Public Health and Epidemiology from Georgia State University and Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery from Myanmar.

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.

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 the [About Region 2 Page](#) with the new Region 2 Facility Map. You can also read or re-read past newsletter issues [here](#).

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