

# Building Surge Capacity for Health Centers

**Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2:00pm ET**



# Presenters



**Dr. Anita Patel**  
Team Lead  
CDC's Pandemic Medical  
Care and Countermeasures



**Alexander Lipovtsev**  
Director  
CHCANYS' Emergency Management  
Program



**Tina Wright**  
Director  
Emergency Management at  
MassLEAGUE

# National Nurse-Led Care Consortium

The **National Nurse-Led Care Consortium (NNCC)** is a membership organization that supports nurse-led care and nurses at the front lines of care.

NNCC provides expertise to support comprehensive, community-based primary care.

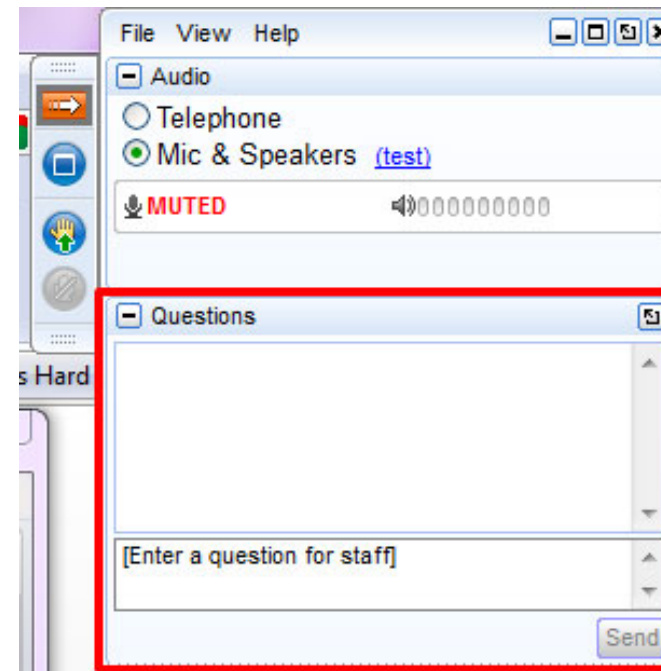
- Policy research and advocacy
- Technical assistance and support
- Direct, nurse-led healthcare services



# Questions Welcomed

To ask a question or make a comment for our panelists, type it into the **Questions** pane in the Go To Webinar control panel.

We'll address all audience questions during Q&A!



# Building Surge Capacity for Community Health Centers

April, 2019

**Anita Patel, PharmD, MS**

Senior Advisor, Pandemic Medical Care and Countermeasures Lead  
National Center for Immunizations and Respiratory Diseases  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

# US Hospitals are Critical to public health



**5,500**

January 2015

## *Seasonal flu overwhelms medical facilities* **What if there's a pandemic?**



### **Flu epidemic prompts Valley hospitals to declare internal disaster**

Posted: January 14, 2015 7:04 PM EST Updated: Jan 15, 2015 11:51 AM EST

**lehighvalleylive.com**

### **Rapid spread of flu keeping emergency rooms 'very busy' in the Lehigh Valley**

January 2, 2015 at 7:00 AM

**JOURNAL-NEWS**

CONTINUING COVERAGE: FLU OUTBREAK

### **Flu epidemic puts pressure on medical clinics**

By Hannah Poturalski

January 2, 2015



**Lake Wylie Pilot**

### **Charlotte hospitals, doctors' offices 'slammed' with flu patients**

By Karen Garloch

December 31, 2014

**Deadly Flu  
Stomping SE  
Michigan**

January 3, 2015

**DEADLINE  
DETROIT**  
HOMEGROWN MEDIA REVOLUTION



## A Mild-to-Moderate Pandemic – 2009 H1N1





**Long wait times ... Reduced access to care ...  
Increased risk of illness and death ....**



**How do we avoid this  
during a public health response?**



# Need to Plan for Public Health Responses Beyond Just Hospitals



# What about the rest of the system?

Other places that people receive health care:

- Long term care facilities
- Assisted living
- Home care
- Urgent care, retail care clinics
- Community health centers

# Today's Discussion

**Will focus on improving surge capacity  
for community health centers**





**E**MERGENCY  
**M**ANAGEMENT  
**A**DVISORY  
**C**OALITION

# Building Surge Capacity for Community Health Centers: The Unexpected

**Tina T. Wright & Alex Lipovtsev**  
Chair & Co-Chair

Massachusetts League  
of Community Health Centers



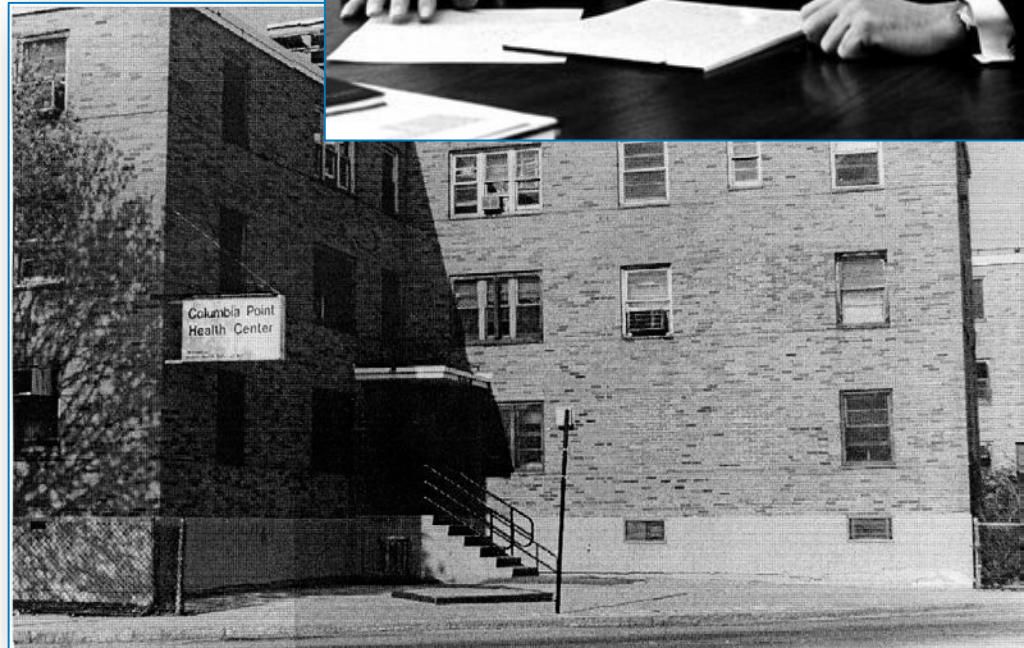
# Health Centers as “Community Responders”

Founding of the First Two  
Health Centers in the Nation:

Physician-activists  
Count Gibson &  
H. Jack Geiger

Boston, MA & Mound Bayou,  
Mississippi

<https://www.chcchronicles.org/histories>





# A Massachusetts Example

As champions for the community, health centers foster a level of grassroots emergency preparedness that reaches deep into the underserved and vulnerable populations they care for daily. The scope and depth of their response is tremendous. The state's community health centers not only play a significant role in maintaining the health of communities, we are recognized as critical and essential partners in local, statewide and national emergency response.

Today, health centers are more than primary care providers – we are **community responders**.

# How do CHCs respond to emergencies?

- Surveillance of unusual outbreaks and diseases
- Education of community and patients
  - Internal staff education, clarification and identification of staff roles
- Vaccination and mass prophylaxis



# How do CHCs respond, cont.



- Strengthen capacity to address post-event public demands, i.e. behavioral/mental health, culturally competent care
- Outpatient surge capacity and triaging systems
- Integrated role in local and regional emergency response efforts



# How have CHCs been integrated in emergency management?

- **Through planning groups**

- by town, city, region, county, state
- by discipline – health and medical, public health, schools, long-term care, emergency management, law enforcement, emergency medical/ambulance services, etc.
- for specific events – e.g. Boston Marathon, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, large conventions, large scale exercises

- **Through a common goal**

- "...to provide a coordinated response to the health and medical needs of community XYX during an emergency..."

## How have CHCs been integrated in emergency management efforts? cont...

By educating others on what health centers *can and cannot* do, for example:

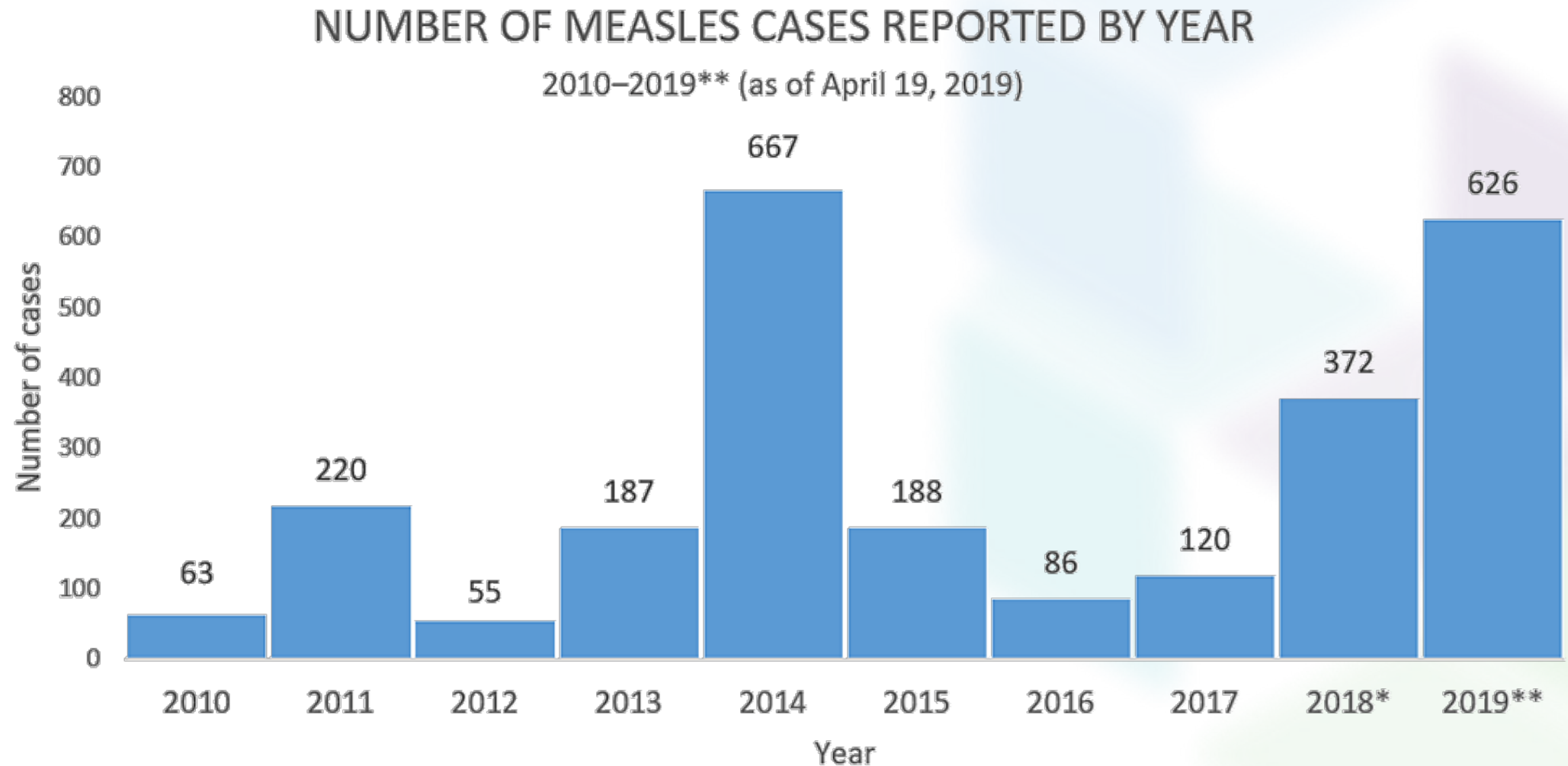
- " *This* " health center has a pharmacy and can distribute medications
- " *That* " health center has several clinical staff who speak Vietnamese and can translate
- " *That other* " health center has onsite digital X-ray and can take "green and yellow" patients/ walking wounded
  - ❖ Health centers *cannot* care for critically wounded patients
  - ❖ Health centers *cannot* be mini-hospitals



# Other examples of health centers in action:

- Incoming evacuees from other national/international disasters
- Special events, e.g. Boston Marathon, Democratic National Convention, large musical festivals
- Haiti Earthquake in 2010 – culturally sensitive behavioral health
- Pandemic H1N1 Influenza outbreak and mass vaccinations clinics
- Cement factory explosion that blanketed community in hazardous materials
- High media exposure during a health center crisis (risk communication) and behavioral health needs of staff and patients
- Emerging Issues and Infectious Diseases – measles, flu, *Ebola*, *NEXT?*

# Measles Cases in 2019



\*Cases as of December 29, 2018. Case count is preliminary and subject to change.

\*\*Cases as of April 19, 2019. Case count is preliminary and subject to change. **Data are updated every Monday.**

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/cases-outbreaks.html>



# Recent example: Lowell, Massachusetts



Health & Fitness  
**State**  
The patient  
By Dave Copelan

## Measles Exposure

- Chelmsford T.J. Maxx  
November 11
- Lowell Community Health Center  
November 15
- Tewksbury Walmart Supercenter  
November 15

Mass. Department of Public Health



## Following warning, Lowell Community HC tests hundreds for measles

By Rick Sobey, [rsobey@lowellsun.com](mailto:rsobey@lowellsun.com)

UPDATED: 11/14/2018 11:54:48 AM EST



## Measles Response Common Operating Picture 11/13/2018

### Patients seen in exposure window

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| No immunization information                   | 278        |
| Seen in pharmacy only, no <u>imm.</u> info.   | 91         |
| Seen in LGH only, no <u>imm.</u> info.        | 10         |
| Fully immunized ( <u>eCW</u> review and MIIS) | 160        |
| <b>Total patients in exposure window*</b>     | <b>501</b> |

\*does not include personnel that accompanied patient

### Other personnel in exposure window

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Lowell CHC Staff              | 52        |
| BTG Training                  | 15        |
| Teen BLOCK                    | 12        |
| Pharmacy                      | 7         |
| WIC                           | 3         |
| Fleet Courier                 | 1         |
| USPS                          | 1         |
| FedEx                         | 1         |
| JMC                           | 1         |
| <b>Net potential exposure</b> | <b>93</b> |

### Available MMR Doses

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| 11/12 - 0800 : | 70  |
| 11/12 - 0946 : | 128 |
| 11/12 - 1104 : | 515 |
| 11/12 - 1256 : | 675 |
| 11/12 - 1447 : | 625 |
| 11/12 - 1641 : | 600 |
| 11/13 - 0800 : | 600 |
| 11/13 - 1700 : | 425 |

### Titer Status – as of 1715

|       | Orders (Drawn) | Results |
|-------|----------------|---------|
| 11/10 | 51 (36)        | 34      |
| 11/11 | 232 (209)      | 203     |
| 11/12 | 23 (19)        | 16      |
| 11/13 | 13             |         |

### Post exposure f/u appointments – as of 1626

|       |     |
|-------|-----|
| 11/10 | 31  |
| 11/11 | 226 |
| 11/12 | 71  |
| 11/13 | 11  |

### RFIs as 1700

1. Can we provide home care for suspected cases (Lowell CHC)
2. How many patients have been seen at LGH for IG (LGH)
3. How are positive results communicated to patients (immune)? (Lowell CHC)
4. How are negative or equivocal results communicated to patients (Lowell CHC)

### Due Outs:

1. Imms and Titer result tracking sheet.

# Recent example: Lowell, Massachusetts

## What they did right:

- Performed mandatory reporting and contact tracing with local health began immediately
- Communicated with patients immediately
- Got ahead of the media with press statements, patient notifications and social media
- Coordinated collection of vaccines to offer public vaccination clinics to anyone, including partnering with other health centers
- **Vaccinated 350+ people within days** of the outbreak; credited with a coordinated response with hospital, public health and the health center

# Measles Response

## Common Operating Picture – Operational Period 12

### 11/20/2018

| Target Population   | Action Taken  | Results of Action Taken   |  |                |         |       |         |    |       |           |     |       |         |    |       |         |  |       |    |  |       |    |  |
|---|---|---|--|----------------|---------|-------|---------|----|-------|-----------|-----|-------|---------|----|-------|---------|--|-------|----|--|-------|----|--|
| <b>Total patients in exposure window*</b> <b>236</b><br><br><small>*does not include personnel that accompanied patient</small> | <b>Phone calls made:</b> <b>882</b><br><br>11/10      325<br>11/11      557             | <b>Titer Status</b><br><br><table> <tr> <th></th><th>Orders (Drawn)</th><th>Results</th></tr> <tr> <td>11/10</td><td>51 (36)</td><td>34</td></tr> <tr> <td>11/11</td><td>232 (209)</td><td>203</td></tr> <tr> <td>11/12</td><td>23 (19)</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr> <td>11/13</td><td>30 (29)</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>11/14</td><td>23</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>11/15</td><td>11</td><td></td></tr> </table> |  | Orders (Drawn) | Results | 11/10 | 51 (36) | 34 | 11/11 | 232 (209) | 203 | 11/12 | 23 (19) | 16 | 11/13 | 30 (29) |  | 11/14 | 23 |  | 11/15 | 11 |  |
|   | Orders (Drawn)  | Results   |  |                |         |       |         |    |       |           |     |       |         |    |       |         |  |       |    |  |       |    |  |
| 11/10   | 51 (36)   | 34  |  |                |         |       |         |    |       |           |     |       |         |    |       |         |  |       |    |  |       |    |  |
| 11/11   | 232 (209)   | 203   |  |                |         |       |         |    |       |           |     |       |         |    |       |         |  |       |    |  |       |    |  |
| 11/12   | 23 (19)   | 16  |  |                |         |       |         |    |       |           |     |       |         |    |       |         |  |       |    |  |       |    |  |
| 11/13   | 30 (29)   |   |  |                |         |       |         |    |       |           |     |       |         |    |       |         |  |       |    |  |       |    |  |
| 11/14   | 23  |   |  |                |         |       |         |    |       |           |     |       |         |    |       |         |  |       |    |  |       |    |  |
| 11/15   | 11  |   |  |                |         |       |         |    |       |           |     |       |         |    |       |         |  |       |    |  |       |    |  |
|   | <b>Post exposure f/u appointments</b> <b>353</b><br><br>11/10      31<br>11/11      226 | <b>Available MMR Doses</b><br>11/20 – 1347 : 393  |  |                |         |       |         |    |       |           |     |       |         |    |       |         |  |       |    |  |       |    |  |

#### Summary of action taken (11/9 to 11/15)

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Patients immunized  | 54  |
| Patients with titer ( <u>pos</u> / <u>neg</u> / <u>eq</u> ) | 16  |
| Patients with both <u>imm.</u> and titer                    | 6   |
| Patients with IVIG  | UNK |

**Patients in exposure window with no evidence of immunity as of 11/20, contacted but have not been seen : 87**

# Lessons learned for resilience:

## INTERNAL

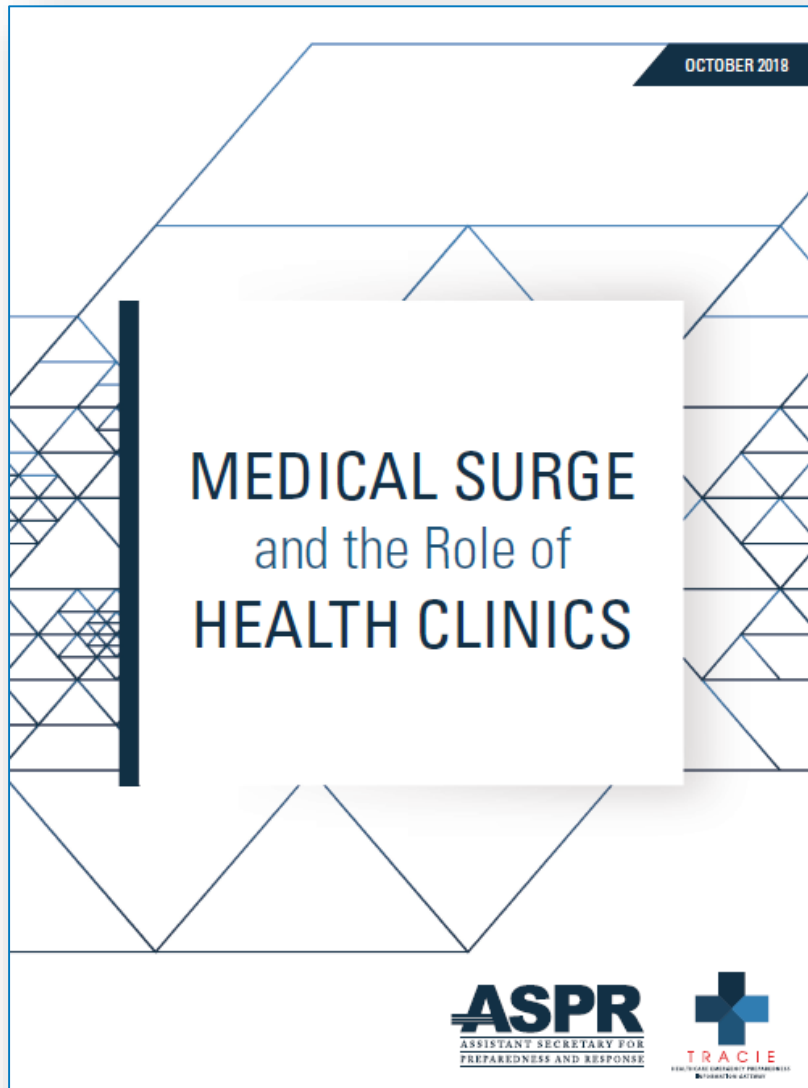
- Successful timely notification of staff and patients
- Improved processes to become more efficient during and throughout the response operations
- Rapid decision-making by senior leadership and setting up Incident Command structure
- Integrated emergency response activities with regular CHC operations and minimized potential additional exposures
- Tracking and documentation of response efforts

## EXTERNAL

- Notification of local and state authorities
- Integration of external response agencies into CHC Incident Command structure
- Successfully managed risk communications with media to educate and inform those exposed
- Bringing all parties together for a comprehensive After Action Review and Improvement Planning



# ASPR TRACIE Report



- Analyzed results of a survey and targeted follow-up interviews
- Focused on 2 scenarios – Infectious Disease Outbreak and No-notice Incident
- Most are part of coalition and/or local response efforts - >65%
- Participation locally was noted as a key element, wanting more joint education/ exercising opportunities

Being part of the coalition and being active means that you are part of the solution to an emergency and a part of helping continue healthcare in your area. It is a critical part of being a Health Center to be involved with your coalition.

~ Facilities Manager, Emergency Preparedness Lead, Urban, Suburban, FQHC, CHC, Health Care for the Homeless Health Centers

# ASPR TRACIE Report: Future paths for CHCs

- Include PCAs to help refine CHC potential roles
- Increase awareness to external agencies of CHCs roles in
- **Provide Resources!!!**
- Community of Operations Planning (COOP) to lay a foundation for Coordinated Community Preparedness
- Provide support to CHCs and Healthcare Coalitions for Emergency Management Activities
- Promote active involvement of CHCs in healthcare coalitions
- Develop training strategies and technical assistance to increase
- Develop and promote mechanisms to exchange experiences and lessons learned and promote mentoring from CHCs more experienced in emergency management



# CMS rule for minimum EP requirements

- The CMS Emergency Preparedness Final Rule outlines four core elements of emergency preparedness for 17 provider/suppliers, including RHCs / FQHCs
- Must be “in compliance” to participate in Medicare and Medicaid.

Risk Assessment  
& Emergency  
Planning

Policies and  
Procedures

Communication  
Plan

Training and  
Testing

# An All-Hazards Approach


The rule establishes criteria for Medicare-participating providers and suppliers to develop effective and robust emergency plans and responses utilizing an “all hazards” approach for disruptive events such as care-related emergencies, equipment and power failures, interruptions in communications, including cyber-attacks, loss of a portion or all of a facility, and interruptions in the normal supply of essentials such as water and food.



# CMS Survey & Certification Group Update

- On February 1, 2019, CMS updated Appendix Z of the State Operations Manual (SOM) to reflect changes to add **emerging infectious diseases** to the definition of all-hazards approach.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C2-21-16  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Quality, Safety & Oversight Group

DATE: February 1, 2019 Ref: QSO19-06-ALL

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director  
Quality, Safety & Oversight Group

SUBJECT: Emergency Preparedness- Updates to Appendix Z of the State Operations Manual (SOM)

**Memorandum Summary**

- Emergency Preparedness Requirements for Medicare and Medicaid Participating Providers and Suppliers: On September 16, 2016, the *Emergency Preparedness Requirements for Medicare and Medicaid Participating Providers and Suppliers* (Emergency Preparedness Rule) final rule was published in the Federal Register.
- Health care providers and suppliers affected by the rule were required comply and implement all regulations by November 15, 2017.
- We are updating Appendix Z of the SOM to reflect changes to add emerging infectious diseases to the definition of all-hazards approach, new Home Health Agency (HHA) citations and clarifications under alternate source power and emergency standby systems.

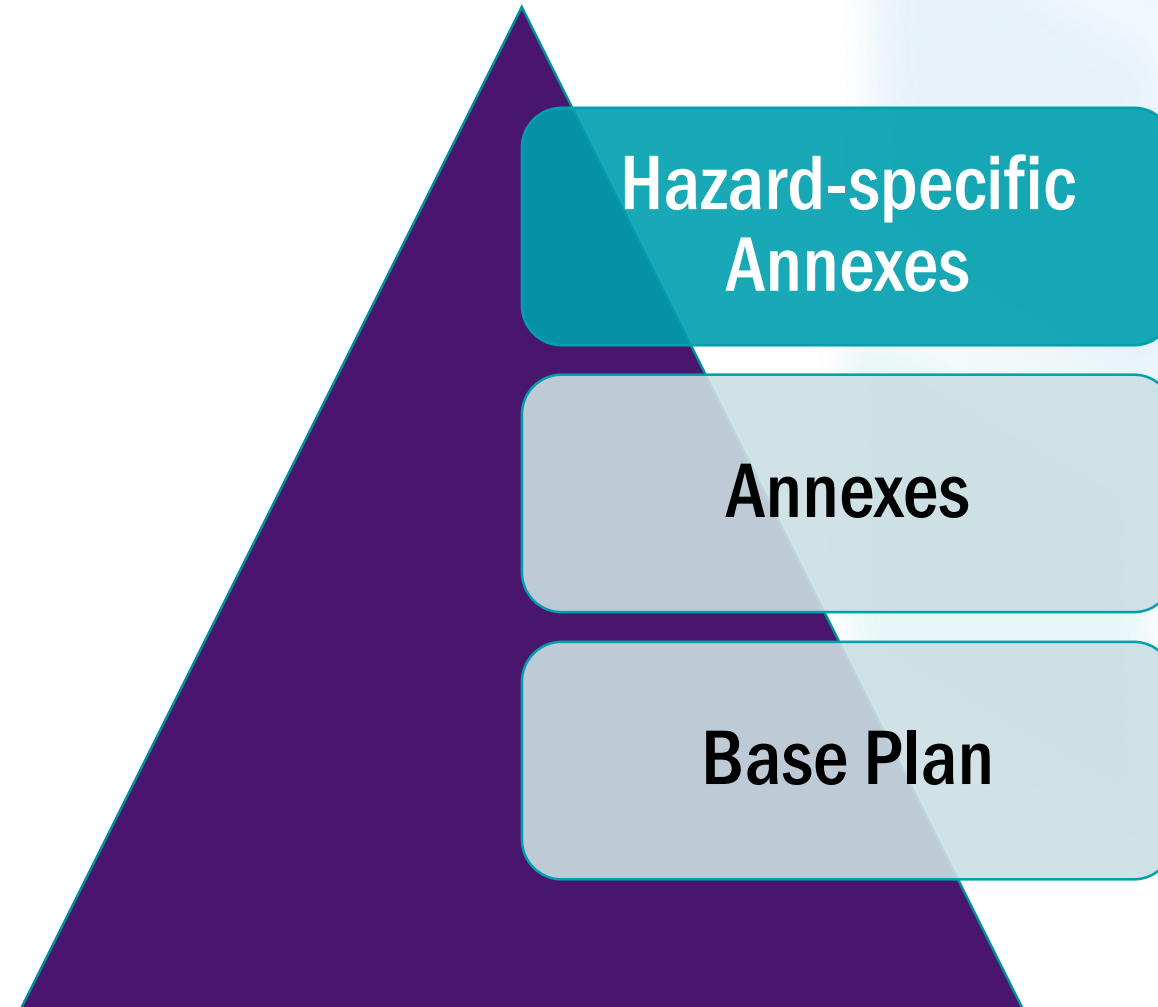
**Background**

The Emergency Preparedness Final Rule (81 Fed. Reg. 63860, September 16, 2016) sets out requirements for all providers and suppliers in regards to planning, preparing and training for emergency situations. The rule includes requirements for emergency plans, policies and procedures, communications and staff training. While there are minor variations based on the specific provider type, the rule is applicable to all providers and suppliers. The emergency preparedness requirement is a Condition of Participation/Condition for Coverage which covers the requirement for facilities to have an emergency preparedness program.

**Discussion**

CMS is adding "emerging infectious diseases" to the current definition of all-hazards approach. After review, CMS determined it was critical for facilities to include planning for infectious diseases within their emergency preparedness program. In light of events such as the Ebola Virus and Zika, we believe that facilities should consider preparedness and infection prevention within their all-hazards approach, which covers both natural and man-made disasters.

# Traditional Emergency Management Plan Format



# Communications Plan

- Facilitates both internal (staff & patients) and external (federal, state, local agencies) communications
- Must include a "method for sharing information and medical documentation with other healthcare providers to ensure continuity of care for patients."
- A means of providing information about FQHC's needs and ability to provide assistance, to the authority having jurisdiction or the Incident Command Center, or designee.



# CDC - Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication (CERC)

Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication

Training +

Manual and Tools +

CERC Corner +

Presentations and Webinars

Are You Prepared?

Coping with a Disaster or Traumatic Event

Information on Specific Types of Emergencies

Information for Specific Groups

Resources for Emergency Health Professionals

Training & Education




Social Media

What's New

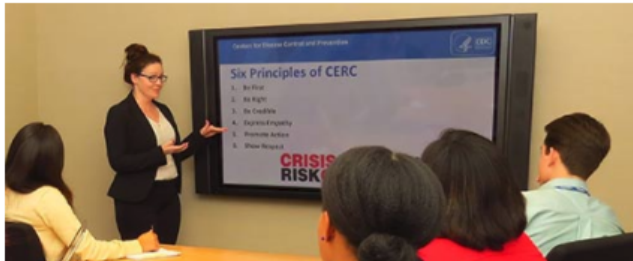
Preparation & Planning

[Resources for Emergency Health Professionals](#) > [Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication](#)

## Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication (CERC)




The right message at the right time from the right person can save lives. CDC's Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication (CERC) draws from lessons learned during past public health emergencies and research in the fields of public health, psychology, and emergency risk communication. CDC's CERC program provides trainings, tools, and resources to help health communicators, emergency responders, and leaders of organizations communicate effectively during emergencies. Please email [cercrequest@cdc.gov](mailto:cercrequest@cdc.gov) with any questions or requests for trainings or materials.



TRAINING

The CERC program offers in-person and online trainings on Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication.

More >



MANUAL AND TOOLS

The CERC Manual describes core crisis and emergency risk communication principles and how they apply to each phase of a crisis. Tools are available to prepare communication plans or use during a crisis.

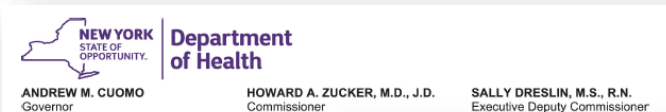
More >

<https://emergency.cdc.gov/cerc/index.asp>

35



# Are You Receiving These?



Dec  
To: Health Care Providers, Hospitals, and Health Departments  
From: New York State Department of Health

HEALTH ADVISORY: MEASLES  
Please distribute to the Chief Medical Officer, Department of Pediatrics, Department of Primary Care

#### UPDATE TO MEASLES ADVISORY

- This health advisory provides the most current information on measles outbreaks in Rockland County and New York City as of November 16, 2018.
- To date, Rockland County has identified 39 cases of measles in children <18 years of age, concentrated in the Town of Poughkeepsie, the Village of Poughkeepsie, and the Village of Poughkeepsie.
- Additionally, Orange County Department of Health has identified 1 case of measles in an unvaccinated individual with recent travel to the outbreak region.
- 89% of cases have a known (documented) status. Among cases with known status, 1% received 1 dose of MMR1.
- Providers should remain vigilant, particularly among people who reside in areas with recent measles outbreaks, have recently traveled, or have a person with febrile rash illness.
  - To expedite public health response, appropriate infection control measures should be taken.
- As a reminder, while confirmed or suspected cases of measles are required to be reported no later than 24 hours after diagnosis to the local health department, certain communicable diseases should be reported by phone if the patient resides in the reporting jurisdiction. Reports should also be obtained over the phone, or by mail, if the patient resides in another jurisdiction.
  - Some recent cases have gone unreported, which compromises the public health response and can prevent additional cases.
- Hospitals in the impacted counties displaying symptoms of measles, particularly in the most vulnerable patients, should be reported to the local health department.

Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower, 12th Floor, Albany, NY 12242

## Influenza Season Continues with Influenza A(H3N2) Activity



Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network  
March 28, 2019 1415 ET (2:15 PM ET)  
CDCHAN-00419

*CDC reminds clinicians to have a high suspicion for influenza and report cases with suspected influenza.*

### Summary

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this health alert because influenza activity remains high in the United States, with an increasing proportion of influenza A(H3N2) viruses, and low levels of influenza A(H1N1) viruses. The CDC is also reporting that the proportion of influenza A(H3N2) viruses is increasing. The CDC is also reporting that the proportion of influenza A(H3N2) viruses is increasing. The CDC is also reporting that the proportion of influenza A(H3N2) viruses is increasing.

### Background

In the United States, influenza activity remains elevated and widespread, and the season is likely to last several weeks longer than the previous season (see CDC FluView report for details: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm>). Earlier in the season, influenza

## When to Prescribe a Flu Antiviral

When influenza is spreading widely in the community, prescribe antivirals as shown:\*



- Fever + Cough
- or
- Fever + Sore Throat
- or
- Influenza otherwise suspected

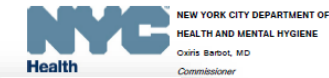


- Seriously ill
- or
- Age <2 or >65
- Pregnant or recently pregnant
- Asthma, COPD or chronic lung disorder
- Diabetes
- Other high-risk conditions:
  - Chronic heart, kidney, liver or blood disorders
  - Neurologic disorders that cause breathing problems
  - Immunocompromised
  - Age <19 + long-term aspirin therapy
  - Morbid obesity (BMI ≥ 40)

Treat as soon as possible with oseltamivir, peramivir or zanamivir. Do not wait for test results.

For more information, call the Health Department's Provider Access Line at 1-866-692-3641.

\*Find a complete list of high-risk conditions and guidance on antiviral use at [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health).



### 2019 Advisory #1: Influenza

Flu activity is elevated in New York City. Influenza is recommended as early as possible for patients with confirmed influenza who are hospitalized, seriously ill, or ill and at high risk of complications (See attached poster for providers). Influenza is recommended for all persons 6 months of age and older. All children should receive a flu vaccine. For more information, contact the NYC Health Department: 212-250-5123. For more information, contact the NYC Health Department: 212-250-5123.

The Departments of Critical Care, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Infectious Disease, Infection Control, Obstetrics, Geriatric Medicine, Pharmacy, and Laboratory Medicine

In New York City (NYC). The Health Department reminds clinicians to use antivirals as early as possible for influenza treatment and prophylaxis, when indicated after flu vaccine.

Each week, 4.1% of outpatient visits were for influenza-like illness (ILI), and 1.1% of visits were for influenza. During the current influenza season, there has been an increase in influenza activity. During the current influenza season, there has been an increase in influenza activity. During the current influenza season, there has been an increase in influenza activity.

Antiviral medications — oseltamivir (Tamiflu®), zanamivir (Relenza®), and peramivir (Xofluza®) — should be used for treating influenza infections, especially for patients at high risk for serious complications of influenza infection. Only oseltamivir is recommended for prophylaxis. Zanamivir should not be used in persons with asthma or COPD. Antiviral treatment should be started as soon as possible in persons with confirmed or suspected influenza who are hospitalized, or at high risk of serious influenza-related complications. The latter group

includes children 2 years of age and younger, and adults who have given birth within the previous 2 weeks.



# Subscribe to Health Alerts!

- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) – <http://emergency.cdc.gov/han>
  - CDC's Health Alert Network (HAN) is CDC's primary method of sharing cleared information about urgent public health incidents with public information officers; federal, state, territorial, and local public health practitioners; clinicians; and public health laboratories.
- Your State / Local Health Department

# Priority Telecommunications Services (PTS): GETS and WPS

## GETS

### Government Emergency Telecommunications Service



## WPS

### Wireless Priority Service



# Requesting GETS and WPS

- Designate a GETS/WPS Point of Contact (POC) for your organization
- POC establishes GETS and WPS account online using [www.dhs.gov/gets](http://www.dhs.gov/gets) or [www.dhs.gov/wps](http://www.dhs.gov/wps) or by contacting the Priority Telecommunications Service Center at 1-866-627-2255
- POC requests GETS and WPS for an initial group of users/key functions/locations through the online system
- POC distributes GETS Cards and confirms WPS activations

# Direct Relief – Safety Net Support Program

Eligible partner facilities order online from Direct Relief's pharmaceutical inventory. Orders are reviewed by a Direct Relief pharmacist and delivered free of charge.

## Eligibility Requirements



Your organization must:

- Have federal 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt status
- Be a qualified facility that provides health care to patients regardless of their ability to pay (i.e. FQHC, FQHC Look-Alike, Free Clinic, Community-Based Clinic, etc.)
- Comply with all State Board of Pharmacy regulations in storing and dispensing medications
- Have a Medical Director with valid state license
- Dispense donated products to patients within the United States

<https://www.directrelief.org/>

# Health Care Coalition Surge Test

The screenshot displays the Public Health Emergency (PHE) website. The top navigation bar includes links for Preparedness, Emergency, and About ASPR, with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services logo. The main header features the PHE logo and the text "Public Health Emergency: Public Health and Medical Emergency Support for a Nation Prepared". The breadcrumb trail reads: PHE Home > Preparedness > Planning > HPP > Health Care Coalition Surge Test.

## Health Care Coalition Surge Test

**A tool designed to help Health Care Coalitions identify gaps in surge and response readiness**

The Coalition Surge Test (CST) is designed to help health care coalitions (HCCs) identify gaps in their surge planning through a low- to no-notice exercise. The exercise's foundation comes from a real-world health care system disaster challenge—the evacuation of a hospital or other patient care facility. Further, the tool incorporates lessons-learned from past tests with HCCs in South Dakota, Texas, Michigan, and Wyoming that contributed significantly to the tool's development. The tool is available and free for all to use in their health care disaster preparedness and planning.

### Overview

The CST tests a coalition's ability to work in a coordinated way to find appropriate destinations for patients using a simulated evacuation of at least 20 percent of a coalition's staffed acute-care bed capacity. The entire CST takes approximately four hours to complete and includes the two following phases:

### Health Care Coalition Influenza Pandemic Checklist

#### Introduction

This planning tool is intended to assist health care coalitions and their partners in assessing their preparedness for an influenza pandemic. It may also be used to orient the response as a pandemic begins. The tool is not comprehensive, and jurisdictional and coalition differences in composition, resources, and response will result in significantly different priorities and depth of engagement in many of these activities. The coalition should have already conducted a gap and resource analysis that may have identified issues common to this document (See [ASPR TRACIE Coalition Gap and Resource Analysis Tool](#)). Coalitions may use this tool to identify potential gaps in influenza pandemic planning and drive cross-discipline discussions.

This document assumes that the following all-hazards basics are already in place through planning, exercise, and response activities:

- Incident management structures and principles at the facility, agency, and coalition level
- Basic information sharing capabilities between coalition partners (e.g., radio, web-based, telephone) and a process for information sharing during an incident
- Emergency medical services (EMS) mutual aid and disaster response plans
- Hospital disaster and surge capacity plans
- Emergency contact/notification list for all partners

Some additional assumptions that are important to consider:

- The pandemic will occur in waves, and will not have a consistent time or impact profile across the United States. Coalition partners should have mechanisms in place to maintain awareness of current conditions in the community and adjust resources as needed.
- Understanding of the virus, infection control, risk factors, clinical care, and patient outcomes will be in rapid evolution. Monitoring multiple sources of information and adapting to changing circumstances is critical to response success.
- The response will be longer than, and require the most integration of, any incident that coalition partners may face. Use of incident management processes and integration of leadership and subject matter experts to provide consistent, transparent input and guidance is critical to a successful response.

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**C**OALITION

# Questions?

Thank you!

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# Final Questions

