

Providence St. Joseph Health

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Special Pathogens Newsletters

Special Pathogens Program

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9-7-2022

### **September 2022: Region 10 Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center & Children's Hospital**

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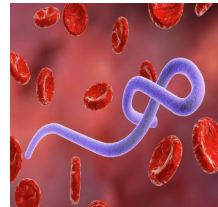
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# REGION 10 SPECIAL PATHOGENS NEWSLETTER

Region 10 Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center & Children's Hospital

SEPTEMBER 2022



Current Outbreaks



Plans, Training, & Exercises



NSPS



Workgroup Updates

## Current Outbreaks

### **Monkeypox (MPX) update:**

- The CDC is reporting 54,911 confirmed cases of the virus globally, including 20,733 cases in the U.S.
- The WHO reported that, globally, new cases decreased by 25.5% the week of August 29 (5,029 cases), compared to the previous week (6,746 cases). Additional MPX updates at the Resources link below.

### **Ebola update:**

- August 21, 2022 Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) announced a new confirmed case of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Beni, a city in the province of North Kivu. North Kivu is the site for last year's outbreak. This case was confirmed after the patient's death on August 15th. The body was buried prior to these results. Contact tracing is ongoing. The previous outbreak in the DRC in the Equateur province was declared over on July 4, 2022.

### **Marburg Virus Update:**

- June 28th, 2022, the Ashanti region of Ghana, in W. Africa, reported 2 cases of Marburg Virus Disease (MVD). MVD is a Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) with person-to-person transmission possible. Both patients died, with one patient being buried prior to confirmation of MVD. Both patients were farmers with no epidemiological links. 108 contacts were identified with quarantine and daily monitoring. No additional cases have been identified.

### **Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) update:**

- Usually transmitted via tick bites and it then may pass from person-to-person via close contact.
- Iraq – 299 confirmed cases with 55 deaths nationwide since beginning of 2022
- Afghanistan – 250 confirmed cases with 14 deaths so far in 2022. This is an increase from 51 cases in 2021.
- **Resources:**

- ◇ [CDC Information for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- ◇ [MGH Monkeypox Toolkit](#)
- ◇ [NETEC Monkeypox resources](#)
- ◇ [Managing Solid Waste Contaminated with a Category A Infectious Substance](#)

## Plans, Training, & Exercises

As we work regionally as well as with the other regional treatment centers and partners across the nation, let's keep in mind the components of developing, growing, and improving this "special pathogen" capability often referred to as the Preparedness Cycle which involves: Planning, Organizing/Equipping, Training, Exercising (POETE), and then Evaluate and Improvement.

Since our last newsletter we held a lab drill focused on specimen collection, processing in the lab, and transport via courier services to the WA State Public Health Lab (PHL) in Shoreline, WA. We called the exercise, "Our Most Important Package is Yours" and it was a good opportunity to work with our Local Health Department (LHD), Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD), WA State Department of Health and PHL partners to ensure our workflows and processes for this low frequency, high impact scenario were validated. A number of improvements and changes were identified and will be incorporated into future plans and policies.

The Region 10 ConOps (Concept of Operations) Tabletop Exercise (TTX) has been rescheduled until Monday, December 5th from 0900-1300 PST due to multiple conflicts with key partners. This should allow for additional time to update state and regional ConOps plans and allow more partners to participate. If you are interested in this TTX and don't have it on your calendar, please reach out to Darrell Ruby at [Darrell.Ruby@Providence.org](mailto:Darrell.Ruby@Providence.org).

## Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

ASPR announced a New Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) Cooperative Agreement late last month. The purpose of this NOFO is to sustain and improve health care system preparedness for emerging special pathogens through implementation of the National Special Pathogen System of Care Strategy (NSPS of Care Strategy) and to expand the regional hospital network within the National Special Pathogen System (NSPS). As regional hubs for special pathogen readiness, RESPTCs are a resource for patient care and clinical operations among the region's health care organizations. Additionally, RESPTCs mitigate surges of patients at health care facilities through supporting patient distribution across the region. Through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act explanatory language, Congress directed ASPR to "increase the overall number of RESPTCs by at least three Centers." To meet this directive, ASPR received funding to sustain the 10 existing RESPTCs and add three new sites, expanding the total number of RESPTCs from 10 to 13.

## National Special Pathogen System of Care (NSPS)

The National Special Pathogen System of Care (NSPS) mission is to provide a coordinated and standardized health care network of high-quality, patient- and community-centered care for patients suspected of or infected by a special pathogen in the United States, while protecting the health workforce. The NSPS is the future system of care composed of a Care Delivery Network (built on the existing delivery system), a Central Body, and other relevant stakeholders. Look for additional information about this effort which is focused on closing the gaps in today's health care delivery system as it applies to special pathogen care.

### **\*\* New Position \*\* Regional Coordinator \*\***

We are excited to add to the team a new position that will be focused on supporting regional planning, training, and exercises. Darrell Ruby, who has been our hospital Emergency Manager and supported the Special Pathogen Program since it was created, has transitioned into this role. He is passionate about collaboration and plans to build upon existing relationships and plans to enhance our program and regional capability. His responsibility will be to work with both internal and external partners in his capacity as the regional coordinator to help increase our regional and national capabilities.

### **National Emergency Medical Network Strategy Meeting**

We participated in a HHS/ASPR led two-day strategy meeting in Frederick, Maryland, to discuss an initial framework for a National Health Care Readiness System in July. Participants included representatives from ASPR, the Regional Disaster Health Response System (RDHRS), the Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Centers (RESPTCs), the Pediatric Centers of Excellence (PCOE), the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC), the National Emergency Tele-Critical Care Network (NETCCN), HRSA's Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program and Regional Pediatric Pandemic Network (RPPN), in addition to several other key health care stakeholders. Participants highlighted several components needed in a National Health Care Readiness System to include: identification of several accelerators and opportunities, challenges in building a National system, and highlighted next steps and considerations for future implementation. The group is meeting monthly and will be bringing in other partners and organizations to collaborate and provide input on this important project.

### **Workgroups**

We are looking forward to progressing regional collaboration with these workgroups.

#### ***Region 10 Special Pathogen Transport/EMS workgroup:***

- Purpose is to promote planning and collaboration across HHS Region 10 to support EMS and transport for emerging pathogens to support the region.
- Meeting monthly on the 1st Thursday from 3-4 pm PST
- Join us Oct 6th at a special time from 2-3 pm PST and hear Dr. Alex Isakov who leads the NETEC EMS and Biosafety Transport Consortium. He will be sharing EMS Covid-19 lessons learned, EMS self-assessment updates, current MPX issues, air transport best practices and considerations for special pathogens, and more.....

#### ***Region 10 Special Pathogen Clinical workgroup:***

- Purpose is to promote collaboration around staffing challenges, team recruitment and engagement, and training and education opportunities.
- Currently focusing on team building, recruitment and retention.
- Meeting bimonthly on Thursdays from 1-2 pm PDT.

### **From Past to Future: A Look at What Covid has in Store for Us**

Dr. James Lawlor from University of Nebraska recently shared a really insightful webinar called [From Past to Future: A Look at What Covid has in Store for Us](#) and looked at history (1918) and what was learned compared to the Covid pandemic . It is worth your time to listen, if you are interested.

## Special Pathogen Resources



[National Emerging Special Pathogen Training and Education Center](#)



[ASPR EMS Infectious Disease Playbook](#)



[EMS Special Pathogens Operational Readiness Self-Assessment \(SPORSA\)](#)



[Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy \(CIDRAP\)](#)