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March 2024: Region 10 Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center & Children's Hospital

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Providence - Special Pathogens Program, "March 2024: Region 10 Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center & Children's Hospital" (2024). *Special Pathogens Newsletters*. 6.

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REGION 10 SPECIAL PATHOGENS NEWSLETTER

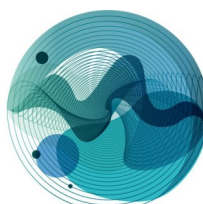
Region 10 Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) at
Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center & Children's Hospital



Current Outbreaks



Plans, Training, &
Exercises



NSPS



Workgroup Updates

Current Outbreaks

Lassa Fever in Nigeria

Lassa Fever, which is endemic in Nigeria, has had an increase in cases this year. Direct contact with infected rodents occurs through ingesting rat or inhalation through rat urine and droppings. Human to human transmission can occur.

- 110 suspected cases/29 confirmed/14 deaths

Mpox in the U.S.

Interesting articles released in January on mpox:

- Detecting Mpox cases through wastewater surveillance
[CDC MMWR Mpox Outbreak L.A. 1.18.24](#)
- Importance of vaccination in Mpox [CDC MMWR Wastewater Surveillance 1.18.24](#)

H5 Avian Flu

The highly pathogenic H5 avian flu has been confirmed for the first time on Antarctica's mainland. This is significant considering the distance and natural barriers that separate Antarctica from other continents. Outbreaks continue in the United States and in Europe.

Experts continue to monitor the outbreaks closely in birds, sea mammals and other wildlife groups.

[CIDRAP Avian Flu 2.26.24](#)

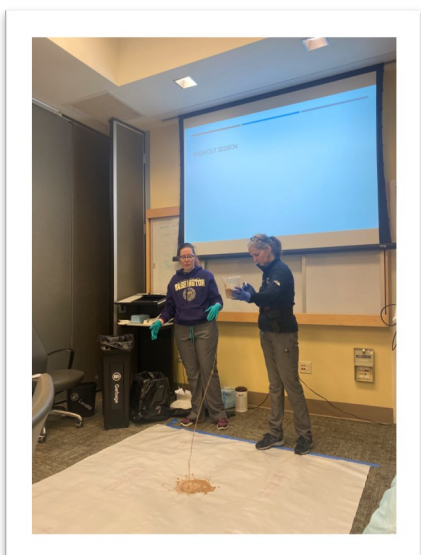
Plans, Training, & Exercises

Harborview Medical Center (HMC) SPaT Team Training

HMC conducted training in February for their Special Pathogen Team (SPaT) and Brooke and Christa from Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center & Children's Hospital (PSHMC&CH) were able to attend and support the training. There was a great turn out and the SPaT team was very engaged. They participated in donning/doffing PPE, practicing the trained observer role, and conducting spill clean ups.

It was a great opportunity for collaboration and alignment of processes.

Notice the perfect splatter in the photo below!



Special Pathogens Frontline Training in Oregon May 1-3, 2024

The team from PSHMC&CH will be conducting Special Pathogen Frontline Training in Hermiston, Bend, and Klamath Falls, OR May 1-3. This training is being organized with partners from the Oregon Healthcare Authority.

This training will focus on preparedness and will include the Identify, Isolate, and Inform process and hands on PPE donning/doffing training and how to incorporate those preparedness efforts in line with the new Joint Commission standards. The target audience includes hospital and healthcare professionals, EMS, and public health agencies. Register [here](#).

Special Pathogen Needs Assessment

Thank you to those who completed the special pathogens needs assessment that was sent out. We had 92 responses for region 10 and are excited to see the results. We will share the results with you as soon as we are able. We look forward to addressing the areas identified in the assessment.

The Joint Commission: Prepublication Requirements

The updated requirement standard for [Infection Control](#) (IC.07.01.01) was released on 12/20/23 and goes into effect on 7/1/24. The standard is for hospitals and critical access hospitals and states the hospital implements processes to support preparedness for high-consequence infectious diseases or special pathogens.

There are 2 elements of performance:

- The hospital develops and implements protocols for high-consequence infectious diseases or special pathogens.
 - **Identify:**
 - Screening procedures at POE (EDs, UCs, clinics) to include respiratory s/s, fever, rash, & travel history
 - **Isolate:**
 - Procedures for transmission-based precautions (PPE and don/doff techniques)
 - **Infection Control Procedures:**
 - To support safe care while in isolation & reduce exposure to staff, patients, & visitors using hierarchy of controls
 - For waste management, cleaning & disinfecting pt. care spaces, surfaces and equipment
 - **Inform:**
 - Procedures for informing PH and key hospital staff
- The hospital develops and implements education and training and assesses competencies for the staff who will implement protocols for high-consequence infectious diseases or special pathogens.
 - The hospital develops and implements education and training and assesses competencies for the staff who will implement protocols for high-consequence infectious diseases or special pathogens.

Region 10 RESPTC Lab Capabilities

The Special Pathogens Unit lab has completed the Global Fever Special Pathogens Panel validation. We are now able to test for pathogens such as Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, Ebola virus disease, Marburg virus disease, Lassa fever, Dengue fever, pneumonic plague, malaria, and many other pathogens. We are working on electronic medical record integration and hope to have it orderable by April.

Special Pathogens Symposium May 9th –10th, 2024 Spokane, WA

Hurry! Few spots remain for the Special Pathogen Symposium May 9th and 10th 2024 in Spokane, Washington.

Hosted by Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center, the Region 10 Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center, we welcome you to spend the first day at the Spokane Convention Center where speakers and panelists will focus on safe and effective care in a special pathogens event. The second day we welcome you to Sacred Heart and the Special Pathogens Unit for your choice of a frontline special pathogen training to don and doff personal protective equipment, or a workshop focused on special pathogen preparedness.

Come, learn, and enjoy our excellent team, guest speakers, and state of the art unit as we stay at the forefront of best practices for special pathogens and emerging infectious disease. Register [here](#).

Most of our planning has focused on EMS and transport this past quarter, please see the update under the EMS and Transport workgroup. We have been fortunate to support and attend a couple of exercises in Oregon (big shout out to our Oregon partners for prioritizing special pathogen preparedness through these exercises!).

- **Greater Portland Metro Regional Special Pathogens workshop(s).** Shoutout to our Clackamas County (OR) partners (thank you, Kirsten Ingersoll for leading!) who are leading this CDC Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) funded workshop with regional partners. This project has involved a special pathogen gap assessment, multiple workshops (first one last week) and will continue into phase 2 to develop a Greater Portland Metro Special Pathogen Plan and Tabletop Exercise. We are excited to support this planning and exercise series and want to call out the great support by Jesse McGinty and the Legacy team as well.
- **Bend (OR) Special Pathogen Tabletop Exercise (TTX).** On Tuesday, March 5th partners in Oregon Region 7 came together at St. Charles Health System in Bend for a special pathogen discussion-based exercise (thank you, Kattaryna Stiles for leading!). There was a fantastic turn-out of over 50 people for this in-person exercise on a snowy day in Bend. Great discussion and learnings for the hospital partners from many departments; Local Public Health Authority from Deschutes, Jefferson, and Crook Counties as well as Oregon Health Authority; Fire and EMS agencies; Emergency Management Agencies; and several other regional partners. Jesse McGinty from Legacy Health provided education on NETEC and NSPS as well as the Biocontainment program and capability at Legacy to kick off the discussion. We're looking forward to seeing the After Action Report and supporting future collaboration.
- **NSPS Region 5 Tabletop Exercise (TTX).** Darrell and Christa were invited to observe the National Special Pathogen System of Care (NSPS) TTX on February 2nd. This TTX built on the NSPS Pilot Workshop held in Region 10 in May 2023 and was focused on NETEC's role as the Coordinating Body (CB) of the NSPS during a special pathogen response. Discussions supported interactions between the two Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Centers (RESPTCs) during a special pathogen response. They also focused on communications, coordination, and the roles & responsibilities of NSPS partners at different stages of a response.
- **Congo Line Full Scale Exercise (upcoming).** We are conducting a pediatric Full Scale Exercise (FSE) on March 21st with a focus on a pediatric patient presenting in our pediatric Emergency Department (ED) and requiring interpretive services support. We are excited for the opportunity to exercise and will provide additional details on our learnings in a future newsletter and quarterly meetings.

EMS/Transport

EMS and Transport Planning and Outreach

We've been doing outreach with State Department of Health leaders and EMS agencies, with more still to come. Our goal is to identify interested EMS agencies to support the development of regional transport teams (area yet to be defined) for patients with a special pathogen. We are looking for ways to partner with state public health agencies and others to integrate planning at the local, regional, state, and multi-state (Region 10) level. Our working objectives for this year are here:

- Identify safe and sustainable ground transport plans for high consequence infectious disease (HCID) patients with regional partners.
- Explore safe and sustainable air transport plans for HCID patients with regional partners.
- Develop strategies to increase the ground transport capability across Region 10.
- Identify and connect with EMS leads for system of care facilities, state EMS leads, and EMS agencies that support special pathogen EMS and transport planning within Region 10.
- Identify (tiered) staffing options for safe and effective care of a high consequence infectious disease patient for both ground and air transport situations.
- Identify a planning team for each state and update state Emerging Special Pathogen CONOPS focusing on transportation planning.
- Identify Region 10 opportunities to promote, educate, and integrate special pathogen preparedness into EMS and transport planning.

EMS/Transport continued...

FREE EMS Biosafety Transport Training – Date Announcement Soon!

We have been approved to bring in the 8-hour, one day **FREE** NETEC EMS Biosafety Transport training this summer (June – Sept, date and location TBD). We anticipate this training to be on the west side of Washington State, most likely in the Tacoma or S. Seattle area. For EMS agencies, please watch for that training announcement. The course will incorporate the 4-hour virtual EMS Biosafety Transport for Operators course and the overall learning objectives are:

- Distinguish among various high consequence infectious diseases (smallpox, MERS, Ebola Virus Disease, novel influenza) regarding their clinical characteristics and transmission mechanisms for the purpose of PPE selection and enhancing worker safety.
- Explain standard- and transmission-based infection control precautions.
- Describe environmental controls, work practices and safety equipment that will decrease the likelihood of inadvertent exposure to infectious bodily fluids.
- Describe waste management and post-mission health monitoring.
- Demonstrate donning and doffing of PPE under the direct supervision of faculty that have experience with transport and management of patients with high consequence infectious diseases.

National Special Pathogen System of Care (NSPS) Update

Work continues to define the role of the Coordinating Body (CB) in the National Special Pathogen System (NSPS) and updates to the levels of care. Level 1-3 facility minimum capabilities have been developed and the NSPS System of Care Committee is developing minimum capabilities for Level 4 facilities (hospital, urgent care, clinic, etc.). Upon conclusion of that work, next steps in the NSPS strategy implementation will be:

- Socializing the capabilities
- Developing transition and verification plans
- Sustainability of the NSPS

If you have any questions, please reach out to Christa or Darrell.

Recent webinar's, trainings and tools from NETEC

March 2024- Webinar with Dr. Natalia Rosenberg from the The Joint Commission Friday, March 15th from 10-11 PST. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

May 2024- Resource bundle to support development and implementation of high consequence infectious disease processes.

March 2024 – Webinar: PPE A to Z: PAPR's, Friday, March 22nd, 0900-1000 PST. Registration information coming soon.

[TJC Prepublication Requirements for High Consequence Infectious Disease](#)

[Identify, Isolate, Inform: Assessment, management and placement of PUI](#)

[Preparing Frontline Health Care Workers for Ebola Town Hall](#)

[Ebola Checklist for Frontline Health Care Facilities](#)

[Consulting for Hospitals](#)

[Consulting for Emergency Medical Services \(EMS\)](#)

[Consulting for Long-Term Care](#)

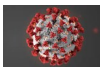
[Infection Prevention Learning Journey](#)

[The Hospital Incident Command System \(HICS\) for Special Pathogens](#)

[Identify, Isolate, and Inform - The I's Have It!](#)

[Pathogens in Pop Culture Podcast series: Jack Ryan, The Hot Zone, and Ebola](#)

Special Pathogen Resources links



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

[Frontline Hospital Planning Guide Special Pathogens](#)

[Biocontainment Unit \(BCU\) Training Strategies Toolkit](#)

[ASPR EMS Infectious Disease Playbook](#)

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

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

[NETEC Long Term Care Special Pathogens Infection Prevention and Control Workbook](#)