

Emergency Preparedness: Z CH 26

On-line content (1 H)

Review the information provided on the CDC website: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/health-professionals.asp> and place your answers to the following questions in the Z-CH # 26 drop box by 0800 on April 3, 2023.

COCA- clinical outreach and community activity:

Address what COCA does, who they serve, products and services.

COCA provides timely, accurate, and credible information to clinicians related to emergency preparedness and response and emerging public health threats. COCA fosters partnerships with national clinician organizations to strengthen information-sharing networks before, during, and after a public health emergency. COCA serves a wide range of clinical professionals, including: physicians, nurses, physician's assistants, pharmacists, paramedics, veterinarians, epidemiologists, public health practitioners, and state and local health department officials. COCA supports the varied information needs of clinicians by providing a variety of products and services:

- [Conference calls/webinars](#) with CDC guidance and recommendations on emerging health threats
- [COCA Newsletters](#) to rapidly disseminate important information to the healthcare community
- [Conference and Training Opportunities](#) organized or sponsored by federal agencies or COCA partner organizations
- [Clinical support via direct email](#) for questions and feedback
- [Continuing education opportunities](#)

CERC- Crisis emergency risk communication:

What is CERC?

DC'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.

What type of training is available through CERC?

CDC's CERC program provides trainings, tools, and resources to help health communicators, emergency responders, and leaders of organizations communicate effectively during emergencies.

What is the media's role in a crisis, disaster, or emergency? (CERC Corner)

CERC Corners are based on content from CDC's CERC Manual and bring CERC to life. CERC media plays a role in communicating about emergencies. The media serves as an emergency broadcast system to get vital information to the people who need it most. During the beginning of a crisis, reporters are less concerned with investigative journalism or making stories more dramatic. They, and their audience, are more interested in knowing what happened and how to stay safe.

Laboratory Information:

Open Biological Agent Emergencies and read over Ready.gov Bioterrorism under the info for the General Public section. Provide a summary of Bioterrorism including before, during, and after a Biological threat.

Before:

You may not know in the beginning if you have been exposed to a biohazard. Local health care providers will typically report a pattern of unusual illness or a surge in sick people seeking immediate medical attention. You would be alerted through an emergency radio or TV broadcast, a telephone call or a home visit from an emergency response worker.

To prepare:

1. Build an Emergency Supply Kit.
2. Make a Family Emergency Plan.
3. Check with your doctor to make sure everyone in your family has up-to-date immunizations.
4. Consider installing a High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter in your furnace return duct, which will filter out most biological agents that may enter your house.

During:

It will take time for signs of a biohazard to be recognized and information may be scarce. In the meantime you should do the following.

1. Watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet for official news and information on: Signs and symptoms of the disease, Areas in danger, if medications or vaccinations are being distributed, where to seek medical attention if you become ill
2. Quickly get away from the area if you notice a suspicious substance.

3. Cover your mouth and nose with layers of fabric that can filter the air but still allow you to breathe. Examples include two to three layers of cotton such as a t-shirt, handkerchief or towel.
4. Depending on the situation, wear a face mask to reduce inhaling or spreading germs.
5. If you have been exposed to a biological agent, remove and bag your clothes and personal items. Follow official instructions for disposal of contaminated items.
6. Wash yourself with soap and water and put on clean clothes.
7. Contact authorities and seek medical assistance. You may be advised to stay away from others or even to quarantine.
8. If your symptoms match those described and you are in the group considered at risk, immediately seek emergency medical attention.
9. Follow the instructions of doctors and other public health officials.
10. Avoid crowds.
11. Wash your hands with soap and water frequently.
12. Do not share food or utensils.

After: Make sure to look at and listen to all official warnings and instructions.

Health Alert network (HAN):

What is the purpose?

HANs purpose is to share cleared information from the CDC about urgent public health incidents with public information officers; federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local public health practitioners; clinicians; and public health laboratories.

Report on HAN No. 483-Important Updates on COVID-19 Therapeutics for Treatment and Prevention: Provide a summary of the information from this update including recommendations for clinicians and the public?

The update was issued on April 25th, 2022 and May 24th, 2022 in order to highlight to healthcare providers, public health departments, and the general public that the majority of Omicron sublineages circulating in the United States have reduced susceptibility to the monoclonal antibody, bebtelovimab, and the monoclonal antibody combination, cilgavimab and (EvusheldTM). It also stated that that following medications can prevent severe severe disease/hospitalizations, but have been underused:

-antiviral therapeutics

-ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir (Paxlovid)

-remdesivir (Veklury)

-molnupiravir (Lageviro)

This HAN Health Update provides health care professionals, public health officials, and the public with guidance on improving use of therapeutics for treatment of COVID-19 and strategies to prevent serious outcomes of COVID-19.

Recommendations for HCPs:

1. Stay up-to-date on the appropriate use and authorization of clinically-indicated therapeutics, drug interactions, and the circulating SARS-CoV-2 variants.
2. When treating patients, they should, review the patient's renal and hepatic function and all the patient's other medications.
3. Educate patients about the importance of early testing if COVID-19 symptoms develop, particularly if they have moderate or severe immunosuppression.
4. Because symptoms are similar, consider influenza testing for patients at high risk for severe influenza.
5. Educate patients at higher risk for severe COVID-19 that they are eligible for COVID-19 treatment if they develop mild or moderate COVID-19.
6. Consider and prescribe COVID-19 treatment for patients at higher risk for severe COVID-19
7. Obtain information on availability and access to outpatient COVID-19 treatments
8. Educate patients about prevention measures (including masks, ventilation) and the benefits of treatments.

Recommendations for the public:

1. If you have mild or moderate symptoms of COVID-19 AND you are aged 50 years or older, OR have a condition placing you at increased risk of getting very sick from COVID-19, get tested as soon as possible.
2. If you are 65 years old or older or have a condition placing you at risk for severe influenza, also consider getting an influenza test.
3. Find out how to get treatment.
4. Because antivirals work best early in the course of illness, start treatment within 5 to 7 days of symptom onset.
5. Contact a healthcare provider right away after a positive home COVID-19 test to discuss treatment options, even if your symptoms are mild, and especially if you are immunocompromised.
6. Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccination and getting an influenza vaccination; they are still the best ways to prevent severe outcomes of COVID-19 and influenza, including severe disease, hospitalization, and death.
7. Protect yourself, family, and friends, particularly if you have moderate to severe immunosuppression, with prevention measures against infection. These include wearing

high quality and well-fitting masks, keeping distance between themselves and others, improving ventilation, staying home when sick, and developing a care plan.