

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.

Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) provides timely, accurate, and credible information to clinicians related to emergency preparedness and response and emerging public health threats. It fosters partnerships with national clinician organization to strengthen information-sharing networks before, during, and after a public health emergency. COCA helps to strengthen the emergency response capacity of clinicians by disseminating evidence-based health information and public health emergency messages to clinicians, collaborating with clinicians to develop communication strategies that support health risk reduction opportunities during public emergencies, and providing and promoting emergency preparedness and response training opportunities for clinicians. COCA serves physicians, nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, paramedics, veterinarians, epidemiologist, public, health practitioners, and state and local health department officials. They also collaborate with national clinical organizations. COCA supports the varied information needs of clinicians by providing a variety of products and services which include 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, and continuing education opportunities.

CERC- Crisis emergency risk communication:

What is CERC?

CERC stands for Crisis Emergency Risk Communication. It provides trainings, tools, and resources to help health communicators, emergency responders, and leaders of organizations communicate effectively during emergencies.

What type of training is available through CERC?

Webinar training available include Introduction to CERC, the Psychology of a Crisis, Messages and Audiences, Community Engagement, Spokesperson, and Communication Channels. In person training includes modules on Introduction to CERC, Psychology of a Crisis, Messages and Audiences, Community Engagement, Crisis Communication Plans, the Role of Spokespersons, and Working with the Media and Social Media.

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

The role of media in a crisis, disaster, or emergency serves as an emergency broadcast system to get vital information to the people who need it most.

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.

Biological agents are organisms or toxins that can kill or disable people, livestock and crops, can be accidental or intentional, and both can make you sick. Bacteria, viruses and toxins are the three basic groups of biological agents. They can be spread by air, person-to-person contact, infected animals interacting with people, or when food and water are contaminated. Before a biohazard exposure it is important to build an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, check with your doctor to make sure everyone in your family has up-to-date immunizations, and consider intaking a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter in your furnace return duct, as it will filter out most biological agents that may enter your house. During a possible exposure it is important to watch TV, listen to the radio or check this internet for official news and information that may include signs and symptoms to look for, areas in danger, information about medications and vaccinations and where to seek medical attention if needed. It is also important to quickly get away from the area if a suspicious substance is noticed, cover your mouth and nose with layers of fabric that can filter the air but allow you to breath, and wear a face mask. If you have been exposed, remove and bag your clothes and personal items and follow instructions for disposal of contaminated items. Wash yourself with soap and water and put-on clean clothes, contact authorities and seek medical assistance, seek emergency medical assistance if symptoms match, follow the instructions of the health officials, avoid crowds, wash your hands with soap and water often, and do not share foods or utensils. After a biohazard exposure, it is important to pay close attention to all official warnings and instructions on how to proceed.

Health Alert network (HAN):

What is the purpose?

The purpose of the Health Alert network is to share cleared information about urgent public health incidents with public information officers. HAN collaborates with federal, state, territorial, tribal, and city/county partners to develop protocols and stakeholder relationships that will ensure a robust interoperable platform for the rapid distribution of public health information. It provides vital health information and the infrastructure to support dissemination at state and local levels.

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?

This update is to emphasize to healthcare providers, public health departments, and the public that the majority of Omicron sublineages circulating in the U.S. have reduced susceptibility to the monoclonal antibody, bebtelovimab, and the monoclonal antibody combination, cilgavimab and tixagevimab. There are antiviral therapeutics for the treatment of COVID-19, and can prevent severe disease, hospitalization, and death. They are widely available but underused. The update provides health care professionals, public health officials, and the public with guidance for treatment and prevention strategies to prevent serious outcomes of COVID-19. Recommendations for clinicians include staying up-to-date on the appropriate use and authorization of clinically-indicated therapeutics, drug interactions, and the SARS-CoV-2 variant, consider treatment plan for each of their eligible patients and review the patient's renal and hepatic function and their medications, educate patients about the importance of early testing if COVID-19 symptoms develop, consider influenza testing for high risk patients, educate patients at higher risk that they are eligible for treatment, consider and prescribe treatment for patients at higher risk, obtain information on availability and access to outpatient treatments, educate patients about prevention measures and the benefits of treatment, and concern about recurrence of symptoms. Recommendations for the public include when having symptoms and you are aged 50 years or older or have a condition placing you at increased risk of getting very sick to get tested as soon as possible, if you are 65 years old or older or have a condition placing you at risk for severe influenza, consider getting a flu test, find out how to get treatment as one of the preferred treatments involve 5 days of a prescribed oral medication, and because antivirals work best early, start treatment within 5-7 days of symptom onset. Other recommendations for the public include contacting the HCP right away after a positive home test, stay up to date on vaccination, and protect yourself, family, and friends, particularly if you have moderate to severe immunosuppression.