Unit 9: Emergency Preparedness
Z-Chapter 26
ONLINE CONTENT (1 H)

Unit Objectives:

- Identify regulatory initiatives undertaken to prevent and respond to future emergencies, including pandemics. (1,2,7)*
- Discuss the variety of diseases or agents that are likely to be involved in a biologic, chemical, or radiologic terrorism attack in addition to the clinical and community health consequences or each. (2,7)*
- Identify approaches to enhance personal and family preparedness for emergencies. (7)*

*Course Objectives

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 1, 2024.

COCA- clinical outreach and community activity:
Address what COCA does, who they serve, products and services.

The COCA prepares clinicians to respond to emerging health threats and public health emergencies by communicating relevant, timely information related to disease outbreaks, disasters, terrorism events, and other health alerts. Again, they serve clinicians (hospital employees) and their products and services range from articles and recent news from COCA, they have calls/webinars to help people learn more about emergency preparedness and response to public health threats, they have continuing education (earn free CME, CNE, CPH, ACPE, CEU, CECH, and AAVSB/RACE), COCA has newsletters to get new and updates guidance on natural disasters, infectious diseases, and other public health hazards, they offer conferences and trainings, resources for training, and people can join their mailing list as well. COCA also has partner organizations to ensure clinicians have timely, credible, and accurate information to provide care. Finally, there is the epidemic information exchange (Epi-X) which is a web-based network that serves as a powerful information exchange (connects public health professionals involved in identifying, investigating, and responding to public health threats).

CERC- Crisis emergency risk communication:
What is CERC?

The CERC (crisis and emergency risk communication) draws 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?

The CERC offers in-person and online training on Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication. Training is offered in webinars and in-person. This training helps public health professionals prepare to communicate in an emergency. Their lessons are based on public health emergencies,

evidence-based practices from the fields of risk and crisis communication, and psychology. Their in0person training is facilitated by the CDC CERC trainers that lasts one full business day, covering three core modules and two additional modules selected by the sponsor. A new style of training they have is online training.

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

One of the most important communication partners is media. The media serves as an emergency broadcast system to get vital information to the people who need it most. When the crisis starts, reporters are less concerned with investigating journalism or making stories dramatic, more importantly, they want to make sure the audience knows what happened and how to stay safe. Making sure the media gets reliable, updated information out first and reaching most people is a huge goal.

Laboratory Information:
Open Biological Agent Emergencies and read over Ready.gov Bioterrorism under the info for the General Public section. Provide a summary of Biohazard exposure including before: how to prepare, and during an event.

When accidently exposed, sometimes they can be obvious, sometimes they may be delayed. In most cases, local healthcare workers will report a pattern of unusual illness or there will be a wave of sick people seeking emergency attention. The public will be alerted through an emergency TV broadcast, a telephone call, or a home visit from a response worker. To prepare yourself, build an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, check with your doctor ro make sure everyone in your family has up-to-date immunizations, and consider installing a high-efficiency particulate air filter in your furnace return duct (filers our most biological agents that may enter your home). The first sign of an exposure will be when people notice symptoms of the disease caused by exposure of the bacteria, toxin, or virus. There may be no information shared immediately as health officials figures out what to do. During an event, watch TV, listen to the radio, or check the internet for information including: 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. You should quickly get away from the area of suspicious disease, cover your nose and mouth with a mask, handkerchief, or towel, if you have been exposed remove and bag your clothes and personal items (dispose of them), wash yourself with soap and water and put on clean clothes, contact authorities if you need medical assistance (may need to quarantine), if your symptoms match those described, immediately seek medical attention, follow the instructions of healthcare providers, avoid crowds, wash your hands with soap and water frequently, and do not share food or utensils.

Health Alert network (HAN):
What is the purpose?

The HAN is the CDC's primary method of sharing cleared information about urgent public health incidents with public information officers; federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local public health practitioners; clinicians; and public health laboratories. HAN collaborates with federal, state, territorials, 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. HAN providers vital health information and the infrastructure to support dissemination at state and local levels.

Report on HAN No. 503-Urgent Need to Increase Immunization Coverage for Influenza, COVID 19, and RSV and Use of Authorized/Approved Therapeutics in the Setting of Increased Respiratory Disease Activity during the 2023-2024 Winter Season. Provide a summary of the information from this update including recommendations for healthcare providers and the public?

HAN issued an alert to HCP to low vaccination rates against influenza, COVID-19, and RSV. Low vaccination rates, coupled with ongoing increases in national and international respiratory disease activity caused by multiple pathogens, including influenza viruses, SARS-CoV0s, and RSV, could lead to more severe disease and increased healthcare capacity strain in the coming weeks. There is a recent increase in cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children following SARS-CoV-2 infection in the US has been reported HCP should administer influenza, COVID-19, and RSV immunizations now to patients, if recommended (those at high-risk of progression to severe disease such as elderly, those with underlying medical conditions). HCPs should counsel patients about testing and other preventive measures, including covering coughs/sneezes, staying at home when sick, improving home ventilation/at work, and washing hands to protect themselves from respiratory diseases. Hospitalizations for respiratory diseases increased by 200% for influenzas, 51% for COVID-19, and 60% for RSV. Vaccination for influenza, COVID-19, and RSV reduces the risk of severe disease, including pneumonia, hospitalization, and death. Healthcare providers should administer influenza, COVID-19, and RSV immunizations now to patients, if recommended. Immunizations can prevent hospitalization and death associated with these respiratory diseases, especially important for those at increased risk for severe disease (infants, elderly, pregnant people, and those with underlying medical conditions). Vaccination of pregnancy people against influenza and COVID-19 protects both the patient and their infants who are too young to be vaccinated. Vaccination against RSV in pregnancy people protects the infant. Antiviral medications for influenza and COVID-19 should be recommended for all eligible patients, especially patients at high-risk of profession to severe disease such as older adults and people with certain underlying medical conditions.

Please be prepared to share and discuss your answers in class.

In order to receive full credit (1 H class time) for this assignment, it must be completed in its entirety by the due date/time assigned. Any assignments not completed in its entirety by the assigned due date and time will result in missed class time.