

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 of 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.

Address what COCA does- COCA fosters partnerships with national clinician organizations to strengthen information-sharing networks before, during, and after a public health emergency. Collaborating with clinicians to develop communication strategies that support health risk reduction opportunities during public emergencies. Providing and promoting emergency preparedness and response training opportunities for clinicians. **Who they serve-** 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. Services include conference calls/webinars, clinical support via direct email and continuing education.

CERC- Crisis emergency risk communication:

What is CERC?- It's a framework developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to guide effective communication during emergencies or crises, particularly in the realm of public health.

What type of training is available through CERC?- online courses, webinars, workshops, and other educational materials that cover topics such as risk communication principles, message development, audience engagement, and media relations.

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

The media plays a crucial role in disseminating information to the public, providing updates on the situation, sharing guidance from authorities, and helping people understand what actions they need to take 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 Biohazard exposure including before: how to prepare, and during an event.

Before- The local health care workers will report a pattern of unusual illness or there will be a wave of sick people seeking emergency 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. **How to prepare-** You will need an emergency supply kit, family emergency plan, have up to date immunizations, and install high-efficiency particulate air filter. **During an event-** Take immediate action to minimize exposure. Evacuate the area if necessary. Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Decontaminate affected individuals and surroundings. Report the incident to designated personnel. Arrange for medical evaluation and treatment.

Health Alert network (HAN):

What is the purpose?- To provide 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?**

The CDC has issued a Health Alert Network advisory highlighting low vaccination rates for influenza, COVID-19, and RSV, alongside a rise in respiratory diseases. This increases the risk of severe illness and strains on healthcare systems. Healthcare providers are urged to vaccinate eligible patients, recommend antivirals, and counsel on preventive measures like hand hygiene, covering coughs/sneezes, and staying home when sick. To reduce the spread of respiratory diseases.

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.