

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.

COCA (clinician outreach and communication activity) provides timely, accurate, and credible information to clinicians r/t to emergency preparedness and response and response to emerging public health threats. They foster 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 also collaborates with national clinician organizations, which in turns allows for extended outreach to a large number of clinicians.

COCA supports the varied information needs of clinicians by providing a variety of products and services such as conference calls/webinars with the CDC guidance and recommendations on emerging health threats, clinical support via direct email for questions and feedback, and continuing education opportunities.

CERC- Crisis emergency risk communication:

What is CERC?

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.

CERC program 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?

Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication (CERC) training can help responders and public health professionals prepare to communicate in an emergency. The CERC program offers training in webinar and in-person formats.

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

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 Biohazard exposure including before: how to prepare, and during an event.

Before a biohazard exposure where you are exposed accidentally or intentionally to biohazards may or may not be immediately obvious. Your 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.

To prepare, you would want to build an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and consider installing a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter in your furnace return duct, which helps filter out most biological agents that may enter your house.

During a possible exposure event, watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet for official news and information including: Signs and symptoms of the disease, and areas in danger. If medications or vaccinations are being distributed where to seek medical attention if you become

ill and quickly get away from the area if you notice a suspicious substance. 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. Depending on the situation, wear a face mask to reduce inhaling or spreading germs. 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. Wash yourself with soap and water and put on clean clothes. Contact authorities and seek medical assistance. You may be advised to stay away from others or even to quarantine. If your symptoms match those described and you are in the group considered at risk, immediately seek emergency medical attention. Follow the instructions of doctors and other public health officials. Avoid crowds. Wash your hands with soap and water frequently. Do not share food or utensils.

Health Alert network (HAN):

What is the purpose?

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.

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?

CDC is issuing a Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to alert healthcare providers to low vaccination rates against influenza, COVID-19, and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus). Low vaccination rates, coupled with ongoing increases in national and international respiratory disease activity caused by multiple pathogens, including influenza viruses, SARS-CoV-2, and RSV, could lead to more severe disease and increased healthcare capacity strain in the coming weeks. Healthcare providers should administer influenza, COVID-19, and RSV immunizations now to patients, if recommended. Healthcare providers should recommend antiviral medications for influenza and COVID-19 for all eligible patients, especially patients at high-risk of progression to severe disease such as older adults and people with certain underlying medical conditions. Healthcare providers should also counsel patients about testing and other preventive measures, including covering coughs/sneezes, staying at home when sick, improving ventilation at home or work, and washing hands to protect themselves and others against respiratory diseases.

Providers should leverage all available tools to increase immunizations against influenza, COVID-19, and RSV. Healthcare providers should administer influenza, COVID-19, and RSV immunizations now to all patients, if recommended. Providers are encouraged to report cases of MIS-C to their jurisdictional health department. Antiviral medications are currently underutilized but are important to treat patients, especially persons at high-risk of progression to severe disease

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with influenza or COVID-19, including older adults and people with certain underlying medical conditions. Healthcare providers should counsel patients about other everyday preventive actions they can do to protect themselves against respiratory diseases including testing, covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands, wearing a well-fitting mask if a patient chooses to wear a mask, and improving ventilation in home and work environments.

The CDC is recommending for the public to talk to their healthcare provider about immunizations recommended for you and your household or family members, including children. If you develop symptoms of a respiratory illness, talk to your healthcare provider about testing and treatment options. Be aware of everyday prevention measures including covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands, staying home when sick, wearing a well-fitting mask if you choose to wear a mask, and improving airflow at home or at work. Use the [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) website to find a location to receive COVID-19 and flu vaccines. Uninsured and underinsured adults can receive COVID-19 vaccines at no cost to them through CDC's Bridge Access Program. Pregnant people and older adults can use the manufacturer's website ([Pfizer.com](https://www.pfizer.com)) to find a location offering the Pfizer Abrysvo RSV vaccine.

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.