

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 prepares clinicians to respond to emerging health threats and public health threats and public health emergencies by communicating relevant, timely information related to disease outbreaks, disasters, terrorism events, and other health alerts.

COCA serves a wide range of clinical professionals (physicians, nurses, pa's, pharmacists, paramedics, veterinarians, epidemiologists, public health practitioners, and state and local health departments officials.

COCA provides calls/webinars, Clinical support via direct mail, and continuing education opportunities.

CERC- Crisis emergency risk communication:

What is CERC?

CERC stands for Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication, it provides trainings, tools, and resources to help health communicators, emergency responders, and leaders of organizations communicate effectively during emergencies. This is done by taking past events and learning from mistakes using the fields of public health, psychology, and emergency risk communication.

What type of training is available through CERC?

Training is in the form of webinars, in person, and online training sessions. The goal is to help responders to effectively communicate in emergencies. These include, Intro 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 media plays an integral role by communicating the message to the intended audience to help inform the great public of the news. This helps share the information via routes that the public already engages with and frequently assesses.

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, build an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, make sure everyone is up to date on vaccinations in your family, and consider installing a High-Efficiency Particular Air (HEPA) that will filter in your furnace return duct which will filter out most biological agents that may enter your house.

During an event, watch TV and listen to the radio or check internet official news for information (s/s of disease, areas in danger, medications and vaccinations, where to seek medical attention), Quickly get away for the area if you notice a suspicious substance, Cover your mouth and nose with multiple layers of fabric, wear a face mask to reduce inhaling or spreading germs, if you were exposed- remove and bag your clothes and personal items, follow instructions from doctors and other officials, avoid crowds, and don't share food/utensils.

Health Alert network (HAN):

What is the purpose?

It is the primary method of sharing cleared information about urgent public health incidents with public information officers. Collaboration with federal, state, territorial, tribal, and city/county partners helps to develop protocols to ensure development of a robust distribution platform. The messaging system directly and indirectly transmits health alerts, advisories, updates, and info services to more than one million recipients.

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?

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. This is to prevent hospitalizations and death related to respiratory diseases. Antiviral medications should also be utilized to treat patients with high risk of progressions to severe disease including the elderly and those with preexisting 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.