

**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:

- COCA stands for Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) and is a way for Doctors/Nurses to keep track of the most updated information by the CDC for health threats, training opportunities and a way to receive direct support.

**CERC- Crisis emergency risk communication:**

What is CERC?

- CERC stands for Communicators who can use Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication (CERC). CDC's CERC program provides resources and training to help people who work in healthcare to communicate more efficiently during emergencies.

What type of training is available through CERC?

- Webinars
- In person trainings
- Online trainings
- Scenarios to practice and run through on your own.

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

- To get out vital information to the audience, and tell them 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.

- “Biological agents can be spread when they get sprayed into the air, with person-to-person contact, when animals are infected and then interact with people, or when food and water are contaminated” (*Biohazard exposure 2023*).
- Healthcare workers will begin to notice an influx of issues resembling the same sign and symptoms.
- To help prepare for a biological exposure emergency:
  - Build and Emergency Supply Kit
  - Build a Family Emergency Plan
  - Check with your doctor to make sure everyone in your family has up-to-date immunizations.
  - Consider installing a High - Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter in your furnace return duct, which will filter out most biological agents that may enter your house (*Biohazard exposure 2023*).
- During the event:
  - Watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet for official news and 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
  - 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 (*Biohazard exposure 2023*).

*Biohazard exposure.* Biohazard Exposure | Ready.gov. (2023, April 24).  
<https://www.ready.gov/biohazard>

### **Health Alert network (HAN):**

What is the purpose?

- It is a method of sharing information of urgent public health incidence, with people such as “federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local public health practitioners; clinicians; and public health laboratory” (*Health Alert Network (HAN) 2022*).

**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?

- There has been a report of a recent increase of respiratory illnesses in multiple countries and the CDC tracks and keeps these records. Currently in the US there is an increase of RSV, SAR, and Influenza. The CDC keeps track of the vaccinated vs. Unvaccinated and the correlation is with the areas with the influx of respiratory illnesses. The HAN report has a recommendation that providers can review to be able to try and increase the number of patients that get vaccinated, as to what they could say, how they can approach the patient about vaccines and the knowledge needed for each vaccine so the physicians can understand and answer questions appropriately.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, March 7). *Health Alert Network (HAN)*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.  
<https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/index.asp>

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.***