

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 provides timely, accurate, and credible information to clinicians related to emergency preparedness and response and emerging public health threats.

They serve physicians, nurses, physician's assistants, pharmacists, paramedics, veterinarians, epidemiologists, public health practitioners, and state and local health department officials. COCA offers continuing education opportunities, clinical support via direct email for questions and feedback, and conference calls/webinars with CDC guidance and recommendations on emerging health threats.

CERC- Crisis emergency risk communication:

What is CERC?

CERC provides training, 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?

CERC offers webinars, online training, in-person training, and practice scenarios to help prepare to communicate during emergencies.

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

The media's role is to serve as an emergency broadcast system to get vital information to the people who need it most.

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 an exposure, local health care workers will report a pattern of unusual illness or there will be a wave of sick people seeking medical attention. A person will be alerted through an emergency TV or radio broadcast, a phone call, or a visit from an emergency response worker. To prepare for an exposure, it is important to pack an emergency supplies bag, make a family emergency plan, and possibly install a HEPA filter in the furnace return duct. During an exposure, it is important to watch TV, listen to the radio, or check the internet for official news regarding the exposure. This information can contain signs and symptoms of the disease, affected areas, if medications/vaccinations are being distributed, and when to seek medical attention. Quickly get away from areas where a suspicious substance is noticed, cover your mouth and nose with layers of fabric that filter air but still allow breathing, wear a face mask, remove and bag personal items/clothes if exposed to a biological agent, wash hands with soap and water and put on clean clothes, contact authorities and seek medical assistance, and follow instructions of doctors and healthcare providers. If symptoms align those described during exposure, immediately seek emergency medical attention. Avoid crowds, wash hands with soap and water frequently, and do not share food or utensils.

Health Alert network (HAN):

What is the purpose?

The purpose of the HAN is to share 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?

This update stated that healthcare providers should administer influenza, COVID-19, and RSV immunizations to patients if recommended. They should also 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. These providers should 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.

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.