

**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.

Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) provides timely, accurate, and credible information to clinicians related to emergency preparedness and response and emerging public health threats. COCA serves physicians, nurses, physician's assistants, pharmacists, paramedics, veterinarians, epidemiologists, public health practitioners, and state and local health department officials. COCA products and services: Conference calls and webinars with CDC guidance and recommendations on emerging health threats, clinical support via direct email for questions and feedback, continuing education opportunities.

**CERC- Crisis emergency risk communication:**

What is CERC? CERC is the application of evidence-based principles to effectively communicate during emergencies. These principles are used by public health professionals and public information officers to provide information that helps individuals, stakeholders, and entire communities make the best possible decisions for themselves and their loved ones

What type of training is available through CERC? Training offered in webinars and in-person format. CERC trainings are based on lessons learned during public health emergencies, evidence-based practices from the fields of risk and crisis communication, and psychology.

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.

**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.

Bioterrorism is when bacteria, viruses, or toxins are released intentionally or unintentionally and can make people sick. They are spread by being sprayed into the air, person-to-person contact, and interactions with infected animals, food, or water. To prepare, build an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, make sure everyone is up-to-date on immunizations, consider installing a High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter in your furnace return duct, which filters out biological agents. During an event, watch the tv or radio for symptoms of the illness, areas being affected, immunizations or cures should you fall ill, and where to seek medical attention if you get sick, get away from suspicious areas, avoid crowds, wear fabric over your mouth and nose to help filter, if in contact with the substance be sure to remove clothing, bag them, and wash your skin and hair. Don't share utensils, contact authorities if you suspect you may have been exposed if quarantine is warranted, and seek help if you begin to show symptoms.

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

What is the purpose?

HAN is the 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?

The United States has seen an increase in emergency room visits related to respiratory illnesses including influenza, Covid-19, and RSV. The CDC received reports of MIS-C which is a complication that occurs 1 month after having Covid-19. These respiratory illnesses can cause serious complications, especially those who are not vaccinated and/or immunocompromised. Vaccination rates are dropping and the most reported reasons for this include: lack of provider recommendation, concerns or issues about unknown or serious side effects, occurrence of mild side effects, and lack of time or forgetting to get vaccinated. Recommendations suggest that all providers administer at least one dose of vaccination if suggested, report cases of MIS-C, administer antiviral medications to reduce the risk of complications, educate on preventative actions. The CDC should work on reminder calls for those who still need their vaccinations, broadcast low vaccination rates and publicize local vaccination coverage data. The public should ask about vaccinations, partake in preventative measures, talk to a provider if you develop symptoms to get tested and discuss treatment, utilize the website to find vaccination locations near you.

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.***