

RESILIENCE

The NYC Healthcare Coalition Newsletter

March 2023

Volume 1 | Issue 2



Resilience is a newsletter dedicated to the importance of preparing the NYC healthcare system for all hazards and the tireless professionals who do this critical but challenging work. It highlights just a sample of NYC Healthcare Coalition members' impactful efforts to prepare their healthcare sectors and save lives.

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Policy Updates

ASPR reorganized its structure

The Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) recently completed a reorganization meant to strengthen its operational capabilities, improve response coordination, and improve how it works with partners. Read more about these changes at ASPR in [this blog post](#) from the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.

ASPR is revising HPP's capabilities

ASPR's Health Care Readiness team is reviewing and revising the Hospital Preparedness Program's (HPP) core [capabilities](#) that will guide the next five-year project period. More details about ASPR's revisions are forthcoming and the NYC Health Department will share information with NYCHCC partners when available.

CDC reorganized its structure

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently completed a reorganization to expedite sharing scientific findings and making policy decisions, prioritize health communications, and improve accountability. In particular, the CDC's Center for Preparedness and Response has been renamed the Office of Readiness and Response and elevated [to sit within the Office of the Director of CDC](#), emphasizing the importance the agency is placing on improving public health preparedness across the country and in CDC. Visit the CDC's [Moving Forward](#) page to learn more.

Policy Updates (continued)

NYS budget season has started

Governor Hochul recently released the [FY24 Executive Budget](#), which includes provisions that would significantly change healthcare policy in the state. Among others, these include expansion of healthcare professional scopes, transfer regulatory authority of healthcare professional licensure to the NYS Department of Health, and reform and expand the EMS system. More details about this legislation can be found in the [Budget Briefing Books](#), and specifically the [Healthcare Section](#).

Reauthorizing PAHPA

The Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) was first signed into law by Congress in 2006 – and reauthorized in 2013 and 2019 – authorizes many federal biodefense and preparedness programs, including ASPR's HPP and CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program. Most preparedness programs in PAHPA will expire at the end of FY2023; therefore, Congress is reviewing the legislation with the intent to reauthorize PAHPA for another six years. This reauthorization presents an opportunity for local stakeholders to provide input to improve PAHPA to better meet responders' needs. Bipartisan leaders in the House of Representatives [are seeking information](#) on how to reauthorize this law.

State of Emergency: Mpox

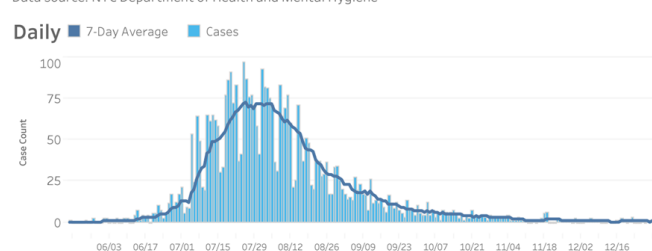
On February 1, NYC declared an end to the mpox outbreak as transmission remained very low in the city for two consecutive months. More than 100,000 New Yorkers got vaccinated to protect against the virus, with the number of vaccines administered in NYC exceeding the amount administered in 49 states across the country. The significant contributions and engagement by the LGBTQ+ community in NYC were essential to the effectiveness of the response to this outbreak.

The NYC Health Department released a [final data report](#) about the mpox outbreak in 2022, which showed a total of 3,821 cases occurring in NYC. While the outbreak is now over, mpox transmission is still occurring at a low level in NYC. Healthcare providers should continue [testing patients for mpox](#) when they present with symptoms of the virus.

NYC Mpox 2022 Summary: Cases

Mpox Response (2022)

Data as of January 15, 2023, for mpox cases reported between May 19, 2022, and December 31, 2022
Data source: NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene



Cumulative
3,821

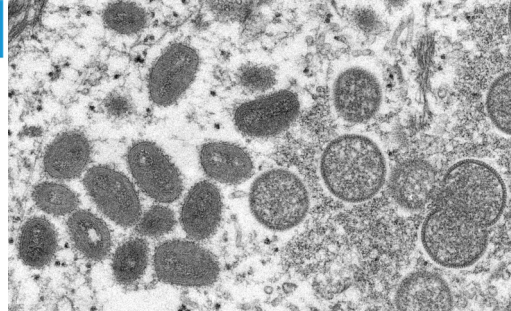


Photo: CDC

Coalition Actions

A Safety Net Hospital's Response to NYC's 2022 Mpox Outbreak

Similar to when the COVID-19 pandemic reached the U.S. in early 2020, NYC was the epicenter of the 2022 mpox outbreak. Cases began to rise in June 2022, primarily in the social networks of men who have sex with men (MSM).

The special pathogens program (SPP) at NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue (Bellevue) includes a team of dedicated clinicians and support staff who care for patients who have a high-consequence infectious disease as well as provide education, leadership, and training to Bellevue staff and medical facilities within [Region 2](#).

The SPP collaborated with multiple departments within Bellevue, across the NYC Health + Hospitals system, and with the NYC Health Department to swiftly provide ambulatory testing, immunizations - including some of the first vaccinations with the JYNNEOS vaccine in NYC - patient-centered inpatient care, and outpatient therapeutics.

Bellevue's response efforts included:

- Infectious disease specialists and general internists prescribing Tecovirimat under an expanded access investigational new drug protocol primarily through telehealth visits, which increased accessibility and aligned with infection control precautions
- Implementation of procedures for mpox testing and vaccination that minimized risk of infection for both patients, staff, and visitors
- Repurposing two COVID-19 vaccine pods to give post-exposure mpox vaccinations
- Coordinating the administration of mpox testing using the emergency department for walk-ins and the adult primary care clinic for tests by appointment only. This approach facilitated accessible, reliable testing, which was essential to reduce transmission and understand the scale of the nationwide outbreak
- Inpatient care for mpox patients in SPP bio-containment rooms.

An invaluable element to Bellevue's rapid response was placement of a dedicated team of doctors, nurses, epidemiologist, and pharmacists on standby to establish protocols for screening, testing, treatment, vaccination, inpatient care, and patient transportation, which helped the hospital provide high-quality, patient-centered care.

Special Pathogens Unit



Photo: Bellevue

In addition, the SPP's routine Enhanced Contact personal protective equipment (PPE) training coupled with a Just-In-Time training program helped support staff safety and infection control.

Once viral transmission and virulence were better understood, the response was de-escalated to routine care with proper education and training for use of PPE. Bellevue's designation of the SPP to lead the facility's response to mpox was an efficient approach to provide quality care, maintain infection control, and establish effective response policies until transmission was better understood and care could be routinized.

Thanks to the dedication, passion, and leadership of all Bellevue staff, patients were provided with quality testing, vaccinations, treatment, and care.

This is an excerpt from an article in *Health Security* titled: [The Role of a Tertiary Level Safety Net Hospital in New York City's 2022 Mpox Outbreak](#), about Bellevue's response to the mpox outbreak.

Staff in PPE



Photo: Bellevue

Mpox Vaccine Hub



Photo: Bellevue

Preparedness Efforts on Staten Island

The Staten Island Community Organizations Active in Disaster (SI COAD) is in the process of reviewing its mission and vision through visioning sessions with staff and a steering committee. These sessions will allow the SI COAD to evaluate, update, and maintain best practices and approaches to borough-wide disaster preparedness and response.

SI COAD began year two of NYC Emergency Management's Strengthening Communities Through Recovery program, for which it will continue developing a borough-wide emergency response plan and engaging in efforts to strengthen disaster preparedness.

Based on gaps identified in the SI COAD's recent Hazard Vulnerability Analysis, it launched a campaign to conduct monthly trainings for members. Earlier this month, COAD partner JCC of Staten Island hosted dual trainings:

- Active Shooter Preparedness, by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
 - ◆ CISA aims to enhance preparedness through a "whole community" approach by providing products, tools, and resources to help you prepare for and respond to an active shooter incident.
 - ◆ Resources:
 - ◇ [Active Shooter Emergency Plan Video](#)
 - ◇ [Active Shooter Emergency Plan Template](#)
 - ◇ [Active Shooter Booklet](#)
 - ◇ [Active Shooter Pamphlet](#)
 - ◇ [Active Shooter Pocket Card](#)
 - ◇ FBI Video [Run. Hide. Fight.](#)
- Stop the Bleed, led in collaboration between Staten Island University Hospital and Richmond University Medical Center



SI COAD also completed two major projects in partnership with the NYC Health Department to enhance response efforts and situational awareness of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the recent Mpox outbreak. The Vaccine Equity Partner Engagement (VEPE) program and Mpox Awareness and Prevention Program (MAPP) provided the SI COAD the capacity to implement meaningful actions to address these major healthcare crises at the same time. These programs focused on communications, tailored messaging, message dissemination, in-person engagement, and vaccine navigation across the COVID-19 pandemic and Mpox outbreak.

Lastly, SI COAD launched two public awareness campaigns to address growing concerns surrounding weather related disasters and mental health during the current phase of the pandemic:

- SI COAD's [Climate Change Campaign](#), a public awareness campaign that seeks to educate our Staten Island communities and coalition members about the impacts of climate change and how they exacerbate weather related disasters, which are known to affect marginalized communities most significantly.
- SI COAD's [Mental Health Campaign](#), a public awareness campaign designed to destigmatize mental health issues and provide readily accessible resources to our coalition.

Addressing Transportation Needs in the Home Care Sector

The NYS Association of Health Care Providers has undertaken a project in HPP BP4 to connect home care providers with transportation service providers to assess the need and capacity for patient evacuation during an emergency.

This activity builds on needed improvements identified from participation in the Long Term Care Exercise Program (LTCEXP), including the need to build and maintain relationships with key service providers – like patient transportation – that can be quickly leveraged during emergency response and recovery.

Expected project outcomes include:

- Connection of NYC home care providers with transportation service providers located in the same community
- Define available transportation options for patients who will need evacuation during an emergency
- Build contact lists of transportation vendors for providers to have available in an emergency

The inaugural meeting for this project was held on February 1 and included attendance by six home care providers, two transportation service providers, and emergency preparedness representatives from the NYC Health Department and NYS Department of Health.

The next project meeting is scheduled for spring 2023 and work is ongoing to recruit additional transportation service providers to participate.

Any suggestions or recommended transportation service providers are welcome! Email [Carole Deyoe](mailto:Carole.Deyoe@nychcc.org) with questions and contacts.



NYCHCC Burn Surge Tabletop Exercise

On February 16, NYCHCC members participated in a burn surge tabletop exercise to test members' ability to deliver timely and efficient patient care when demand for care exceeds available supply.

Exercise objectives aligned with the [ASPR HPP medical surge capability](#) (#4) and the NYCHCC Burn Surge Annex:

- Validate HCC members' ability to activate their Mass Casualty Plans within the first 12 hours
- Identify methods HCC members will use to triage patients for treatment or transfer to specialty facilities within first 12 hours
- Discuss how HCC members will coordinate during the response when clinical resources are strained or depleted within two hours of the onset of the incident or arrival of patients

The exercise scenario involved a fire and subsequent stage collapse at the NYC Circus on Randall's Island resulting in initial burn and crush injuries followed by additional crush/trample injuries from the evacuating crowd.

Prior to the exercise, burn care experts Dr. Philip Chang and Jamie Heffernan from the William Randolph Hearst Burn Center at Weill Cornell Medical Center and Kathe Conlon from the Eastern Regional Burn Disaster Consortium presented on special considerations for burn patients and treatments at burn and non-burn care centers.

Over 200 NYCHCC members participated in this exercise, representing hospital networks, independent hospitals, subject matter expert coalitions and partners from NYC Emergency Management and Greater New York Hospital Association.



Following this successful exercise, the NYC Health Department surveyed participants for feedback and conducted a hotwash with participants on March 1. More information about the lessons learned from this exercise will be shared with NYCHCC members on the [NYCHCC website](#).

Spotlight on other exercises:

CHCANYS held a primary care functional exercise, also on February 16, which tested the readiness of primary care facility members. Work on the after-action report (AAR) and improvement plan (IP) is underway and the final AAR/IP will be provided to the NYC Health Department by the end of March.

Announcements

HPP Budget Period 4 News

- Mid-term performance period ended on February 28 and final performance period ends June 1.
- **Reminder:** BP4 program documents are located on the NYCHCC website [here](#).

HPP Budget Period 5 News

- The NYC Health Department has received BP5 continuation guidance from ASPR, which requires a response by April 14, and is currently developing a response.
- Scopes of work will be developed soon, and NYC Health Department program managers will be reaching out very soon to hold discussions about BP5 projects and deliverables.

NYS Facility Evacuation Planning Application (FEPA) due March 31!

- FEPA is a planning tool designed by the NYS Department of Health (DOH) to log evacuation planning information, chiefly related to evacuation and patient send/receive arrangements. FEPA serves as an all-hazards planning tool for the state.
- As in years' past, healthcare facilities across the state are required to complete an annual update of FEPA data. **NYC facilities that do not complete this exercise by March 31 can be sanctioned by DOH.**
- View the [recorded FEPA Webinar](#).

Coming Up

- The Queens Coalition is hosting an Emergency Preparedness Symposium on March 9. To register, visit [the NYCHCC website](#) and go to [Emergency Preparedness Symposium](#).
- The Brooklyn Coalition and NYC Health Department will be cohosting a NYCHCC Leadership Council Meeting on April 19. Additional details coming soon!
- SI COAD has two general meetings coming up: April 3 at 10:00am; and June 5 at 10:00am
- **Upcoming exercises:**
 - ◆ **March 14 and 15:** Functional exercise for nursing home and adult care facilities for the Long Term Care Exercise Program (LTCEXP)
 - ◆ **April 4:** Tabletop exercise for home care and hospice facilities for the LTCEXP
 - ◆ **April 25 and 26:** Tabletop exercise for nursing home and adult care facilities

Feedback?

What do you think of this newsletter?
What else would be helpful to include?
Suggestions for our next issue?

[Provide your feedback here](#)