



## Mission

Centers for Public Health Preparedness (CPHP) train front-line workers in state and local health departments, preparing them to protect American citizens in the event of a public health emergency – inclusive of infectious, environmental, occupational, and terrorist threats. Created in 2000 with CDC funding, the network of 27 centers located in graduate, accredited schools of public health has already reached hundreds of thousands of public health workers through applied training and targeted technical expertise aimed at protecting communities in real-world crises. The CPHP network of world-renowned preparedness experts, convened and coordinated by the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), ensures a strong public health response is available across the nation when and where it is needed.

## Importance

Since 9/11, New York State has responded to the need to prepare for terrorist attacks, large-scale disasters, and outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases. Therefore, it is important for public health agencies and professionals at all levels to be informed and trained to respond utilizing best practices. Creating disaster-related policies and training initiatives often involves extensive review and consensus-building. As a federally-funded entity, the Albany Center for Public Health Preparedness (the Center) is able to offer timely training programs, technical advice, and evaluation support.

The Center provides relevant emergency preparedness training, resources, and assistance to public health professionals and their community response partners through multiple modalities, including live and online courses, workshops and conferences, drills and exercises, satellite broadcasts, webcasts and archived video stream files, videotapes and DVDs. Given the need to reach over 18,700 public health workers from 57 counties across upstate New

York, the increasing use of distance learning mechanisms has proven extremely effective.

## Accomplishments

- Over 17,000 public health and other community response partners (physicians, pharmacists, veterinarians, law enforcement, first responders, public health students, etc.) from all 50 states, as well as international locations (1,279 international learners to date) have registered for the Center's self-paced, interactive online courses as of February 1, 2007. A sample of courses follow:
  - *Terrorism, Preparedness and Public Health: An Introduction* (successfully completed by 4,712 individuals). "It is one of the best CME courses I have ever taken. The context level was perfect and acted as a refresher course as well as introducing new material." (Clinical Specialist, San Diego State University Institute for Public Health)
  - *Preparedness and Community Response to Pandemics* (successfully completed by 3,493 individuals, over 1,000 of whom reside in New York State). The Center is currently in partnership with USAID in Bolivia to develop a Spanish script of the course to be accessible through the Center's website and the US NAVY requested material to complement in-house training for their physicians and nurses. The course is posted on the CDC influenza training website, making it accessible to public health professionals nationwide, and it has been adapted into a print version for CE Source - a continuing education journal for radiology technologists.
  - *Personal Preparedness* (successfully completed by 47 individuals since the January 2007 launch) "Hospitals are required by their HRSA grant deliverables to educate EVERY employee about personal preparedness. I think this course could very well satisfy (or help to satisfy) that requirement." (Director of Emergency Preparedness, Upstate NY Hospital Association)
  - *Emergency Preparedness Training for Hospital Clinicians* (successfully completed by 700 individuals) "The comprehensible yet specific overview of what medical professionals will likely encounter/be asked to do in the event of

an emergency... helps me in my role as an Emergency Preparedness (EP) coordinator who oversees the EP of such personnel. It was simple and understandable, much more helpful than the ICS 100 course as it was specific to healthcare."

- *HazMat Transportation Accidents: Using the Emergency Response Guidebook* (successfully completed by 211 individuals since the January 2007 launch) "Excellent course. Hope there will be more in the future that can be utilized by Emergency Management professionals."
- *Working in a Point of Dispensing (POD)* (successfully completed by 727 individuals) "I think the whole training was very useful. I will be utilizing this within our Health Dept and MRC units as part of our training program."

Over 10,340 certificates and continuing education credits have been issued for successful completion of these courses to date. Other national organizations have promoted and utilized material from our courses, including the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO), New York State Emergency Management Office (NYSEMO), Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS), World Health Organization (WHO), Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), USA Prepare, National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC), Child Health Corporation of America (CHCA), and the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

- Now in its fourth year of monthly satellite broadcasts/webcasts, the Center reaches over 4,600 viewers across 50 states and international sites (multiple Canadian sites view regularly and other sites occasionally, including U.S. military bases/territories in Guam and the Virgin Islands, India, Fiji, Uganda, Sweden and Australia) each month. In addition, many academic, state and federal distance learning systems further disseminate our programs, including the Department of Defense Medical Interagency Satellite Training Program (357 sites), University of Alaska Television (57 sites), California Community Colleges Satellite Network (109 sites), University of North Carolina at Charlotte Broadcast Communications (accessible by 350,000 households in the Charlotte-area, including 25,000 students at UNC Charlotte, and many thousands more from multiple other colleges and K-12 schools), Veterans Administration (covering three

work shifts across four time zones), Florida Distance Learning Satellite Network (187 sites), the University of Tennessee Outreach Center's Telehealth Network (98 sites), and the Adirondack Area Network (45+ sites). Archived video streams have received over 19,000 hits to date and the Center has distributed more than 6,600 videotaped copies.

- The Center provides other training, resources and technical assistance to local public health professionals and their community response partners on a variety of preparedness topics, including:
  - Drills and exercise design, implementation and evaluation (reaching 10 upstate New York county public health departments to date)
  - Chemical and radiological awareness training (reaching 175 in-class participants to date)
  - Communicable disease/bioterrorism training (reaching 132 in-class participants in 2003, with more state-wide students expected in 2007)
  - Pandemic influenza training and resources
- The Center develops, delivers and supports graduate level study and research related to emergency preparedness, including:
  - *The Certificate Program in Public Health Surveillance and Preparedness* (15-credit graduate level program)
  - *Emergency Preparedness: The Public Health Perspective*
  - *Special Topics in Public Health Preparedness*
  - *Emergency Preparedness in Schools*

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