

Corewell Health Region V Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) Newsletter

[February 2024]

Corewell Health is one of 13 federally funded Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Centers (RESPTCs). Our RESPTC Program works to enhance and support the National Special Pathogen System of Care (NSPS) to safely and effectively manage special pathogen response.



To learn more about the Corewell Health RESPTC, contact Tim Scholten, Program Manager, at Timothy.Scholten@corewellhealth.org

Current Outbreaks and a Funky Bug

Level 4	Avoid all travel	None
Level 3	Reconsider nonessential travel	None
Level 2	Practice enhanced precautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Polio • Diphtheria • Mpox • Chikungunya • Yellow Fever
Level 1	Practice usual precautions	CDC - Level 1

CDC - Mpox

-Cause: Monkeypox virus

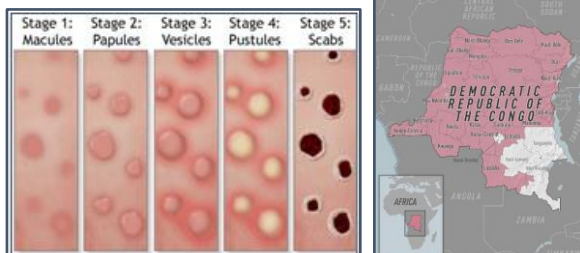
-Transmission: Contact with skin lesions or bodily fluids of infected animals or humans (alive and dead), intimate contact, respiratory droplets, and materials infected with virus

-Symptoms: Fever, rash – lesions that all start at the same time and evolve together, headache, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes

-Vaccine available: yes

-Isolation: Negative pressure room if available, airborne (N95 mask) and contact (gown and gloves)

-Current outbreak: 22 of 26 provinces in Democratic Republic of Congo



Region V Special Pathogen Response Updates

The Corewell Health RESPTC team will visit the University of Minnesota Medical Center (UMMC) in March to meet with the UMMC RESPTC team. During this visit we will continue to collaborate on how to engage in special pathogen response efficiently and effectively as a whole FEMA region.

Region V will participate in the second NSPS Pilot Workshop on February 2nd, 2024.

Corewell Health will be conducting a full-scale EMS transport exercise with Bronson Battle Creek in April 2024.

The 2024 MI SPRN Conference is being planned for June 2024.

Click [here](#) to visit this month's featured NETEC News & Blog



“I” Have It – Part 1: Identify

In this series of short articles, we will discuss the three “I’s” of special pathogen response: Identify, Isolate, and Inform. Our first stop on the journey of first contact protection is **Identify**. Identification relies heavily on travel screening questions. When patients access healthcare, they should be asked travel screening questions which focus on travel to areas of the world where known special pathogen outbreaks are occurring. It is important that these questions are read verbatim from the documentation system. You may not realize it, but these questions change, and electronic medical records are designed to send an alert based on the response in conjunction with symptomatology. The travel screening questions focus on travel history, symptoms, and contact with possibly exposed travelers. These questions became ingrained in our daily lives during the Covid-19 pandemic. They were in use for special pathogens before Covid-19 and special pathogen identification is the primary purpose of completing this step in patient questioning. They are not just Covid-19 screening questions; they are meant to alert and protect healthcare workers and other patients against highly contagious and deadly special pathogens. If a pop-up is telling you to call a number or contact a specific person, DO NOT OVERRIDE IT! You should follow the directions precisely. Identification is the first step to protecting you, our team members, and our patients. Once a patient is identified as being potentially infected with a high consequence pathogen, you should isolate. Check out our next newsletter for an overview of steps to take when isolating a patient that may have been infected with a special pathogen.