

WHAT OTHER LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAY ABOUT NYCEPCE TRAINING MATERIALS:

In our area the health department and the hospitals are making great strides in collaboration for emergency planning; however, the collaboration with the community health centers is just beginning...These trainings can reach all of the employees of a health center, increasing their understanding of their individual roles, the center's role, and how the center fits into the overall, multi-agency response.

—Kimbal Babcock, Senior Manager, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Coconino County Health Department, Flagstaff AZ

Through collaboration with NYCEPCE and the Nassau University Medical Center (NUMC), the Nassau County Department of Health has identified and initiated training to incorporate local health centers into our emergency response plans. Our most recent full-day symposium focused on educating NUMC health center leaders on their overall role during an event and provided us an excellent opportunity to work together.

—Eileen Scanlon, RN, MSN, Public Health Nurse III, Nassau County Dept. of Health, Public Health Emergency Preparedness

RESOURCES

Further information as well as training materials and online courses are available at:

New York Consortium for Emergency Preparedness Continuing Education (NYCEPCE): www.nycepce.org/. Course topics include

- Community Health Center (CHC) all-staff training
- CHC leader training
- Business continuity planning
- *Community Practice Site Leadership Toolkit*

Community Health Care Association of New York State: www.chcanys.org/

The Centers for Public Health Preparedness Resource Center:
www.asph.org/acphp/phprc.cfm

National Association of County and City Health Officials: www.naccho.org/

As a local health department official are you engaging your health centers in **emergency preparedness planning?**

Would the health centers in your area know what you plan to do **during an emergency?**



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New York Consortium for
Emergency Preparedness
Continuing Education

This message has been brought to you by The New York Consortium for Emergency Preparedness Continuing Education. NYCEPCE is a collaborative effort among the Columbia University School of Nursing, The University at Albany School of Public Health, the Community Health Care Association of New York State, the Emergency Medical Services Training Academy of Nassau County and the University of Kansas School of Medicine – Wichita.

Community health centers and medical practices are valuable resources for public health and medical care emergency response. They offer valuable access for reaching underserved populations, such as non-English speaking persons, and can provide critical assistance to the public at large during an emergency event.

Emergency preparedness training materials are available to reinforce the connection between local health departments and health centers. These education resources will help health center leaders, clinicians, and support staff prepare for emergencies. This includes collaboration with their local health department and/or hospitals for the coordination of such services as:

- **Distribution of vaccines, treatments, or prophylaxes**
- **Targeted care for individuals with special needs**
- **Community triage and/or treatment to reduce the “surge of patients” at local hospitals**
- **Source of credible information concerning an emergency**
- **Providing culturally and linguistically competent services including translation**
- **Providing mental health services for response personnel and the psychologically distressed**
- **Providing syndromic surveillance**

Emergency preparedness requires planning, training and exercise. Successful efforts include the following activities:

Planning:

- Participation in joint meetings with leadership of health centers and local departments of health
- Sharing of information, including communication templates, role expectations, job action sheets (JAS), and communication guidelines

Training:

- Personal preparedness training for all community health center and practice site staff
- Clinician training in emergency response functional roles
- Leadership training for management personnel for community health care and practice sites

Exercising:

- Emergency drills and exercises for community health centers and medical practices
- Communication drills
- Site-specific response exercises (e.g., establishing a mass distribution site)
- Participation in community wide exercises
- Participation in after-action reviews and planning sessions