

ABOUT CRPC

The CRPC is a group of community and faith-based organizations that partner with the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response at the Health Department to increase the capacity of NYC communities to prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from public health emergencies. We encourage all NYC organizations to join our list serve by sending an email to:

communityresilience@health.nyc.gov.

CRPC OBJECTIVES

- 1) Provide input on public health preparedness initiatives, plans and activities.
- 2) Recommend strategies that engage NYC communities.
- 3) Help address the physical and mental health needs of NYC communities by strengthening abilities to withstand stressors, assemble resources and coordinate community efforts during an emergency.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The CRPC is guided by a steering committee representing 10 key sectors recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including community leadership, business, childcare/education, housing/shelter, social service, emergency management, mental health and behavioral health, senior services, cultural/faith-based and healthcare. Steering committee members are invited by Health Department staff. They include:

- AARP (www.aarp.org)
- Asian Federation of New York (www.aafederation.org)
- Association of Contingency Planners (www.acp-international.com)
- Bronx Health Link (www.bronxhealthlink.org)
- Bronx Lebanon Highbridge Woodcrest Center (www.bronxcare.org)
- CAMBA (www.camba.org)
- Catholic Charities (www.catholiccharitiesny.org)
- Council for Senior Centers & Services (www.cscs-ny.org)
- Global Business Continuity and Recovery
- Home Based Care Alliance (www.hbca-nyc.weebly.com)
- Jewish Association Serving the Aging-JASA (www.jasa.org)
- **Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services (www.jbfcs.org)**
- Jewish Community Relations Council (www.jcrcny.org)
- New York City Emergency Management-Citizen Corps (www.nyc.gov/oem)
- New York City Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (www.nycvoad.org)
- New York Academy of Medicine (www.nyam.org)
- NY Disaster Interfaith Services (www.nydis.org)
- Primary Care Emergency Preparedness Network (www.pcdc.org)
- Regional Aid Interim Services, Inc. (www.raininc.org)
- Salvation Army (www.salvationarmyusa.org)
- South Brooklyn Interfaith Coalition for Health & Wellness (www.lutheranhealthcare.org)
- Village Care of New York (www.villagecare.org)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRAININGS AND EVENTS

Please share this information with your staff and community as appropriate

September 18, 2015 and October 7, 2015 (8:30AM to 5:30PM)

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)

The NYC Health Department will be hosting MHFA trainings, an evidence-based training to empower non-mental health professionals to better identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness. The one-day, eight-hour training will cover mental health topics such as depression, anxiety, psychosis and substance use. [Register here.](#)

September 24, 2015 (6:30PM- 8:30PM)

Commodity Distribution Point Training

Commodity Distribution Point distributes temporarily unavailable life-sustaining commodities to the public following an emergency that disrupts access to traditional supply chains. NYC Emergency Management is looking to build a team of trained individuals who may be called upon to volunteer at one of these CDP sites during an emergency response. [Register here.](#)

September 24, 2015 (11:30AM)

ACP Educational Webinar: Business Preparedness for Pandemics and Flu Season

Every year, an average of 35,000 people die from simple flu in the United States. Businesses also lose a lot of productivity every winter because of flu. We can all do a lot to prevent the spread of influenza. Moreover, many businesses should have a pandemic preparedness plan in the event of a severe pandemic. Ebola, avian influenza (still around in Asia), tuberculosis and other drug resistant viruses are potential threats, and we need to be prepared. Join us to learn how your business can be more prepared for these public health events and others like it. [Register here.](#)

September 30, 2015 (6:30PM to 8:30PM)

Citizen Corps—Community Emergency Planning Discussion Session

Join NYCEM for a discussion about the agency's efforts to strengthen community-based emergency planning in New York City and tools and information communities could find valuable in their planning efforts. This session is geared towards community stakeholders, residents and volunteers who would be interested in creating or strengthening their own community's emergency plans. [Register here.](#)

MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

Join our team! Use your health care skills to help keep NYC safe and healthy. NYC MRC is a volunteer group of highly skilled health care professionals who respond to disasters, emergencies and public health initiatives. Our mission is to strengthen public health, improve emergency response capabilities and build community resiliency. Within the MRC are a number of specialty teams, including the Resilience and Emotional Support Team (REST) which deploys mental health responders during emergencies. For more information about MRC, go to www.nyc.gov/medicalreservecorps or call 347-723-1696.



Get Informed: Join the NYC Citizen Corps Communications Network

NYC Citizen Corps distributes a weekly newsletter that includes information about preparedness initiatives, resources and local events. During emergencies, the Communications Network is also used to disseminate important alerts and updates. [Click here to join.](#)

IN THE NEWS

[Health Department Investigating Outbreak of Legionnaires' Disease in the South Bronx](#)

During July and August 2015, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene investigated a cluster of Legionnaires' disease in the South Bronx. On August 20, 2015 the New York City Health Department's Public Health Laboratory, in close coordination with the State's Wadsworth Center Laboratory and the CDC, announced that they had identified the source of the outbreak and declared the outbreak over. After extensive sampling of cooling towers and testing of *Legionella* bacteria, the laboratories have matched the *Legionella* strain found in the Opera House Hotel cooling tower with the strain found in patients. The hotel has cooperated fully with all agencies involved in the investigation, has cleaned and disinfected its tower, and is working with the Health Department on long-term maintenance that is consistent with industry standards.

Most cases of Legionnaires' disease can be traced to plumbing systems where conditions are favorable for Legionella growth, such as whirlpool spas, hot tubs, humidifiers, hot water tanks, cooling towers and evaporative condensers of large air-conditioning systems.

Legionnaires' disease cannot be spread from person to person. Groups at high risk for Legionnaire's disease include people who are middle-aged or older - especially cigarette smokers - people with chronic lung disease or weakened immune systems and people who take medicines that weaken their immune systems (immunosuppressive drugs).

[Health Department Reports First Human Case of West Nile Virus Infection for 2015 Season](#)

On August 16, 2015 the Health Department confirmed the season's first human case of West Nile virus in a Brooklyn man who was hospitalized with viral meningitis. The patient was over the age of 60 and has been treated and discharged. West Nile virus infection can cause a mild or moderate flu-like illness, or sometimes no symptoms at all. The most common symptoms are headache, fever, muscle aches and extreme fatigue.

"This first case of West Nile virus disease in New York City provides a vital reminder to protect ourselves against mosquito bites," said Health Commissioner Dr. Mary T. Bassett. "Wearing mosquito repellent when you are outdoors, and long sleeves and pants in the morning and evening will reduce your risk of infection. New Yorkers age 60 and older or persons with weakened immune systems should be especially careful as they are more likely to become seriously ill, and in rare instances die, if infected."

Human cases of West Nile virus occur each year in New York City, typically from July through October. A total of 318 New Yorkers have been diagnosed with West Nile virus since it was first found in the United States in 1999. The Health Department's aggressive West Nile Virus program focuses on prevention first and then mosquito control. The agency uses a comprehensive approach to monitor the city for West Nile virus and help control its spread by mosquitoes.



Advance Warning System



JOIN THE ADVANCE WARNING SYSTEM

Emergency Messaging for Organizations that Serve People with Access and Functional Needs

What is the New York City Advance Warning System?

The NYC Emergency Management (NYCEM) Advance Warning System (AWS) is designed to alert organizations who work with people with disabilities and access and functional needs to various emergencies in New York City that may affect people's independence and daily lives. Participating organizations will receive preparedness and emergency information. Organizations should relay this information to their clients and other similar agencies.

Who can sign up for AWS?

Any organization including advocacy groups that serve populations with disabilities or access and functional needs can participate in the AWS.

How do I sign up for AWS?

Go to <https://advancewarningsystemnyc.org/> and click "Register Today."

What are AWS alerts?

AWS is used for both pre-season messaging and emergency messaging. Pre-season alerts contain specific preparedness information prior to an emergency. Emergency alerts are sent at the time of an emergency with specific and targeted information for those with disabilities or access and functional needs, as well as information regarding assistance and services available.

What are the new features on the AWS website?

- Receiving text message (SMS) alerts in addition to emails
- Ability to send text messages to your own client contact lists (see "How can I send text messages")
- Interactive and searchable maps to locate other citywide providers and services
- A discussion board to interact with NYCEM and other registered organizations
- A social media wall to get the latest updates from NYCEM and other registered organizations
- A resources page providing local, state and federal information about emergency events, important city services and preparedness information

ARTICLES

[Psychological Resilience after Hurricane Sandy](#)

Authors: Sarah R. Lowe, Laura Sampson, Oliver Gruebner, Sandro Galea

Several individual-level factors are known to promote psychological resilience in the aftermath of disasters. Far less is known about the role of community-level factors in shaping post-disaster mental health. The purpose of this study was to explore the influence of both individual- and community-level factors on resilience after Hurricane Sandy. The study yielded four key findings. First, the prevalence of probable Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and probable depression in the sample was 2.0% and 8.9%, respectively. Second, in multilevel multivariable models, significant individual-level predictors of higher PTSD included demographic characteristics (e.g., older age, non-Hispanic Black race), a greater number of disaster-related stressors, and direct or witnessed exposure to another lifetime traumatic event in addition to Hurricane Sandy. In contrast, only directed or witnessed exposure to another lifetime traumatic event was associated with higher depression. Third, of the community-level factors included in the study, only one was significantly predictive of post-disaster psychiatric symptoms: residence in a community with higher social capital was significantly associated with higher PTS. Fourth, we found a significant cross-level interaction between community-level economic development and individual-level exposure to disaster-related stressors, such that living in a community with higher economic development was negatively associated with depression only for participants who did not endure any disaster-related stressors. Taken together, the findings provide additional evidence that community-level factors influence post-disaster resilience, both independently and in combination with individual-level stressor exposure.

[Neighborhood Structure, Social Capital, and Community Resilience:](#)

[Longitudinal Evidence from the 2011 Brisbane Flood Disaster](#)

Authors: Rebecca Wickes, Renee Zahnow, Melanie Taylor, and Alex Piquero

Whether a community can demonstrate resilience following a disaster largely depends on the pre-disaster context. Community disadvantage, the concentration of vulnerable and ethnically diverse groups, and high levels of residential mobility in the pre-disaster environment make it difficult for communities to “bounce back” following a disaster. The lack of social capital in the pre-disaster context also hinders community resilience. Yet there is scant research that assesses the extent to which pre-disaster structural conditions and the availability of local social capital influence community resilience post-disaster. Although social capital may reduce local community problems under normal conditions, it may have a limited effect on reducing community problems in a post-disaster environment. In contrast, the structural conditions of a neighborhood before disaster have lasting and negative effects on community problems.



Seasonal Health Alert

Influenza (flu) season is approaching. Flu causes fever, cough, sore throat and muscle aches. It can lead to more serious health problems, like pneumonia.

Take time to get a flu vaccine as well as to encourage family, staff and clients to get vaccinated. Take preventive actions to stop the spread of germs. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue or the inside of your elbow — not your hand. Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Visit: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/flu/html/home/home.shtml> for more information.

Stay Connected

- Please disseminate this newsletter widely with stakeholders
- Send your events/activities to: communityresilience@health.nyc.gov



Thank You!