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BACKGROUND

In 2014, West Africa experienced the largest outbreak of Ebola in history. As the United States (U.S.) began to receive patients with Ebola in August 2014 and prepare for the management of these patients, gaps within the U.S. healthcare system became evident after two nurses were infected with Ebola while providing patient care in a U.S. hospital. In 2015, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) initiated programs to address Ebola clinical care preparedness and response.



GOAL

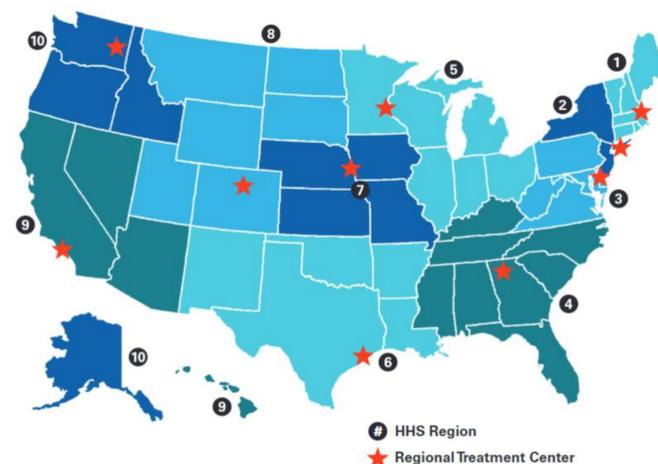
To increase the competency of health care and public health workers and the capability of health care facilities to deliver safe, efficient, and effective Ebola patient care through the nationwide, regional network for Ebola and other infectious diseases.



METHODS

The National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC), a collaboration between Emory Medicine, Nebraska Medicine, and New York Health and Hospitals/Bellevue, was established. Functions of the NETEC include:

- Develops metrics to measure facility and healthcare worker readiness to care for patients with Ebola and other special pathogens
- Conducts peer review and readiness assessments of Regional and State Ebola Treatment Centers
- Creates and maintains a comprehensive suite of educational materials (e.g., curricula, just-in-time training, templates, train-the-trainer modules, tools, simulations, online resources, webinars) for policies and procedures related to care of patients with Ebola and other special pathogens
- Supports public health departments and healthcare facilities through the provision of training and technical assistance
- Hosts and conducts Ebola Preparedness Courses
- Launches www.NETEC.org to create a repository of resources for healthcare facilities



Regional Treatment Centers

- 1: Massachusetts General Hospital
- 2: NYC Health + Hospitals - Bellevue
- 3: Johns Hopkins Hospital
- 4: Emory University Hospital and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta-Egleston Hospital
- 5: University of Minnesota Medical Center
- 6: University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
- 7: University of Nebraska Medical Center/Nebraska Medicine
- 8: Denver Health Medical Center
- 9: Cedars-Sinai
- 10: Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center and Children's Hospital

netec.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sarah Anderson-Fiore, Sonia Bell, Kate Boulter, Erik Brownsword, Nicholas Cagliuso, Andrea Echeverri, Wael ElReyes, Laura Evans, JoAnna Hilliman, Chris Kratochvil, John Lowe, John Maher, Benjamin Mattson, Karen McMarthy, Syra Mydad, Jill Morgan, Jason Noble, Shelly Schwedhelm, Trish Tennill, Angie Vasa

RESULTS

- 40 states, the District of Columbia, and 5 U.S. territories represented at in-person trainings.
- 15 facilities assessed for readiness in 14 U.S. states or territories.
- 24 educational activities held, including 8 in-person trainings, 11 conference presentations, 4 webinars, and 1 in person technical assistance session.
- 3490 people reached via educational activities.
- 38 updated and 6 new exercise design templates
- 31,687 NETEC.org page views.
- 24/7/365 phone line established for emergency consultation with federal partners.
- 1st first use of Central IRB to do ZMapp trial.
- 606 technical assistance requests addressed.
- 138 people attended the 2017 NETEC Regional Ebola Treatment Center Summit, representing all 10 RESPTCs as well as Federal Partners from CDC and ASPR.
- 73 members engaged in the Special Pathogens Research Network from 10 RESPTCs and 5 Federal Partner organizations.

CONCLUSION

The 2014 Ebola outbreak was a wakeup call for many people. When providing patient care, safety is essential for the patient, the nurses and other healthcare workers. To protect the safety of healthcare professionals, healthcare facilities should be ready to care for patients with Ebola and other special pathogens. Therefore, it is critical that facilities maintain a state of readiness to manage the next threat. The NETEC has demonstrated the ability to strengthen the capability of the U.S. healthcare system to safely care for patient with Ebola and other special pathogens.