

## National Preparedness Month — September 2016

Throughout September, CDC and approximately 3,000 global, national, regional, and local government organizations, as well as private and public institutions, will promote the importance of being ready for emergencies (1–3). For Preparedness Month 2016, CDC's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response will focus on the power of preparedness globally and locally and actions that can be taken collectively and individually (1).

Being prepared saves lives. Public health emergencies might take the shape of an emerging or rapidly spreading disease, a natural disaster, or an act of bioterrorism. While the nature, timing, and location of the next threat cannot be anticipated, developing programs to prevent, detect, and respond to public health emergencies can mitigate the impact of the unknown (2). Persons can take action now by having a family reunification plan and an emergency kit with basic supplies, medicines, and local emergency telephone numbers.

During preparedness month, CDC's *Public Health Matters* blog (3) will feature stories about how countries are partnering to advance health security, how emergencies prompt innovation and training, how states respond to new disease threats, and how every person plays a powerful role in protecting our communities and families. Preparedness Month will include infographics, social media, and a Twitter chat on September 27 @CDCEmergency. The month culminates with National PrepareAthon! Day on September 30. Additional information about CDC's Preparedness Month is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/npm>.

### References

1. CDC. National preparedness month. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2016. <https://www.cdc.gov/phpr/npm>
2. CDC. Global health security: international health regulations (IHR). Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2016. <http://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/healthprotection/ghs/ihr/index.html>
3. CDC. Public health matters blog. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2016. <http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters>

## School District Crisis Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Plans — United States, 2012

Brenda Silverman, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Brenda Chen, MBBS<sup>1</sup>; Nancy Brener, PhD<sup>2</sup>; Judy Kruger, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Nevin Krishna, MS, MPH<sup>1</sup>; Paul Renard, Jr, MS<sup>1</sup>; Sandra Romero-Steiner, PhD<sup>3</sup>; Rachel Nonkin Avchen, PhD<sup>1</sup>

The unique characteristics of children dictate the need for school-based all-hazards response plans during natural disasters, emerging infectious diseases, and terrorism (1–3). Schools are a critical community institution serving a vulnerable population that must be accounted for in public health preparedness plans; prepared schools are adopting policies and plans for crisis preparedness, response, and recovery (2–4). The importance of having such plans in place is underscored by the development

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Continuing Education examination available at [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/cme/conted\\_info.html#weekly](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/cme/conted_info.html#weekly).

