

## Background

New York City continues to be at high risk for terrorism-related and naturally occurring disasters. Since 9/11 and the 2001 anthrax attacks, there have been 16 known terrorist plots against New York City (NYC). NYC also faced Hurricane Irene in 2011, Superstorm Sandy in 2012, Ebola in 2014, Legionella in 2015 and is currently responding to the Zika virus. The Health Department is charged with protecting New Yorkers from public health threats during any type of emergency.

## New York City by the Numbers

Residents	8.3 Million	Regional and International Transportation Hub	1.4 Million per day commute into Manhattan
Daytime population	9 Million		4.9 Million per day ride the NYC subway
Population Density	27,000 per sq. mile		100 Million travel through 2 NYC airports
Tourists	52.7 Million per year	International Icons/Landmarks	Statue of Liberty, United Nations, Empire State Building, World Trade Center
Percent of population <18 years	21.6%		
Percent of population >65 years	12.1%	Large Planned Events	United Nations General Assembly, New Year's Eve, Thanksgiving Day Parade, Pope Francis Visit
Percent of population living below poverty level	19.9%		
Percent of population foreign born	36.9%	Major Sporting Events	NYC Marathon, Superbowl 2014
Number of languages spoken	170+		

## Major Accomplishments 2015-2016:

### 1. Increased preparedness of healthcare system for all hazards:

- Increased long term care facility preparedness by training 50+ Nursing Homes on fundamental emergency management topics; completed the first ever citywide full scale exercise with nursing homes (14 facilities and 6 NYC hospitals); enhanced communications capability through 700 MHz radio program at nursing homes (at 92.4% participation) and adult care facilities (rolling program out to all 77 ACFs this spring).
- Launched the NYC Health and Medical Executive Advisory Group to enhance ESF-8 NYC healthcare system planning and response capabilities, focusing in 2016 on improving health system integration in NYC response, formalizing exemptions for healthcare workers in NYC travel bans and sustaining gains in infectious disease readiness and control post Ebola.
- Conducting mystery patient drills in all NYC emergency departments and 15 primary care centers to test screening/isolation protocols for emerging infectious diseases, including Ebola, fever/rash and fever/cough.
- Maintain list of the over 2800 NYC pharmacies to enable rapid outreach before, during and after emergencies. Additionally, DOHMH has developed pharmacy preparedness tips including assistance with emergency generator power and plan to develop comprehensive pharmacy preparedness toolkit in 2016.

### 2. Launched project to develop performance measures to assess readiness of DOHMH and the healthcare system to respond to all hazards:

- Built conceptual framework that incorporates the strategic uncertainty of emergency response (e.g. unknown size, scope, scenario, politics) combined with NYC tactical data from prior responses (e.g. Ebola, Sandy)
- Creating a capability-based map of all public health functions to the level of agency activities.
- Established stakeholder workgroups at city and national levels to develop performance measures and define indicators for 2 public health and 2 healthcare functions by the end of 2016.

### 3. Enhanced scenario specific planning and response capability:

- Completed the first in the nation Bio Remediation plan, in coordination with EPA and other stakeholders.
- Conducted successful Environmental Sampling Full Scale Exercise on March 4, 2016 to test our biological environmental sampling plan, including our ability to manage a multi-agency operation- including 11

- government agencies and 144 staff from NYPD, FDNY, Department of Environmental Protection, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, FBI, Department of Homeland Security and others.
- c. Formed NYC's first Radiological Advisory Committee to advise DOHMH during a radiologic emergency.
  - d. Held an interagency Community Reception Center (CRC) exercise. CRCs are established to monitor the population for radiation exposure in the event of an incident such as a dirty bomb. Received initial approval to name 10 schools as CRC facilities pending completion of a cleanup plan.
4. **Enhanced ability to reach vulnerable populations before, during and after an emergency:**
- a. Identified 30,000 staff citywide to assist with Post Emergency Canvassing Operations (PECO) to rapidly canvass neighborhoods after disaster to identify residents in need and connect them to critical resources (e.g., water, food, evacuation, medical care). Trained 250 Health Department staff to support PECO.
  - b. Working with ASPR and NYC partner agencies to leverage CMS Durable Medical Equipment (DME) data to identify, outreach to and support vulnerable individuals on DME before, during and after emergency.
  - c. Developed [individual and family response guides](#), which provide specific guidance on how to respond during emergencies as well as a consolidated [Community and Business Response Guide Toolkit](#) which provides both preparedness and response guidance for organizations.
5. **Enhanced our ability to execute citywide countermeasure operations:**
- a. Trained over 1700 POD Core Team (PCT) members annually as part of the PCT Training program.
  - b. Assigned PCT members to PODs based on home address, to increase ability of staff to respond quickly.
  - c. Launched POD Responder Program to identify, train and integrate trusted individuals from organizations other than DOHMH (e.g. Red Cross, NYPD Retiree Mobilization Plan, MRC, and other city agencies) into POD Core Teams to stand up and operate PODs (assigned 300+ individuals to POD sites to date).
  - d. Secured agreement from the CDC to "forward-deploy" 2.4 million 10-day antibiotic regimens to a City warehouse so that in the event of a response, distribution of medication can begin immediately.
  - e. Secured agreement from HHS and GSA to dispense prophylaxis to local Federal Emergency Response Officials (FEROs) using NYC Medical Stockpile assets for first responders.
6. **Enhanced ability to coordinate with community and faith based organizations:**
- a. Launched an innovated Sector based Community Preparedness Program pilot which will increase capabilities of different community sectors to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.
  - b. In coordination with NYC Emergency Management, launched enhanced Advance Warning System website designed to alert human services providers to hazards in NYC that may affect their services and clients.

### **Recent Emergency Response Highlights:**

**Zika virus 2016:** On February 1, 2016, activated ICS to respond to returning travelers who were infected abroad and prepare to respond in case of local transmission when mosquito season starts. 250 staff have been activated with a projected three-year cost of \$20 million. The NYC Public Health Lab (PHL) began testing for Zika on February 17, 2016, **testing 1600 specimens** as of March 25, 2016.

- Developed a **suite of materials for doctor offices, providers, and patients** including 6 HANs (so far), fact sheets, travel warning posters (in 11 languages) and guidance for OB/Gyns.
- Held two expert discussion panels at City Hall, **gave over 40 Zika presentations** to community members and clinical staff, and held multiple conference calls with elected officials and community leaders.
- Responding to a spike in provider calls to the Bureau of Communicable Diseases with a **peak of 450 calls** in the first week of February.
- Developing a **surveillance program for affected pregnant women** and creating referral linkages to case management and early intervention for potentially-affected infants.
- Developing **updated mosquito control messaging and implementing new surveillance** and testing for potential local transmission.

**Legionella 2015:** The worst legionella outbreak in NYC's history which resulted in **120 cases and 12 deaths**, required a massive response that leveraged innovative detection capabilities as well as ability to quickly identify the source and halt the outbreak, the Health Department:

- Investigated **361 cases** and **tested approximately 450 samples**.
- Received and reviewed documentation to register **3,600+ buildings with cooling towers**.
- **Inspected over 170 buildings** with cooling towers; **trained 46 NYC staff to conduct sampling and disinfection**.
- Conducted **47 community events** and distributed approximately **8,000 pieces of literature**.