

Region 5 Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) Newsletter

[October 2025]

Corewell Health and the University of Minnesota Medical Center (UMMC) are two of the 13 federally funded Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Centers (RESPTCs). Our RESPTC Programs work to enhance and support the National Special Pathogen System of Care ([NSPS](#)) to safely and effectively manage special pathogen response.



Corewell Health and UMMC are a part of HHS Region 5.

To learn more about the Corewell Health RESPTC, contact Tim Scholten, Program Manager, at Timothy.Scholten@corewellhealth.org

To learn more about the UMMC RESPTC, contact Sarah Haroth, Patient Care Supervisor, at Sarah.Haroth@Fairview.org

If you want to learn more about Special Pathogens, check out [NETEC's Podcast](#):



You can also take a look at NETEC's most recent [News & Blog](#).

Region 5 Special Pathogen Outreach

Corewell Health and the University of Minnesota Medical Center collaborated to develop standardized HCID training for both EMS and hospital personnel within Region 5. In August, the Region 5 RESPTCs jointly delivered two full-day training sessions to Milwaukee EMS, hospital staff, and public health representatives.

The training sessions utilized traditional lecture-style education with hands-on practice, emphasizing critical skills such as PPE donning and doffing, patient containment wrapping, Category A waste management, and ambulance preparation.

The HCID training also highlights the critical roles of national and regional resources, including the National Special Pathogen System (NSPS), the National Emerging Special Pathogen Training and Education Center (NETEC), and the Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Centers (RESPTCs).

We welcome the opportunity to deliver this training in your area. If you are interested in learning more, please complete the Regional Outreach Intake Form provided at the conclusion of this newsletter.

Sarah Haroth, MSN, RN, PHN
Patient Care Supervisor
Special Pathogens Unit
M Health Fairview
University of Minnesota Medical Center



Coming Soon – NETEC STAND Award Funding

NETEC will soon launch the [Special Pathogen Treatment and Network Development \(STAND\) Award](#), providing up to \$500,000 each to as many as 75 U.S. health care facilities. This funding supports facilities seeking to become **Level 2 Special Pathogen Treatment Centers (SPTCs)**—a critical tier in the **National Special Pathogen System (NSPS)**.

Awardees will strengthen readiness, access NETEC training and technical support, and join a **national Community of Practice** in high-consequence infectious disease (HCID) response.

Learn more and sign up for updates at netec.org/stand-fund-award.



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Education Spotlight

The PPE Ensemble – Gowns

The value of contact precautions can never be overstated. Gowns are an integral part of decreasing the movement of bioburden in healthcare settings. Gowns are rated by the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) in a 1-4 system. Level 1 AAMI rating offers minimal fluid barrier protection. These types of gowns are frequently used in general patient care settings for contact precautions. Level 2 AAMI ratings are to be used when there is only a slight risk for fluid exposure and offer minimal to low fluid barrier protection. AAMI level 3 is often used in surgical situations where the risk of fluid exposure is moderate. AAMI level 4 is the highest level of fluid and germ protection. Ideally all team members would wear AAMI level 4 protection when caring for a patient infected with a special pathogen. Often gowns can be purchased that have an AAMI 4 rating in the critical zones (Arms and mid-chest to mid-thigh). There are gowns available where the entire gown is made of AAMI level 4 rated material. When reviewing PPE, AAMI ratings only test penetration and hydrostatic pressure. PPE is NOT rated for physical pressure, i.e. leaning up against saturated or grossly contaminated objects. Barriers should always be utilized to decrease the risk of team members inadvertently pressing fluids through PPE. It is important that team members understand which parts of their PPE is rated for what type of exposure and never take their protection for granted.

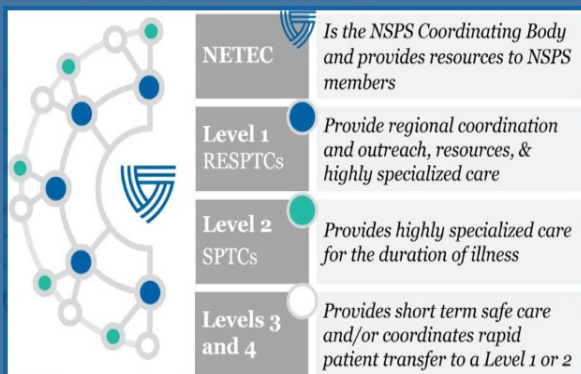
Ryan A. Thatcher MSN
NETEC PPE Workgroup SME

NETEC PPE Resource Library <https://repository.netecweb.org/exhibits/show/ppe101/ppe>

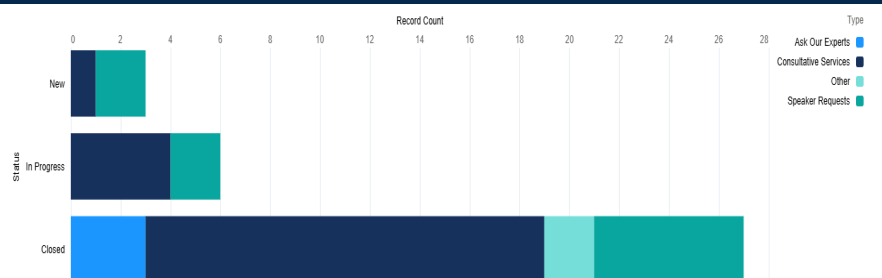


The National Special Pathogen System (NSPS) helps the country **prepare** the health care system, **protect** the health care workforce, and **respond** to special pathogen events by coordinating special pathogen care across the United States.

(NSPS: National Special Pathogen System | NETEC)



Outreach Support Summary January-Current



Current Countries of Concern for Travel Screening Current Outbreaks per [CDC](#)

Location	Disease Outbreak
Region of the Indian Ocean, China	Chikungunya
Columbia	Yellow Fever
Global	Polio, Dengue, Measles
Liberia, Sierra Leone	Mpox Clade II
Guinea, Nigeria	Diphtheria
Democratic Republic of Congo	Ebola
Americas	Oropouche

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[October 2025]

This month's featured Funky Bug—Nipah

Written by Dr. Russell Lampen, DO, Infectious Disease

In 2025 there have been 4 confirmed fatal Nipah (pronounced nee-puh) virus (NiV) infections throughout Bangladesh. While these infections were unrelated, NiV is endemic in Malaysia, India, the Philippines, and Bangladesh. The Nipah virus is considered zoonotic, meaning that it is transmitted to people from infected animals (typically fruit bats or pigs) or food that has been contaminated with the saliva, urine or waste of infected animals. It can also be transmitted from person to person through close contact. The recent cases in Bangladesh have been associated with consuming raw date palm sap or fermented date palm sap.

The typical incubation period for Nipah viral infections ranges from 4—14 days. Infections range from being mild to development of severe acute respiratory infection and even fatal encephalitis. Up to 60% of infected individuals will develop neurologic complications. In countries where Nipah virus is endemic, fatality rates for infected individuals can reach 75%. Individuals often have initial symptoms of fever, headache, muscle pain, vomiting, and sore throat. This can be followed by altered level of consciousness or seizures indicating acute encephalitis. Unfortunately there are no current treatments or vaccines available for Nipah virus infections.

To reduce the risk of infection with Nipah virus, when traveling to areas where this infection is endemic, it is recommended to avoid raw date sap drinks, raw fruits that could be contaminated by bats, and avoid contact with fruit bats or sick pigs. In the healthcare setting it is recommended that these patients be taken care of in a negative pressure room using the following PPE: permeable gown, N95 respirator or CAPR/PAPR, examination gloves with extended gloves, and boot covers.

Resources:

[NETEC: Nipah Virus](#)

[WHO: Nipah Virus](#)

[CDC: Nipah Virus](#)

Region 5 Newsletter

Subscription



Red regions = Nipah outbreaks

Region 5 Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) Regional Outreach Program

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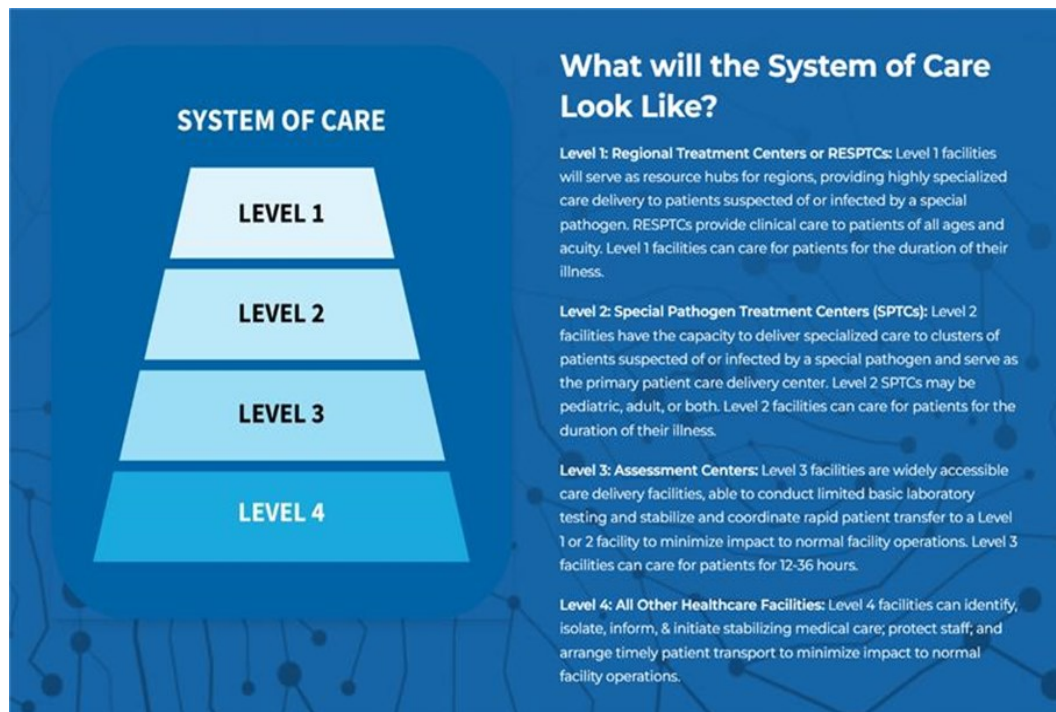


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National Special Pathogens System of Care



The National Special Pathogen System (NSPS) helps the country **prepare** the health care system, **protect** the health care workforce, and **respond** to special pathogen events by coordinating special pathogen care across the United States.
[NSPS Minimum Capabilities Resource](#)

Effective July 1, 2024 The Joint Commission Requirement Standard IC.07.01.01
The hospital implements processes to support preparedness for high-consequence infectious diseases or special pathogens.

Are you prepared? WE CAN HELP!

How Do I Request Support?
[Regional Outreach Intake Form](#)



QUESTIONS?

Contact our Regional Outreach Coordinators, directly:

Kristin Sternhagen (MI, OH, IN, IL)
Kristin.Sternhagen@corewellhealth.org

Sara Thul (MN, WI)
Sara.Thul@fairview.org

Hospital - EMS - Public Health

Consultation:

Inclusive Program Review · Standard Work Feedback
Category A Waste Planning In-Person Site Consultation · PPE Ensemble Considerations
Training Development

Education and Training:

NSPS & RESPTC Overview · Special Pathogens Overview · Identify Isolate Inform
Waste Management · PPE Considerations PPE Donning & Doffing · Ambulance Wrap Techniques
Wrapping a Patient for Transport · Lab Considerations · Tabletop Exercises

Miscellaneous:

Speaker requests · NETEC SPORSA Guidance · TJC Accreditation Strategies

To subscribe to our newsletter send your request to: SPU@corewellhealth.org