

DATE:	July 22, 2016
TO:	Health Alert Network
FROM:	Karen M. Murphy, PhD, RN Secretary of Health
SUBJECT:	Democratic National Convention-Public Health Preparedness
DISTRIBUTION:	Statewide
LOCATION:	n/a
STREET ADDRESS:	n/a
COUNTY:	n/a
MUNICIPALITY:	n/a
ZIP CODE:	n/a

This transmission is a “Health Advisory” that provides important information for a specific incident or situation; it may not require immediate action.

HOSPITALS: PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, INFECTION CONTROL, NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL.

EMS COUNCILS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE.

FQHCs: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE.

LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

Health Notification

Democratic National Convention – Public Health Preparedness Recommendations

July 22, 2016

The City of Philadelphia is preparing to host the Democratic National Convention (DNC) from July 25-28, 2016. The DNC is the formal process for nominating candidates for President and Vice President of the United States for the Democratic Party. Several events related to the DNC will take place throughout the city during this time. Demonstrations, marches, protests and other public gatherings are also anticipated during this time. Temperatures in the low 90s are expected in the Philadelphia region during the time of the DNC. The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) is collaborating with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH), Montgomery, Chester, and Bucks County Health Departments, NJ Department of Health and other regional health agencies to monitor health events occurring in the region during this time.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health recommends that health care facilities in the region review their emergency response and disaster preparedness plans in anticipation of the DNC events, given the

heightened potential for terrorism and communicable disease situations (e.g., meningitis, enteric outbreaks) requiring public health intervention.

The health care community should be prepared for a variety of infectious diseases and a potential surge of patients. Health care facilities in the Philadelphia region and the counties beyond should update clinical providers on infectious diseases of concern. The following is a list of reportable conditions in Pennsylvania: [PA Reportable Diseases](#)

In addition, you may find fact sheets including symptoms, treatment and disease management information on a variety of diseases and health topics here: [Fact Sheets](#)

PADOH relies on clinicians to report by telephone conditions that require immediate notification, as well as any outbreak or unusual presentation or cluster of disease.

Indicators of naturally occurring outbreaks or possible biological terrorism include:

- Unusual clustering of illnesses by geography, time or any other shared factor (e.g., persons who attended the same public event or gathering);
- Increase in serious lower respiratory illness with negative tests for common bacteria and viruses;
- Patients presenting with clinical signs and symptoms that suggest an infectious disease outbreak (e.g., >2 persons presenting with an unexplained febrile illness associated with sepsis, pneumonia, respiratory failure, or rash or a botulism-like syndrome with flaccid muscle paralysis, especially if occurring in otherwise healthy persons);
- Unusual age distribution for common diseases (e.g., an increase in chickenpox-like illness in adult patients);
- Single cases of uncommon, non-indigenous disease in patients without relevant exposure history (e.g., anthrax, plague, brucellosis);
- Large number of cases of acute flaccid paralysis with prominent bulbar palsies, suggestive of a release of *C. botulinum* toxin; and
- Unusual presentation or clustering of neurological symptoms, not otherwise explained.

Visitors from the United States and travelers (children and adults) from other countries may not be up-to-date on their routine immunizations. Foreign visitors may incubate and import vaccine-preventable diseases, subsequently spreading them to others who are not fully protected.

Specific preparedness recommendations include:

- Review emergency response and disaster preparedness plans before these events.
- Evaluate facilities and personnel to ensure safety and security.
- Ensure that appropriate staff understands emergency roles and communications protocols.
- Update clinical providers on explosives, biological, chemical and radiological agents (find information at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/bioterrorism/>, www.atsdr.cdc.gov).
- Review procedures for medical treatment of mass casualties, including decontamination, personal protective equipment and triage protocols.
- Review procedures that address medical treatment of blast and bombing injuries.
 - Find information at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/blastinjuryfacts.asp>.

Please contact PADOH to report conditions requiring immediate notification or to obtain public health consultation. PADOH will also facilitate diagnostic testing requiring public health laboratory services.

Any questions or concerns regarding these recommendations should be directed to the PADOH 1-877-PA-HEALTH or your local health department.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

This information is current as of July 22, 2016, but may be modified in the future.