



September 30, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

This September marks the tenth annual National Preparedness Month. Across the country, organizations and agencies will encourage citizens to engage in preparedness activities. As the winter approaches, the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and its National Healthcare Preparedness Programs (NHPP) remain vigilant to potential pandemics, particularly outbreaks of influenza. To better prepare NHPP-supported awardees and Healthcare Coalitions (HCC) for a potential pandemic influenza outbreak, NHPP developed the Interim Healthcare Coalition Checklist for Pandemic Planning (HCCPP). The HCCPP tool outlines recommended actions based on each of the eight preparedness capabilities in ASPR's *Healthcare Preparedness Capabilities: National Guidance for Healthcare System Preparedness*.

NHPP recommends that HCCs integrate their preparedness plans with the pandemic preparedness efforts that apply to their jurisdictions. Pandemic influenza affects communities in unique ways and impacts schools, businesses, and government agencies. Therefore, NHPP recommends that HCCs make a concerted effort to include diverse partners in their pandemic preparedness plans.

As we approach the 2013/2014 influenza season, NHPP asks that awardees and coalitions use the HCCPP to better prepare for potential pandemics. While NHPP designed the HCCPP for healthcare coalitions, it can and should be used by healthcare facilities and other relevant stakeholders to adequately prepare for and respond to a pandemic.

Please feel free to share the HCCPP with other relevant stakeholders. The HCCPP will be available online at <http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/hpp/reports/Documents/pandemic-checklist.pdf>

Thank you for your continued dedication to ensure our nation is prepared for public health emergencies.

Sincerely,

/s/

David Marcozzi, MD, MHS-CL, FACEP  
Director, National Healthcare Preparedness  
Programs

Enclosure