



John S. Parker, MD, Major General (Retired)  
Chair, National Biodefense Science Board  
Senior Vice President  
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656 Lynn Shores Drive  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Dear Dr. Parker and Members of the National Biodefense Science Board (NBSB):

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has begun activities to develop the 2014 National Health Security Strategy (NHSS) and accompanying Implementation Plan (IP); the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) is leading the NHSS and IP development process. The NHSS is the leading policy document focused on protecting people's health in the case of a large scale public health emergency, as called for in 42 USC § 300hh-1. The IP will drive implementation of the NHSS by identifying actionable activities that can be addressed by stakeholders identified in the national health security community. It is important to me, and to the Nation, that the NHSS be successfully adopted by having an IP that is grounded in a proven implementation model, which takes into account stakeholders from across different levels of both the public and private sectors, to maximize the potential for success.

I would like the NBSB to advise the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services by conducting a review of given implementation models during the development of the IP. Specifically, I would like the NBSB to issue a letter to the Secretary offering guidance on the strategic feasibility of certain implementation models in developing a *national* strategy. Potential implementation models (conceptual as opposed to mathematical) will be provided to the NBSB; however, the NBSB should feel free to consider others that members have used successfully. The time for completion of this task will be October 31, 2013.

The NBSB has the ability, experience, and external perspective to make an important contribution toward identifying the practical and feasible ways to approach implementation of a *national* strategy. Accordingly, engaging the NBSB is crucial toward the success of the next NHSS and its accompanying IP. I look forward to discussing your initial thoughts on this topic at the September 12, 2013, NBSB public meeting.

Thank you for your continued diligence in serving to strengthen our nation's health security.

Sincerely,

Nicole Lurie, MD, MSPH  
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response