



Steve Krug, MD
Chair, National Preparedness and Response Science Board
225 E. Chicago Avenue, Box 62
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Dr. Krug and Members of the National Preparedness and Response Science Board (NPRSB),

The Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response is leading the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise (PHEMCE) to assess medical countermeasure (MCM) preparedness across our end-to-end mission space. The PHEMCE has developed an approach, which was informed by previous National Preparedness and Response Science Board (NPRSB) recommendations, to evaluate MCM preparedness with respect to our ability to develop, make, access, plan for, and use MCMs.

The PHEMCE recently conducted a series of pilot studies to apply our preparedness assessment process and measures. I am asking the NPRSB to assist our review of implementation of the MCM preparedness assessment approach during our pilot phase by responding to the following questions:

1. Have we effectively implemented the preparedness assessment process in our pilot studies, particularly with regard to utilization of appropriate assumptions and data sources surrounding the operational capacity to use MCMs?
2. Did the preparedness assessment pilots appropriately evaluate current MCM capabilities, and remaining gaps, across the principal components of MCM preparedness?
3. How can we most effectively utilize the results of the preparedness assessments to inform decisions on future investments in MCM preparedness?

I believe the NPRSB is uniquely suited to offer insight as an independent scientific body on this crucial PHEMCE priority. I look forward to receiving the NPRSB's recommendations by July 31, 2016.

Sincerely,

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