



DEC 20 2011

Patricia Quinlisk, MD, MPH
Chair, National Biodefense Science Board
State Epidemiologist and Medical Director
Iowa Department of Public Health
321 East 12th Street
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319-0075

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

The Department of Health and Human Services has begun activities to develop the 2012 Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise (PHEMCE) Strategy and Implementation Plan (SIP). The purpose of the 2012 PHEMCE Strategy is to establish goals and key objectives necessary to ensure that the nation has the ability to effectively develop, stockpile, deploy, utilize, and sustain the medical countermeasures required to protect the nation from a wide spectrum of threats, including both intentional and naturally occurring threats, such as emerging infectious diseases and pandemic influenza. The 2012 PHEMCE Implementation Plan will prioritize activities that will be pursued in achieving the 2012 PHEMCE Strategy. Both documents will also serve as updates of the original *PHEMCE Strategy and Implementation Plan for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Threats* released in 2007.

I would like the NBSB to review and evaluate the 2012 PHEMCE SIP during its development and near completion. Given the NBSB's previous deliberations and understanding of the PHEMCE and its mission, specifically your March 2010 report, *Where are the Countermeasures? Protecting America's Health from CBRN Threats*, I believe you are in a unique position to offer perspectives and insight in this endeavor from an independent scientific body.

I look forward to learning of your deliberations in early spring of 2012. Thank you for your continued diligence in ensuring the public health preparedness of our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicole Lurie".

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