



## **The New York City Health and Medical Executive Advisory Group**

The New York City Health and Medical Executive Advisory Group (HMExec) is a coalition of key agencies, with representatives from FDNY, GNYHA, NYC DOHMH, NYCEM, NYC Health + Hospitals, and NYSDOH working together to coordinate emergency planning in priority areas and improve emergency response.

**HMExec Mission:** Working with NYC Health and Medical Emergency Support Function and NYC health system partners, the mission of HMExec is to:

1. Provide strategic direction to Health and Medical agencies and health system partners
2. Identify, prioritize, and make progress on system-level planning issues requiring collective input
3. Develop and recommend shared objectives during response
4. Coordinate timely consideration of policy issues and recommendations to leadership during response
5. Propose system-level recommendations to New York City, New York State, and federal leadership and non-governmental partners formally on key public health and medical policy issues

### **2016 HMExec Accomplishments in key planning priority areas**

#### **2016 Priority 1: Establish HMExec framework, guiding principles and gain executive approval of group**

##### **Accomplishments:**

- Developed a planning framework and guiding principles during planning and response

#### **2016 Priority 2: Improve health system situational awareness and engagement in NYC response**

##### **Accomplishments:**

- Developed health and medical ESF situational snapshot highlighting status of government response and health system issues
- Developed draft health and medical ESF operational protocol recommending sequential series of response calls to streamline decision-making, objective-setting, and information-sharing to facilities
- Developed and disseminated hospital guidance to improve coordination with law enforcement and investigative agencies
- Created a process to develop incident-specific response guides for the healthcare community; a guide for coastal storm is under development

#### **2016 Priority 3: Formalize exemptions for healthcare workers in New York City travel bans**

##### **Accomplishments:**

- Chronicled use of travel ban exemptions for healthcare workers during 2014-2016 winter storms
- Formalized strategies with the Mayor’s Office, NYPD, and NYCEM with regard to the implementation of travel ban exemptions for health workers under the Credential Verification/Access Coordination Plan
- Developed case study document summarizing use and impacts of previous exemptions and expectations regarding similar exemptions in the future

## **2016 Priority 4: Sustain gains in infectious disease readiness and control**

### Accomplishments:

- Seven hospital systems, including NYC Health + Hospitals, completed Ebola response plans, trained staff, and conducted exercises testing the ability to identify/manage Ebola patients, all of which would be highly beneficial in response to any emerging infectious disease
- Maintained the ability to care for an Ebola patient at three designated treatment centers within NYC
- Involved FDNY in planning and exercises with healthcare system for safe transport and handoff of patients with severely communicable disease
- Conducted interagency table-top and full scale exercises testing response to an ill patient with possible Ebola who is identified at JFK Airport, a scenario that would be applicable to other infectious diseases
- Coordinated with relevant partners in New York and New Jersey to develop a draft regional transport plan addressing the movement of patients with confirmed Ebola or other special pathogen between treatment hospitals in the region and the Regional Ebola and Special Pathogens Treatment Center at Health + Hospitals / Bellevue Hospital Center

### **Response to emerging threats: 2016 Mass Casualty Incident Planning**

- Developed and implemented a new FDNY patient transport protocol and agreement with hospitals to provide a pre-planned fixed allotment of surge beds in various scenarios. This built upon work already being carried out through a workgroup process.

### **2016 Emergency Responses**

- 2016 Zika virus: provided input into NYC response via monthly calls
- 2016 Winter storms: facilitated timely development of operational objectives and communication of planning timeframes

### **Proposed 2017 HMExec planning priorities**

- 2017 Priority 1: Articulate a vision for NYC health system preparedness, response, and recovery through the development of a NYC Health System Operational Overview
- 2017 Priority 2: Improve NYC response to a coastal storm by identifying mechanisms to increase the ability of the NYC health system to receive evacuating patients and by exploring outreach during emergencies to homebound individuals who use durable medical equipment
- 2017 Priority 3: Improve NYC health system readiness to respond to mass casualty incidents through enhanced coordination between health care facilities and NYC agencies
- 2017 Priority 4: Integrate HMExec into NYC response processes and the NYC Health/Medical response framework