



Region 5 Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) Newsletter

[February 2026]

Corewell Health and the University of Minnesota Medical Center (UMMC) are two of the 13 federally funded Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Centers (RESPTCs).

Our RESPTC Programs work to enhance and support the National Special Pathogen System of Care (NSPS) to safely and effectively manage special pathogen response.



Corewell Health and UMMC are a part of HHS Region 5.

To learn more about the Corewell Health RESPTC, contact Tim Scholten, Program Manager, at

Timothy.Scholten@corewellhealth.org

To learn more about the UMMC RESPTC, contact Sarah Haroth, Patient Care Supervisor, at

Sarah.Haroth@Fairview.org

If you want to learn more about Special Pathogens, check out [NETEC's Podcast](#):



You can also take a look at [NETEC's most recent News & Blog](#).

NSPS Level 2 Special Pathogen Treatment and Network Development (STAND) Award

Welcome to the Region 5 Level 2 STAND Award Recipients!

We are pleased to congratulate this outstanding group of recipients of the Level 2 STAND Award. This achievement reflects your continued commitment to quality special pathogens care, coordination, and meaningful collaboration across the region.

Please join us in recognizing the following awardees:

- **Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago**
Chicago, Illinois
- **Indiana University Health – IU Health Methodist Hospital**
Indianapolis, Indiana
- **Nationwide Children's Hospital**
Columbus, Ohio
- **Rush University Medical Center**
Chicago, Illinois
- **University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics**
Madison, Wisconsin

We are excited to have you as part of the NSPS community and look forward to the shared learning, partnership, and continued success ahead.

[NETEC Announces Selected Grant Recipients of NSPS STAND Award to Strengthen Special Pathogen Preparedness Nationwide | NETEC](#)

Region 5 Special Pathogen PPE Survey

To support regional preparedness and surge readiness, Region 5 is inviting **all facilities** to participate in the **2026 Special Pathogen PPE Survey**. This annual survey helps assess PPE availability, identify potential gaps, and guide training and resource sharing efforts across the region.

The survey link is included here and will be open throughout February. Your participation helps strengthen visibility, collaboration, and readiness across Region 5.

[HHS Region 5 Special Pathogen PPE Inventory Survey – Fill out form](#)





Region 5 Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) Newsletter

[February 2026]

Education Spotlight

The PPE Ensemble – Knee High Boot Covers

We take a little piece of everywhere we have been with us when we leave. Unless we protect our feet! Footwear is imperative to decrease the transmission of germs around the hospital. Its important that our team members know how to decrease the bioburden from themselves, especially their footwear. Protecting the feet and legs from splashing and dripping fluids is why we often recommend knee high boot covers. The soles of the shoes can be protected using a sturdy shoe cover. We find that boot covers offer the best coverage of all three. It is important to check the AAMI rating of these if it is listed. We strongly encourage boot, or shoe covers with very sturdy protection on the soles of the shoes. When doffing these using tools like grabbers or long shoehorns that can be disinfected between uses help decrease the spread of germs. Make sure team members can safely doff these and offer any assistive device practical and available.

Ryan A. Thatcher, MSN, Clinical Educator

Corewell Health RESPTC
NETEC PPE Workgroup SME
[NETEC PPE Resource Library](#)



Regional Outreach in Ohio!

‘Kristin has been excellent to work with. We offered the Special Pathogens training to our northeast Ohio Healthcare Coalition members, in a hybrid setting, with approximately 50 people in-person and on-line. Those in-person, who participated in the donning and doffing exercise, were very surprised at the amount of effort that goes into the PPE preparation. The presentation was presented in an easy to understand format and will give us the opportunity to share with others who were unable to attend. We look forward to future collaborations with Kristin and Corewell Health. Thank you so much for doing what you do.’

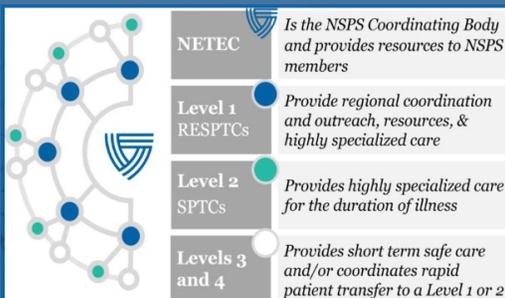
Christina Fozio

Emergency Preparedness Program Manager
Northeast Ohio Healthcare Coalition

The National Special Pathogen System (NSPS) helps the country **prepare** the health care system, **protect** the health care workforce, and **respond** to special pathogen events by coordinating special pathogen care across the United States.



[\(NSPS: National Special Pathogen System | NETEC\)](#)



Current Countries of Concern for Travel Screening

Current Outbreaks per [CDC - Travel Health Notices](#)

Location	Disease Outbreak
Liberia	Clade II Mpox
Sri Lanka, Cuba	Chikungunya
Global	Polio, Dengue, Measles
Colombia	Yellow Fever
Guinea, Nigeria	Diphtheria
Mexico	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
Mauritania, Senegal	Rift Valley Fever
Ethiopia	Marburg
Americas	Oropouche



Region 5 Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) Newsletter

[February 2026]

This month's featured Funky Bug—Marburg Written by Sara Thul, Regional Outreach Specialist

Marburg Virus Disease (MVD): Clinical Overview for Healthcare Providers

- Caused by Marburg virus, classified as a rare but highly aggressive viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF).
- Can result in rapid clinical deterioration, severe illness, and death, affecting both humans and non-human primates, including apes and monkeys.
- Egyptian rousette bats serve as the natural reservoir, able to carry Marburg virus without becoming sick. Egyptian rousette bats are abundant in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Transmission can occur through direct contact with infected bats, contact with bushmeat (monkeys, forest antelopes, and other bats), direct contact with blood or other body fluids of infected individuals, or through contaminated fomites such as bedding, medical equipment, or needles.
- Healthcare workers are at particular risk due to the close contact with patients and their infectious body fluids. Having a plan to “identify, isolate, and inform” is imperative. If Marburg is suspected, full barrier Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be used.

Clinical Presentation and Disease Course

The incubation period for MVD ranges from 2 to 21 days, with symptoms often beginning abruptly. Early manifestations are nonspecific and resemble other VHFs, including fever, chills, headache, myalgia, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. A maculopapular rash may develop, commonly involving the trunk. As the disease progresses, patients may develop severe complications, including multi-organ failure, delirium, hemorrhagic manifestations, and shock. Case-fatality rates have varied by outbreak, ranging from approximately 20% to 90%. In fatal cases, death most commonly occurs between 8 and 9 days after symptom onset.

Treatment and Management

There are currently no approved vaccines or antiviral therapies for Marburg virus disease, although several candidates are under investigation. Management is supportive, with an emphasis on early aggressive rehydration, electrolyte management, supplemental oxygen, hemodynamic support, blood product replacement, and treatment of complications. Early supportive care has been shown to improve survival.

Recent Epidemiology

On November 14, 2025, Ethiopia reported its first-ever confirmed outbreak of Marburg virus disease. As of late January, 2026 there have been 14 confirmed cases and nine deaths associated with this outbreak. Other recent outbreaks include Rwanda in 2024 (66 cases, 15 deaths), Tanzania in 2023 (9 cases, 6 deaths), and Equatorial Guinea in 2023 (40 cases, 35 deaths). The largest recorded outbreak occurred in Angola in 2005, with 374 cases and 329 deaths.

Source: CDC [History of Marburg Outbreaks | Marburg | CDC](#)





Region 5 Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) Regional Outreach Program

Corewell Health and the University of Minnesota Medical Center (UMMC) are two of the 13 federally funded Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Centers (RESPTCs).

Our RESPTC Programs work to enhance and support the National Special Pathogen System of Care (NSPS) to safely and effectively manage special pathogen response.

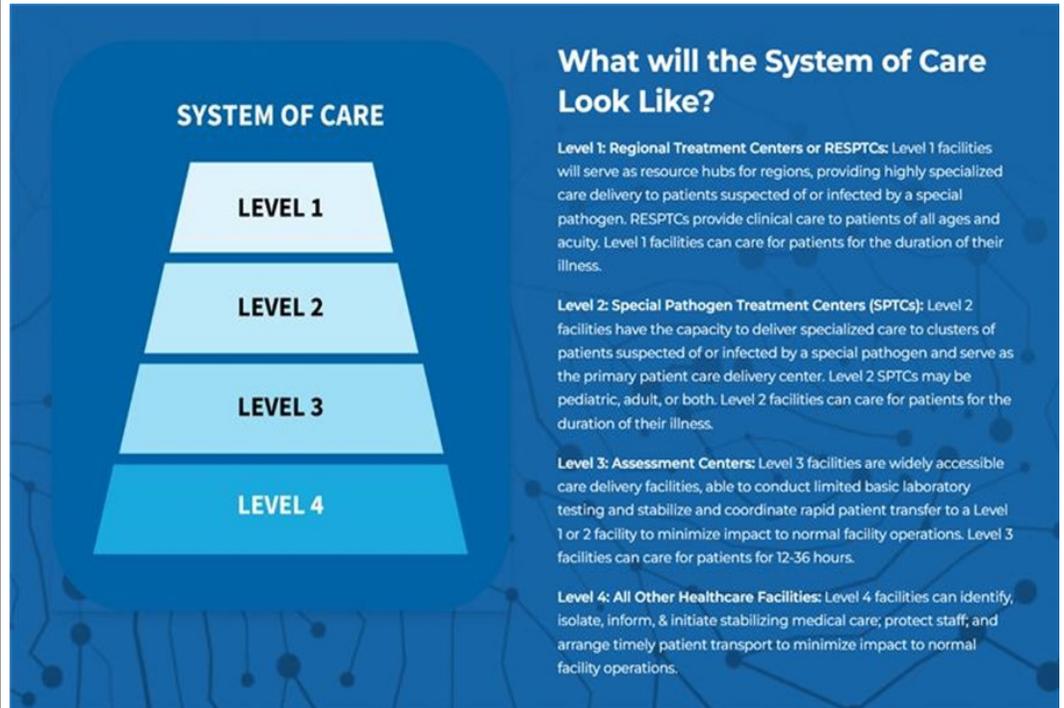


Corewell Health and the UMMC are a part of HHS Region 5.

To learn more about the Corewell Health RESPTC, contact Tim Scholten, Program Manager, at Timothy.Scholten@corewellhealth.org

To learn more about the UMMC RESPTC, contact Sarah Haroth, Patient Care Supervisor, at Sarah.Haroth@fairview.org

National Special Pathogens System of Care



The National Special Pathogen System (NSPS) helps the country **prepare** the health care system, **protect** the health care workforce, and **respond** to special pathogen events by coordinating special pathogen care across the United States. [NSPS Minimum Capabilities Resource](#)

Effective July 1, 2024 The Joint Commission Requirement Standard IC.07.01.01
The hospital implements processes to support preparedness for high-consequence infectious diseases or special pathogens.

Are you prepared? WE CAN HELP!

Hospital - EMS - Public Health

Consultation:

Inclusive Program Review · Standard Work Feedback
Category A Waste Planning In-Person Site Consultation · PPE Ensemble Considerations
Training Development

Education and Training:

NSPS & RESPTC Overview · Special Pathogens Overview · Identify Isolate Inform
Waste Management · PPE Considerations PPE Donning & Doffing · Ambulance Wrap Techniques
Wrapping a Patient for Transport · Lab Considerations · Tabletop Exercises

Miscellaneous:

Speaker requests · NETEC SPORSA Guidance · TJC Accreditation Strategies

How Do I Request Support?
[Regional Outreach Intake Form](#)



QUESTIONS?

Contact our Regional Outreach Coordinators, directly:

Kristin Sternhagen (MI, OH, IN, IL)
Kristin.Sternhagen@corewellhealth.org

Sara Thul (MN, WI)
Sara.Thul@fairview.org

To subscribe to our newsletter send your request to: SPU@corewellhealth.org