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For information regarding the EMR-ISAC visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov.

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CDC Warns on mcr-1 Gene Found in United States

Drug-resistant bacteria is a serious medical concern due to the overuse of antibiotics. An antibiotic called colistin is the “drug of last resort” against bacteria that shows resistance to other antibiotic medication. The mcr-1 gene, [first found in some bacteria overseas last year](#), is resistant to this drug of last resort and can spread to other drug-resistant bacteria, causing strains of bacteria even more resistant to drugs. This may someday create bacteria resistant to any antibiotic we now have available.

[The mcr-1 gene was found for the first time in a human in the United States](#), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported last week through their Health Alert Network (HAN). The person had no recent travel history outside the country and presented with a urinary tract infection from E. coli containing the mcr-1 gene. As of June 7, the CDC reported a total of three positive mcr-1 E. coli tests in the United States: one human and two pigs.

The CDC reports a “rapid public health response” to identify and contain any potential spread, and is strongly encouraging medical facilities to:

- Review measures of infection prevention when dealing with any patient infected with antibiotic-resistant bacteria;
- Follow proper environmental cleaning protocols of the patient’s environment;
- Cook all meat, poultry, and fish to kill any bacteria.

The CDC’s HAN message, linked above, also discusses laboratory testing for mcr-1 and public health reporting. Medical facilities, public health departments, and medical transport providers should review their procedures involving the above recommendations.

(Source: [CDC](#))

Video Walks Through Bomb Threat Checklist

This spring, at least ten different states were hit by [repeated and wide-spread robo-call bomb threats](#) to school districts. In some cases, multiple school districts in multiple states and [Great Britain](#) were affected on the same day. Bomb threats are a standard call for many first responder departments anymore – almost daily in some jurisdictions – but while first responders receive training on bomb threat

response, their job is often affected by how well the person receiving the threat handles it.

The new video "[What to Do in a Bomb Threat](#)" addresses this issue. Jointly-produced by the Department of Homeland Security and University of Central Florida, the video walks people through a bomb threat call using the DHS Bomb Threat Checklist.

Local agencies could use this short video as a way to open a dialog and cross-train with those common targets of bomb threats: school districts, businesses, and government agencies. Educating potential call-takers on the questions to ask and things to pay attention to during a bomb threat call will allow first responders to better do their jobs.

(Source: [DHS](#))

National Preparedness Report 2016

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released the [2016 National Preparedness Report](#) (NPR) earlier this month. It looks at the progress made in 2015 to implement the National Preparedness Goal's 32 core capabilities. The NPR delivers on one of the requirements of [Presidential Policy Directive 8/PPD-8: National Preparedness](#).

The report found stronger community resilience in 2015, crucial in an emergency or disaster, but also found that the marketing and education on household emergency plans dropped over the past two years. Overall, three core capabilities showed acceptable levels of performance while six needed improvement.

The NPR reviews all 31 core capabilities outlined in the [National Preparedness Goal](#), and gives a national perspective on trends, allowing all levels of government to use it to prioritize programs, training, funding, and resources.

(Source: [FEMA](#))

Disaster Research Response Program

Those interested in the health implications of hazards and disasters will find the National Institutes of Health (NIH) [Disaster Research Response Program](#) (DR2) invaluable. Supporting the National Institutes of Health framework for research on disasters and public health emergencies, the site offers an array of tools and resources for agencies looking to strengthen their response, and also those interested in sharing their data and research.

The DR2 program addresses the need for clinical research in disasters and as part of public health emergency response. It provides improved access to data collection tools, research protocols, implementation guidance, training and workshops, disaster research news, and events.

DR2 collects information and experiences from a broad spectrum of partners, both government and private sector, to create a robust resource that will assist public health response to future environmental and man-made disasters.

(Source: [DR2](#))

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