



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF

HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH

Commissioner

Gotham Center
42-09 28th Street, 8th
Floor
Queens, NY 11101-4132

August 8, 2017

Dear Colleague:

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH) recognize that Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are the main healthcare providers for nearly 1.5 million medically underserved New Yorkers. More than half of New York State's 65 FQHCs are in NYC, providing primary, preventive, and behavioral health services. FQHCs play a critical role in mitigating the health impact of emergencies, by providing services to those directly affected and continuing to provide essential health services to all New Yorkers.

The NYC DOHMH Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response receives federal funding from the ASPR Hospital Preparedness Program (<https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/hpp/Pages/default.aspx>) to prepare NYC's healthcare system. Building on previous investments in the Primary Care sector, we are pleased to announce a new **free** Technical Assistance program starting September 2017. The new Primary Care Emergency Management Program is designed to assist NYC's FQHCs with developing their emergency management capabilities.

In September 2016, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) published a final rule on Emergency Preparedness (EP) for healthcare providers. The rule establishes national emergency preparedness guidelines for 17 provider types participating in Medicare and Medicaid, including FQHCs. We designed our Primary Care Emergency Management Program to help sites meet the four requirements outlined by the CMS EP final rule:

1. Based on a risk assessment, develop **an all-hazards emergency plan**.
2. Develop and implement **policies and procedures** based on the plan.
3. Develop and maintain a **communication plan** compliant with Federal and State law.
4. Develop and maintain **training and testing (exercise) programs**, including initial and annual trainings, and conduct drills and exercises that test the plan.

The benefits of participation in the program are: gaining skills to teach administrators and staff at your sites and others about the four required components; inclusion in an exercise to meet the CMS EP final rule requirement on exercises; and access to a dedicated facilitator/coach to assist development of emergency and communication plans.

Therefore, we strongly encourage you to participate in this technical assistance program. To learn more please call us at 347-396-2719, where you can register at healthcareprep@health.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marisa Raphael".

Marisa Raphael, MPH
Deputy Commissioner, Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response