OVERVIEW

There is a growing need in the United States to establish comprehensive regional readiness plans against biological attacks and other public health threats, such as highly infectious diseases. The University of Nebraska is a national leader in the training of health care providers, establishing clinical resources, and developing strategies to manage the fight against these emerging infectious disease threats.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center has a 30-year history of research funded by the U.S. Department of Defense to develop countermeasures against biological threats. UNMC/Nebraska Medicine has developed an increasing role as a collaborator with federal civilian and military agencies. In 2012, the University of Nebraska was designated as the only Department of Defense (DoD) University Affiliated Research Center whose mission focuses on biomedical sciences and countering weapons of mass destruction. Following the Ebola crisis in 2014, UNMC/Nebraska Medicine was designated a co-leader of the National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC). In 2016, UNMC was designated by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as the National Training, Simulation and Quarantine Center. In 2017, Global Center for Health Security researchers working through the National Strategic Research Institute (NSRI) at the University of Nebraska successfully launched a drug development pipeline program with the U.S. Armed Forces Radiobiological Research Institute to mitigate the deadly effects of severe radiation exposure. In 2018, HHS named UNMC as one of two pilot sites to develop a Regional Disaster Health Response System with the objective to improve situational awareness of the medical readiness between local, state, regional, and federal partners to respond to natural disasters or attacks. UNMC supports U.S. Air Force efforts to improve its transport of highly infectious patients. In addition, the U.S. Air Force designated UNMC/Nebraska Medicine as one of its four Centers for Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills (C-STARS) and the only one dedicated to specialized training for Air Force medical teams in highly infectious disease threats.

During FY2020, the UNMC Global Center for Health Security will:

- Continue to pursue expanding opportunities as a national leader in readiness with the HHS Office of Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and other federal sponsors;
- Seek authorization from Congress to improve collaboration between federal agencies (DoD, DHS, HHS, and State) in the training of health care providers and the transportation and treatment of patients with highly infectious diseases; and
- Coordinate with NSRI and federal agencies to expand its international network in order to prepare and protect the U.S. against highly infectious diseases and other threats to health.