The importance of protecting healthcare workers during disasters cannot be overstated. Whether it's a radiation emergency, an unfolding pandemic, or shortage of vital PPE, the challenges are many. But so are the creative strategies, tools, and resources developed by state and local public health agencies to meet the challenges.

In this edition of PHP UPDATE, we're featuring practices that address keeping healthcare workers safe.

**ETHICS**

**RESPIRATORS: SHORTAGE**
A MINNESOTA assessment tool was designed to help hospitals determine whether to shift to “prioritized respirator use mode.” [View details](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs132/1107842220510/archive/1112943418816.html).

**PROTECTION DURING A PANDEMIC**
NORTH CAROLINA addressed the ethics of healthcare worker protection while they provide care during a flu pandemic. [View details](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs132/1107842220510/archive/1112943418816.html).

**WORK SETTINGS**
PPE POCKET GUIDE

What to use and when

DELaware created a pocket guide of laminated cards for first responders who need fast reference to PPE for various emergencies. View details.

Photo: OSHA

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

Check out MINNEsota's comprehensive emergency preparedness training for healthcare workers. Here are a few examples:

Hospital Preparedness Education and Training Guidance View details

PRIMARY CARE

NEW YORK CITY crafted a primer for primary care physicians monitoring employee health during a flu pandemic. View details.

HOSPITALS

A guide for hospitals in PHILADELPHIA includes a focus on protecting at-risk groups and healthcare workers. View details.

LONG-TERM CARE

NEW YORK provided respiratory protection training to long-term care homes using occupational health workers as trainers. View details.

SCHOOLS

NEW YORK created a respiratory protection training package and webinar for healthcare workers working in schools. View details.

RADIOLOGICAL DECONTAMINATION EXERCISE

A FLORIDA exercise incorporated healthcare worker and responder safety into radiological decontamination procedures. View details.
VOLUNTEER HEALTHCARE WORKERS

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS
A WASHINGTON county created a process to recruit, educate, and activate a Medical Reserve Corps. View details.

ALTERNATE CARE SITES
MINNESOTA developed an online training for healthcare volunteers working at an alternate care site during major emergencies. View details.

RECRUITING + ASSESSING
ONTARIO developed a competency-based framework and self-assessment tool for recruiting and training healthcare volunteers during a flu pandemic. View details.

ABOUT US
PublicHealthPractices.org is a joint project between the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) in Washington, DC, and the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) at the University of Minnesota.

The Web site is a one-stop shot for concrete tools and strategies to respond to the health consequences of disasters and emergencies. Learn more about us here.

UPDATE is prepared and published by the project staff at CIDRAP, and past issues are available on the site.