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NACCHO's Preparedness Summit in Atlanta Spotlights National Security, Disaster Response, and Resilience

*—Plenary Speakers Include Robert Kadlec, MD, Assistant Secretary, Preparedness and Response,
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

and

*James McDonnell, MA, Acting Assistant Secretary, Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office,
Department of Homeland Security—*

Washington, DC, April 12, 2018 — Communities throughout the United States are constantly under threat from unexpected emergencies, such as vector-borne diseases like Zika virus, floods, wildfires, and chemical spills. Each event's response yields learning opportunities and lessons that can strengthen communities in preparing for the next emergency. By identifying, responding to, and recovering from these ongoing incidents, communities can build the capacity and capabilities to withstand extraordinary, catastrophic events. Local health departments' ability to adapt to the changing environment is the focus of the National Association of County and City Health Officials' (NACCHO) [2018 Preparedness Summit](#), April 17–20, in Atlanta, Georgia: "Strengthening National Health Security: Mastering Ordinary Responses, Building Resilience for Extraordinary Events." The conference is being held at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta.

"In 2017, we saw record devastation to our country from wildfires, hurricanes, floods, and mass shooting events. The prospect of a catastrophic event is not something

most of us want to envision, but we must be prepared in the event of a disaster,” said Laura Hanen, NACCHO’s interim executive director and chief of government affairs. “Our local health departments, staffed with highly trained professionals, are entrusted to keep our communities safe. The Preparedness Summit is a premier opportunity for federal, state, and local public health and healthcare preparedness professionals to gather information and learn from top experts, and from each other, on what it means to create resilient communities in the face of disaster. This year, we’re offering opportunities to hear from session presenters who were involved in preparing for and responding to catastrophic events including California’s record-setting wildfires and Hurricane Irma’s devastation of the Virgin Islands. Participants can learn from their first-hand experiences and take lessons home to utilize in their communities.”

PLENARY SESSIONS:

Tuesday, April 17; 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM; Location: Centennial 1-3

PL-01 – “Extraordinary Events of 2017: State, Local and Territorial Perspectives on Hurricane and Wildfire Response”

- Chris Rosa, MS, Paramedic, Deputy EMS Administrator, Ventura County EMS Agency
- Susan Fanelli, MA, Assistant Director, California Department of Public Health
- Michelle Davis, PhD, Health Commissioner and Chief Health Officer, Virgin Islands Department of Health
- Robert Eadie, JD, Health Officer and Administrator, Monroe County Health Department
- *Moderator:* Daniel Sosin, MD, MPH, FACP, Acting Director, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Thursday, April 19; 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM; Location: Centennial 1-3

PL-02 – “Strengthening Health Security: Visions for a Prepared and Resilient Nation”

- Robert Kadlec, MD, Assistant Secretary, Preparedness and Response, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Stephen Redd, MD, RADM, Acting Principal Deputy Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- James McDonnell, MA, Acting Assistant Secretary, Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office, Department of Homeland Security
- Daniel Kaniewski, PhD, Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency

- *Moderator:* Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Executive Director, Harris County Public Health

Friday, April 20; 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM; Location: Centennial 1-3

PL-03 – “A Troubling Gap: Why Cyber Security Matters to Public Health Emergency Response”

- Mitch Stripling, MPA, Assistant Commissioner, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Gibbie Harris, BSN, MSPH, Retired local health director
- Theresa Meadows, MS, RN, CHCIO, FHIMSS, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer, Cook Children’s Healthcare System
- *Moderator:* Stephen Curren, MS, Director, Division of Resilience, Office of Emergency Management, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Join NACCHO at this three-day event, which provides the only cross-disciplinary learning designed specifically for the preparedness community. Each year, the Preparedness Summit convenes nearly 1,700 diverse preparedness professionals representing public sector, nonprofit, academic, and industry partners, to leverage the field’s emerging capabilities, innovation, and partnerships for a healthier, more resilient nation. To learn more about the Preparedness Summit, please click [here](#). Media interested in attending the event should contact Theresa Spinner, NACCHO’s director of media and public relations, at 202-783-5551 or tspinner@naccho.org.

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About the Preparedness Summit

The Preparedness Summit (<http://preparednesssummit.org/>) is the first and longest-running national conference on public health preparedness. Since its beginning in 2006, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has taken a leadership role in convening a wide array of partners to participate in the Summit; presenting new research findings, sharing tools and resources, and providing a variety of opportunities for attendees to learn how to implement model practices that enhance the nation’s capabilities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other emergencies.

About NACCHO

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation’s nearly 3,000 local governmental health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities. For more information about NACCHO, please visit www.naccho.org.