



January 17, 2012

Dear Hospital Preparedness Colleagues:

Preparing health systems and their partners to prevent, respond to, and rapidly recover from threats is critical to our Nation's resilience, and necessary to protecting and securing our Nation's healthcare infrastructure. To further improve the readiness of our Nation's hospitals and healthcare coalitions to disasters, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) is very pleased to release *Healthcare Preparedness Capabilities: National Guidance for Healthcare System Preparedness*. In concert with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) *Public Health Preparedness Capabilities: National Standards for State and Local Planning*, these evidence-based documents will serve as the cornerstones for health preparedness planning.

The development of the *Healthcare Preparedness Capabilities* began as an intensive, dynamic and collaborative development process in early 2011 that engaged federal, state, local, private sector, and academic subject matter experts. Through this and in conjunction with CDC's PHEP capabilities, eight capabilities were identified as the basis for healthcare coalition preparedness.

The intent of this guidance is to assist regional, state, tribal and local health planners and responders to identify gaps in preparedness, establish priorities, develop plans for building and sustaining healthcare preparedness capabilities, and allow measures of progress toward a defined "prepared healthcare coalition." Additionally, this document will assist healthcare coalitions to develop long-term preparedness plans to better guide and inform preparedness strategies and target investments and awards.

Developed in coordination with our partners across the Nation, this significant accomplishment provides a foundation for our Nation's health preparedness. ASPR remains committed to strengthening our Nation's healthcare preparedness system—continuing to strive for *A Nation Prepared*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nicole Lurie", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Nicole Lurie, MD, MSPH
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response