# IN AN EMERGENCY, YOU CAN'T RESPOND EFFECTIVELY IF YOU'RE NOT READY

# WHY IT MATTERS

Every community in the U.S. must be ready to respond to a pandemic, natural disaster, or chemical or radiological release. Our action - or inaction - in this area directly impacts the health of the American people and is a matter of national security.

# PUBLIC HEALTH THREATS



### **BIOLOGICAL THREATS**

like viruses (flu or other infectious diseases), bacteria, parasites, fungi or their toxins that can cause illness or death in people, animals, or plants



## NATURAL DISASTERS

like heat waves, snow or ice storms, earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods



## CHEMICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL MATERIALS

that if released accidentally or intentionally could create large-scale public health emergencies, especially in densely populated areas

## A WELL PREPARED COUNTRY



Can stop outbreaks

Can get help to people affected by natural disasters



Can quickly recognize and respond to



# WHY CDC?

Through the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, CDC can:



#### PREPARE

We make sure people are trained, systems are functioning, and critical medicines and supplies are available before an emergency strikes



## RESPOND

We combine emergency management expertise and the world's best scientists to monitor and respond to emergencies 24/7



We have a track record of working effectively with state and local health departments, federal partners, and across CDC to get fast results and communicate accurate and timely information when lives are at stake



# DURING EMERGENCIES, CDC:



Rapidly deploys scientific experts



Coordinates the delivery of supplies and equipment to the incident site



Monitors response activities

Provides resources to state and local public health departments



Disseminates timely and accurate information

