



Dear Colleagues,

As we know all too well, the 2014–2015 Ebola outbreak in West Africa dominated much of our work since the summer of 2014. CDC's Incident Management System (IMS) was activated on July 9, 2014, to provide epidemiologic, health communication, laboratory, infection control, and emergency management support to stop Ebola virus transmission. As of September 30, 2015, more than 3,700 CDC staff members provided scientific, technical, and programmatic leadership to support operations, logistics, staffing, communications, management, and other functions in the Ebola response.

We remain focused on the goal of getting to zero Ebola cases, and for countries in West Africa that have reached zero Ebola cases, staying at zero. Despite the great successes we achieved in reducing the number of new cases, at the time of this writing, cases are still occurring. As long as there is Ebola in West Africa, it remains a threat everywhere. We must also commit to preparing for future events that affect global health security. As CDC Director Tom Frieden stated, we must continue the work with countries to assure that systems, trained staff, and equipment are in place to recognize and respond to new disease outbreaks.

In addition to our focus on the Ebola outbreak, we must measure the impact of our programs, maximize our ability to respond, and make the most of public health investments. Defined standards and measures can help us show progress in being ready to respond across the nation as well as show the return on investment in the country's public health infrastructure since 9/11. We are committed to continuously improving our approaches to better preparing and securing our nation against ever-evolving threats. Measuring and demonstrating program impact and improvements are imperative to highlighting the return on investment of our activities.

Finally, we are continuously improving our efficiency and effectiveness with internal and external partners. To protect the public's health, we must work effectively with partners to make the most of limited resources, and to achieve the highest level of readiness possible. We recognize that a comprehensive approach to national health security is necessary to meet the challenges posed by a catastrophic incident. Forging strategic alliances with a broad group of diverse partners is critical as we work to protect America from all health, safety, and security threats.

CDC remains committed to saving lives 24/7 by supporting state and local health departments and using resources to achieve the greatest benefit. This report describes how CDC and our partners work together to improve our nation's health security, and demonstrates Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) awardees' progress in preparing for major events. As we strive to strengthen the country's resiliency, our partnerships with state and local health departments are essential to preparing the nation to overcome any emergency.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen C. Redd, MD

RADM, USPHS

Director, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention