

What Is Your Responsibility To Protect Staff And Clients?

www.nols.edu/wrmc | (800) 495-6565

WRMIG



OUTWARD
BOUND
NOLS



WILDERNESS RISK MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

This document may not be reproduced
without the consent of the author. 10/13

Hazards

- ▣ Infectious
 - Airborne
 - Bloodborne
 - Droplet
 - Contact
- ▣ Environmental

Risk Factors

- ▣ Hygiene
- ▣ Close, sustained quarters
- ▣ New people and lack of familiarity
- ▣ The expected
- ▣ The unexpected

Mundane

- ▣ Influenza
- ▣ Domestic vectorborne (e.g., Lyme, WNV)
- ▣ MRSA
- ▣ Norovirus

Exotic

- ▣ Dengue
- ▣ Rocky Mountain spotted fever
- ▣ Tickborne encephalopathies
- ▣ Amebiasis
- ▣ Schistosomiasis

Options/Responsibility

- ▣ Screening
- ▣ Require
- ▣ Educate/suggest
- ▣ *Caveat emptor*

Preplan

- ▣ Screening
- ▣ Familiarity with the environment
 - Geographic
 - Weather
 - Local – food, water, vectors, snakes, etc

Resources

- ▣ Local knowledge
- ▣ Pre-program visit
- ▣ Medical advisor/consultant
- ▣ cdc.gov
- ▣ <http://biosurveillance.typepad.com/biosurveillance/infectious-disease-event-forecasting/>
- ▣ Realtime sources
 - Influenza, MRSA, Dengue, MERS-CoV, Nipah encephalitis, Chikungunya, etc

Precautions

- ▣ Droplets – colds:
- ▣ Airborne – Tbc, varicella, rubeola: facemask, respirator
- ▣ Contact – C. difficle, MRSA, norovirus: gloves, gowns; disposal
- ▣ Bloodborne – HIV, HCV
- ▣ Fecal/oral – HAV, norovirus: gloves, clean surfaces

...and, even if you do everything right...

- ▣ Previously healthy 15 yo girl who developed fever, headache, diarrhea and confusion after a day hike in rural China
- ▣ No ticks or mosquitoes noted
- ▣ She ultimately had worsening confusion, seizures, aphasia, and hemiplegia
- ▣ Diagnosed with TBE
- ▣ Developed significant disabilities
- ▣ The school lost a \$41.7 million USD judgement