



## DEFENSE INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL OPERATIONS (DIMO)



### “Biological Weapons and Emerging National Security Threats” Expanded IMET (E-IMET) Mobile Education Team (MET) MASL D309020

**Background:** The recent threats posed by pandemic influenza, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and other emerging infectious diseases highlight the need for training and response planning on the local, regional, and national levels. Early recognition of natural and bioterrorism related disease outbreaks enable life-saving medical interventions. Though the origin of an outbreak may differ, the need for planning, preparation and management is common to natural and unnatural disease outbreaks. This DIMO-developed course was created to share experiences and lessons learned from managing natural and unnatural outbreaks in the hospital setting with colleagues around the world.

**Program Scope:** In the event of a natural or man-made infectious disease epidemic, the tools and skills provided in this program will protect populations, ensure the continued function of vital healthcare infrastructure and ensure the safety of healthcare workers. This course focuses on hospital-based planning for high consequence pathogens such as pandemic influenza and agents of bioterrorism. Cutting-edge scientific information on infectious agents such as avian influenza, swine influenza, smallpox and anthrax, from the level of the pathogen, human infection, medical care and population health are presented. Within the context of contemporary outbreak events such as anthrax, SARS and Swine H1N1 influenza, we will discuss effective methods to achieve disease containment, hospital infection control and coordination of interagency efforts. We will also discuss techniques for dealing with fear and phobia among hospital workers. Team exercises will be integrated into the curriculum and the course will conclude with a hospital-based exercise where attendees will apply the tools gained during the course in responding to a biological event involving a contagious, high consequence pathogen such as smallpox, pneumonic plague or SARS.

**Course Objectives:** Understand the microbiology and epidemiology of selected emerging infectious diseases and agents of biological warfare. Integrate this understanding into delivery of healthcare in individual hospitals minimize population-level impact and protect the safety of healthcare workers.

**Course Duration:** 4-5 days; **Class Size:** 50 students maximum; **How Offered:** Conducted in the host country as a MET; **Team Composition:** Four to five instructors consisting of infectious disease physicians, critical care physicians and public health specialists.

**Intended International Audience:** physicians, nurses, medical technicians, and first responders.

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