Office for Domestic Preparedness
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Homeland Security

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TO All State Administrative Agency Heads
All State Administrative Agency Points of Contact
All State Homeland Security Directors

FROM: Matt A. Mayer
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SUBJECT: Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Resources

The MMRS program enables jurisdictions to achieve an enhanced local capability to respond to mass casualty events during the first hours of a response until significant external assistance can arrive. MMRS jurisdictions are prepared to respond to a range of mass casualty incidents—from weapons of mass destruction, epidemic outbreaks, natural disasters, and large-scale hazardous materials events. In FY 2005, the MMRS program addressed eight Capability Focus Areas including pharmaceutical cache management and the operational viability of mass care shelters and medical treatment facilities.

Grantees are encouraged to use capabilities built through the MMRS program to support ongoing Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts, as appropriate, including: establishing reception centers, which consolidate monitoring, triage, decontamination, and registration of affected persons; ensuring that alternate medical treatment facilities have immediately available electric power, water and sewer, environmental controls, and other necessary infrastructure support; and strengthening medical surge capabilities by procuring additional medical supplies and pharmaceuticals. A list of eligible MMRS equipment, including medical supplies and pharmaceuticals, is available on the FY 2005 Authorized Equipment List, posted on the Responder Knowledge Base at www.rkb.mipt.org.

These activities should be coordinated with other sources of Federal funding for relevant emergency medical and public health functions through the State Senior Advisory Committees.

Additional questions may be directed to your Preparedness Officer or the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk at askcsid@dhs.gov, 1-800-368-6498.

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