



***Ready or Not?
Protecting the Public's Health from Disease, Disasters, and
Bioterrorism***

Monday, February 14, 2011 2:00 pm – 3:30pm
Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Meeting Room South (CVC 217)
Washington, DC

Our country has seen nearly ten years of progress in how it prevents, identifies, and contains new disease outbreaks and bioterrorism threats and responds to the aftermath of natural disasters. In addition, the real-world experience of responding to the H1N1 flu pandemic - supported by emergency supplemental funding - also elevated preparedness to the next level.

The *Ready or Not?* report, recently released by Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, emphasizes that the almost a decade of gains is in real jeopardy due to severe budget cuts by federal, state, and local governments. The economic recession has led to cuts in public health staffing and eroded the basic capabilities of state and local health departments, which are needed to successfully respond to crises. This briefing will address how the nation can work to prepare for the next major public health crisis.

Briefing Agenda:

Jeffrey Levi, Ph.D., Executive Director, Trust for America's Health

Robert P. Kadlec, M.D., Vice President, PRTM, and former Special Assistant to President George W. Bush and Senior Director for Biodefense Policy

Jimmy Guidry, M.D., Louisiana State Health Officer/DHH Medical Director

Daniel Fagbuyi, M.D., Medical Director, Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, Children's National Medical Center, Washington D.C.