

Dear APIC and SHEA Members,

Infectious disease prevention and control has never been more important in our society than now. Hurricane Katrina and the ensuing flooding have highlighted the need for a rapid response related to prevention and control of healthcare-associated infectious diseases in a large-scale emergency. As national and international leaders, our organizations have a great opportunity to join together and assist others in a time of need.

In collaboration with CDC, APIC and SHEA have committed to developing a network of infection prevention and control, as well as infectious disease specialists throughout the country. Volunteer participants in the network should be key players in healthcare facilities who have insight into problems, needs and resources in a medical/public health emergency. Our aim is to establish a real time communication network that provides rapid two-way dialogue. To that end, we are contacting you to determine your willingness to participate. The network will be the first step in establishing an infrastructure by which our organizations can provide, obtain or relay information to and from impacted areas, to local and national public health agencies, and to you, our valued members, during a crisis. From this network, many other opportunities for responding to such a public health crisis will evolve.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, APIC and SHEA feel the urgency to respond in a constructive fashion by establishing this crucial, collaborative network in collaboration with CDC. **Please complete the attached simple form indicating your interest in participating and return to SHEA Headquarters by email: sheahq@shea-online.org (or fax: 703-684-1009) by October 7, 2005.** Even if you do not wish to participate, please fill out the form, so that we have information to contact you in an emergency. Your participation will be confidential. Additional information will be provided to volunteer participants once we have your basic contact information.

We thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,

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President, APIC

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