



STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

433 River Street, Suite 303

Troy, New York 12180-2299

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H. Dr. P.H.
Commissioner

Dennis P. Whalen
Executive Deputy Commissioner

January 9, 2006

Dear Chief Executive Officer:

This letter is to inform you that the NYS Department of Health, Health Systems Emergency Preparedness office, will be activating two surveys on the Health Emergency Response Data System (HERDS) over the next few weeks. Also, the website address to the HERDS application will be changing on January 23rd, 2006.

The first survey is the Evacuation Transportation Survey. It will be activated on January 13th with a completion date of January 20th. The Evacuation Transportation survey will contain questions about in-house and contract transportation services that your facility would use in the case of an evacuation. The data collected will facilitate area-wide analysis by emergency management staff and NYSDOH.

The second survey is the Critical Asset Feedback Survey. It will be activated on January 25th with a completion date of February 8th. The purpose of the Critical Asset Feedback Survey is to determine which questions on the current Critical Asset Survey need further clarification. The data collected will be used to create clear definitions for the Critical Asset Survey questions.

The HERDS website address will change on January 23rd, 2006. All of the links on the HPN will be updated with the new address, therefore, if staff at your facility access HERDS via the HPN they will not experience issues. However, if your staff has bookmarked the HERDS website address in their favorites, they will receive an error when trying to access the application and they will need to access HERDS through the HPN to change their bookmark. Further information will be posted on the HPN reminding users of the HERDS website address change within the next couple of weeks.

If you have any questions, please contact John Peterson of the Health Systems Emergency Preparedness Program at (518) 408-5163.

Sincerely,

Bruce I. Fage, Director
New York State Department of Health
Health Systems Emergency Preparedness