

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#27-16

**NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONDUCTS WALK-THROUGH OF
SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS SHELTER WITH CITY PARTNERS ON
STATEN ISLAND**

The NYC Emergency Management Department conducted a walk-through of a Special Medical Needs Shelter (SMNS) Thursday at the Michael J. Petrides School in Staten Island. During a coastal storm emergency, the school can be used as a SMNS to provide temporary care for residents with medical conditions. On Thursday, 95 partners from various city agencies and the private sector toured the simulated set up, including representatives from NYC Health & Hospitals, NYC Children’s Services, NYC Department of Education, NYC Department of Homeless services, and XPO Logistics.

A Special Medical Needs Shelter (SMNS) is a temporary emergency facility capable of providing care to residents whose medical condition exceed the capabilities of a Hurricane Shelter but is not severe enough to require hospitalization or home care. Anyone sheltering in an SMNS has access to food, water, and basic services available in a regular hurricane shelter, in addition to a supportive environment with basic nursing care and health monitoring for people with chronic and or ongoing health conditions which may be exacerbated during emergency evacuations. NYC Emergency Management also provides disability access and functional needs items, durable medical good, medical cots, over-the-counter medical items, and fresh food feeding options to SMNS shelter residents. NYC Health & Hospitals is responsible for all medical operations within the shelter. Michael J. Petrides School on Staten Island is one of eight pre-identified SMNS locations throughout the New York City area.

CAPTION:

SMNS_1 – NYC Emergency Management staff discuss Special Medical Needs Shelters setup, layout, functions, and responsibilities with agency partners.

SMNS_2 – NYC Emergency Management staff guide agency partners through a simulated setup of a Special Medical Needs Shelter at Michael J. Petrides School in Staten Island.

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