



COCA Update

Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA)
CDC Emergency Communication System

January 28, 2013

COCA Updates are disseminated biweekly. More frequent distributions occur when there is emergency information or CDC event-specific updates to share. The next COCA Update is scheduled for **February 11**.

This issue contains information from **January 14 – January 28, 2013** and guidance documents relevant to current public health events. For questions about these or other clinical issues, please write to us at coca@cdc.gov.

Additional Resources

[CDC Emergency on Twitter](#)

[CDC Health Partners Outreach on Facebook](#)

[COCA Home Page](#)

Topics and Highlights

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COCA News and Announcements

Upcoming COCA Call/Webinar:

Evaluating and Responding to Chemical Emergencies: The Role of Poison Control Centers and Public Health Labs

Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)

Call Number: 888-790-6180

Passcode: 1281914

Webinar Link: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PW3729852&p=1281914&t=c>

During this COCA call, subject matter experts will discuss biomedical testing for chemical agents, state level poison control center practices, and clinical resources for chemical emergencies.

For more information on this call: http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo_013113.asp

Emergency Preparedness: Understanding Physicians' Concerns and Readiness to Respond

Date: Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)

Call Number: 888-233-9077

Passcode: 5070816

Webinar: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PW4267068&p=5070816&t=c>

During this COCA call, a Harvard School of Public Health researcher will share findings from their physician preparedness poll, and representatives from two professional associations will discuss policy, practice, and operational tools and resources to assist physicians in All-Hazard emergency preparedness.

For more information on this call: http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo_021213.asp

Recent COCA Call/Webinar:

Stopping Norovirus in its Tracks – What Every Clinician Should Know

Date: Thursday, January 17, 2013

During this COCA call, a CDC subject matter expert discussed the burden of norovirus outbreaks, reviewed diagnostics and surveillance tools, and shared resources to promote the prevention and control of norovirus infections.

For more information on this call: http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo_011713.asp

Archived COCA Conference Calls are available at: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp>

Free continuing education (CME, CNE, ACPE, CEU, CECH, and AAVSB/RACE) is available for most calls.

CDC News and Announcements

CDC Science Clips: Volume 5, Issue: 3 – (CDC)

Each week select science clips are shared with the public health community to enhance awareness of emerging scientific knowledge. The focus is applied public health research and prevention science that has the capacity to improve health now.

<http://www.cdc.gov/phlic/sciclips/issues/>

Public Health Preparedness

NEW: Public Health Matters Blog: Extreme Weather, Extreme Outbreaks, and Extreme Science-based Preparedness and Response – January 24 (CDC)

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, the news media has increased discussion and debate about what needs to be done in the future to better prepare our country for emergencies.

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2013/01/extreme-weather-extreme-outbreaks-and-extreme-science-based-preparedness-and-response/>

Emergency Preparedness and Response – (CDC)

Find resources for All Hazards and Specific Hazards preparedness.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/hazards-all.asp>

Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Resources for Clinicians – (CDC)

Find online and in-person training centers and resources at

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/trainingresources.asp>

Natural Disasters and Severe Weather

Extreme Cold: A Prevention Guide to Promote Your Personal Health and Safety – (CDC)

The Extreme Cold Prevention Guide combines all of the key content of the CDC Winter Weather website into one downloadable, printable file. Printing this PDF file will ensure that you will have important winter weather health and safety information available even when you're without power or Internet service.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/guide.asp>

Health and Safety Concerns for All Disasters – (CDC)

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/alldisasters.asp>

Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Journal

EID is prepared by the CDC. [EID Home Page](#)

Volume 19, Number 2 – February 2013

Highlights in this issue include:

- [Laboratory-based Surveillance for Hepatitis E Virus Infection, United States, 2005–2012](#)
- [Rift Valley Fever and a New Paradigm of Research and Development for Zoonotic Disease Control](#)
- [Nipah Virus Infection Outbreak with Nosocomial and Corpse-to-Human Transmission, Bangladesh](#)

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

MMWR publications are prepared by the CDC. To electronically subscribe, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwrsubscribe.html>

January 11, 2013 / Vol. 62 / No. 3 [Download .pdf document of this issue](#)

- [Surveillance for Foodborne Disease Outbreaks — United States, 2009–2010](#)
- [Progress in Immunization Information Systems — United States, 2011](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Emergence of New Norovirus Strain GII.4 Sydney — United States, 2012](#)

Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

NEW: CDC Health Advisory: Notice to Clinicians: Summary of CDC Recommendations for Influenza Antiviral Medications – January 15 (CDC)

CDC continues to recommend antiviral medications for treatment of seasonal influenza and annual vaccination as the best tools for prevention.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00339.asp>

NEW: CDC Press Release: New norovirus strain causing most norovirus outbreaks in United States – January 24 (CDC)

CDC researchers analyzed 2012 data collected through CaliciNet on norovirus strains associated with outbreaks in the United States. They found that of the 266 norovirus outbreaks reported during the last four months of 2012, 141 were caused by the GII.4 Sydney strain.

http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2013/p0125_norovirus.html

Weekly Flu View – January 19 (CDC)

This is a weekly influenza surveillance report prepared by CDC Influenza Division. All data are preliminary and may change as CDC receives more reports.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

Planning and Preparedness: Health Professionals and Seasonal Flu – (HHS)

Health care providers play an important role during flu season. The following guidance and information will assist health care providers and service organizations to plan and respond to seasonal flu.

<http://www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/hospital/index.html>

Travel Safety

Current Travel Warnings – January 23 (US Department of State)

Travel Warnings are issued when long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable lead the State Department to recommend that Americans avoid or consider the risk of travel to that country. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff.

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

Food, Drug and Device Safety

NEW: CDC Health Advisory: Recommendations for Drug Allocation, Tuberculosis Prevention, and Patient Care During Isoniazid Shortages – January 28 (CDC)

Shortages of isoniazid (INH), a cornerstone drug for treating tuberculosis disease (TB) and latent Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection (LTBI), are continuing. This notice gives an update on the shortages and expands general guidance to public health officials and clinicians about how to adjust practices in response to the shortages.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00340.asp>

FDA approves new seasonal influenza vaccine made using novel technology – January 16 (FDA)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced that it has approved Flublok, the first trivalent influenza vaccine made using an insect virus (baculovirus) expression system and recombinant DNA technology. Flublok is approved for the prevention of seasonal influenza in people 18 through 49 years of age.

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm335891.htm>

MedWatch: The FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program – (HHS/FDA)

Your FDA gateway for clinically important safety information and reporting serious problems with human medical products.

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/default.htm>

FoodSafety.gov Reports FDA and USDA Food Recalls, Alerts, Reporting & Resources – (HHS/USDA/FDA/CDC/NIH)

For recalls and alerts by both FDA and USDA, or to report a problem or make inquiries.

<http://www.foodsafety.gov/recalls/recent/index.html>

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The Emergency Risk Communication Branch (ERCB) Clinician Communication Team works to enhance partners' knowledge of emerging threats and their effects on human populations, and to provide relevant, timely information to help manage these threats by developing and maintaining mechanisms for communication. The Clinician Communication Team is responsible for the management of all COCA products.

For information on this and other clinical issues or to send your feedback please contact us at coca@cdc.gov

ERCB offers a variety of free tools and resources to help you enhance your knowledge of emergency preparedness and response:

[CDC Health Partners Outreach Facebook page](#) - real time updates, guidance, and situational awareness for public health partners on Facebook.

[Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity](#) – resources for health care providers.

[Subscribe the COCA RSS Feed](#) - get notified of conference calls, updates, and CDC guidance for health providers.

[Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication \(CERC\) Training](#) - course on the fundamentals of CDC's Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication.

[Selective National Assessment Profiles \(SNAPS\)](#) - snapshots of state population data and local-level community profile information.

[Risk Communicator](#) –quarterly online newsletter providing guidance for emergency risk communication strategy.



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