



# COCA Update

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

March 26, 2012

**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 **April 9<sup>th</sup>**.

This issue contains information from **March 12 – March 26, 2012** 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](mailto:coca@cdc.gov).

#### Additional Resources

[CDC Emergency on Twitter](#)  
[CDC Health Partners Outreach on Facebook](#)  
[COCA Home Page](#)

#### Topics and Highlights

[COCA News & Announcements](#) *Recent COCA Conference Calls/Webinars*

[CDC News and Announcements](#)

[Public Health Preparedness](#)

[Emerging Infectious Disease](#)

[Natural Disasters & Severe Weather](#)

[Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#)

[Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Disease](#)

[Travel Safety](#)

[Food, Drug & Device Safety](#)

## COCA News and Announcements

### Recently Archived COCA Calls/Webinars

[Epidemiology and Clinical Features of Lyme Disease](#)

[2011-2012 Influenza Season: Antiviral Medication Recommendations](#)

[Additional Archived COCA Conference Calls](#)

## CDC News and Announcements

### Did You Know?

“Did You Know?” is a weekly feature from the Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support to highlight prevention activities. The series features research and program activity from CDC. Please access, use, and share this information broadly with your colleagues and partners.

### CDC Scienceclips: Volume 4\_ – Mar 20 (CDC)

This week, Science Clips features scientific articles related to this month's Public Health Grand Rounds on the impact of excessive alcohol use, and evidence-based strategies to prevent it.

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## Public Health Preparedness

[HHS sponsors contest for Web app to identify local health trends – Mar 20 \(HHS\)](#)

Federal officials are challenging developers to design Web-based applications that use Twitter to track health trends in real time. Health officials may be able to use knowledge of these trends as an early indicator of emerging health issues and a warning of public health emergencies in a community.

[Emergency Preparedness and Response \(CDC\)](#)

Find resources for All Hazards and Specific Hazards preparedness.

[Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Resources Page for Clinicians \(CDC\)](#)

Find online and in-person training centers and resources at

## Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID)

[EID Home Page](#)

**Volume 18, Number 4 – April 2012**

Highlights in this issue include

- [Influenza-associated Hospitalizations by Industry, 2009–10 Influenza Season, United States](#)
- [Comparison of \*Escherichia coli\* ST131 Pulsotypes, by Epidemiologic Traits, 1967–2009](#)
- [Lessons Learned during Dengue Outbreaks in the United States, 2001–2011](#)
- [Tuberculosis Screening before Anti-Hepatitis C Virus Therapy in Prisons](#)

## Natural Disasters and Severe Weather

[Tornadoes: Being Prepared – \(CDC\)](#)

## Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

MMWR publications are prepared by the CDC. [Electronically subscribe.](#)

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- [World TB Day — March 24, 2012](#)
- [Trends in Tuberculosis — United States, 2011](#)
- [Tuberculosis Outbreak Associated with a Homeless Shelter — Kane County, Illinois, 2007–2011](#)
- [Progress Toward Global Polio Eradication — Africa, 2011](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Multistate Outbreak of \*Salmonella\* Altona and Johannesburg Infections Linked to Chicks and Ducklings from a Mail-Order Hatchery — United States, February–October 2011](#)
- [Announcement: International Course in Applied Epidemiology](#)
- [QuickStats: Age-Adjusted Motor Vehicle Accident Death Rates, by Sex and Type of Locality — United States, 2007–2009](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables](#)

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- [National Kidney Month — March 2012](#)
- [Reducing Bloodstream Infections in an Outpatient Hemodialysis Center — New Jersey, 2008–2011](#)
- [Tickborne Relapsing Fever in a Mother and Newborn Child — Colorado, 2011](#)
- [Announcements: National Poison Prevention Week, 50th Anniversary — March 18–24, 2012](#)
- [Announcements: World Water Day — March 22, 2012](#)
- [Announcements: Epidemiology in Action Course](#)
- [Announcements: CDC Launches National Tobacco Education Campaign](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables](#)

## Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

### *Influenza*

[Weekly Flu View – Mar 23 \(CDC\)](#)

During week 11, 7.6% of all deaths reported through the 122-Cities Mortality Reporting System were due to pneumonia and influenza. This percentage was below the epidemic threshold of 7.9% for week 11.

[CDC Confirms Typical Human Influenza A H3N2 Virus in Maryland Cluster – Mar 16 \(CDC\)](#)

CDC has confirmed that the influenza viruses isolated from the cluster of severe respiratory illness in one family in Maryland are seasonal influenza A H3N2 viruses. Genetic sequencing has confirmed that this is a typical human seasonal H3N2 virus that is more than 99% similar to other H3N2 influenza viruses submitted by the state of Maryland this season.

### *Tuberculosis*

[Childhood tuberculosis neglected, despite available remedies – Mar 21 \(WHO\)](#)

Tuberculosis (TB) often goes undiagnosed in children from birth to 15 years old because they lack access to health services - or because the health workers who care for them are unprepared to recognize the signs and symptoms of TB in this age group. With better training and harmonization of the different programmes that provide health services for children, serious illness and death from TB could be prevented in thousands of children every year.

[World TB Day 2012: Stop TB in My Lifetime – Mar 19 \(CDC\)](#)

Each year, CDC and others recognize World TB Day on March 24. Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the world's deadliest diseases. Learn more about TB risk factors that can increase the chance of developing TB disease.

[Treatment for Latent TB Infection – Mar 19 \(CDC\)](#)

Treatment of latent TB Infection greatly reduces the risk that TB infection will progress to TB disease. Certain groups are at very high risk of developing TB disease once infected. Every effort should be made to begin appropriate treatment and to ensure completion of the entire course of treatment for latent TB infection.

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## Travel Safety

### [Current Travel Warnings – Mar 19 \(US Department of State\)](#)

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.

## Food, Drug and Device Safety

### [FoodSafety.gov Reports FDA and USDA Food Recalls, Alerts, Reporting & Resources – Mar 23 \(HHS/USDA/FDA/CDC/NIH\)](#)

For recalls and alerts by both FDA and USDA, or to report a problem or make inquiries, visit [FoodSafety.gov](#).

### [Texas Firm Recalls Beef Sausage Products Due To Possible Listeria Contamination – Mar 21 \(FSIS\)](#)

Southside Market & BBQ, an Elgin, Texas establishment, is recalling approximately 2,373 pounds of ready-to-eat beef sausage products that may have been contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).

### [Studies: US gastroenteritis deaths, imported food outbreaks on rise – Mar 14 \(CDC\)](#)

The number of US gastroenteritis deaths more than doubled in 8 years, with *Clostridium difficile* and norovirus as the two most common culprits, researchers reported at an infectious disease conference. The study of gastroenteritis deaths is the first analysis of its kind in the last 20 years. Investigators from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) presented the findings at the International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases (ICEID) in Atlanta.

### [CDC research shows outbreaks linked to imported foods increasing – Mar 14 \(CDC\)](#)

Foodborne disease outbreaks caused by imported food appeared to rise in 2009 and 2010, and nearly half of the outbreaks implicated foods imported from areas which previously had not been associated with outbreaks, according to research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, presented at the International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases in Atlanta.

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The Emergency Risk Communication Branch (ERCB) **Health Partners Outreach 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 Health Partners Outreach 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](mailto:coca@cdc.gov)**

The Health Partners Outreach Team 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 Healthcare 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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