



# COCA Update

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

August 1, 2011

**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 **August 15**.

This issue contains information from **July 18-August 1** 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).

#### Web Update Notifications:

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#### Topics and Highlights

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## COCA News and Announcements

### Upcoming CERC Webinar Training

#### Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication Basic Principles

**Date/Time:** Thursday, August 4; 2:00 pm (EST)

CERC draws from lessons learned during public health emergencies, and incorporates best practices from the fields of risk and crisis communication. This webinar will give participants essential knowledge and tools to navigate the realities of communicating to the public, media, partners and stakeholders during a public health emergency.

#### For more information on this call:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=pf7m85dab&oeidk=a07e4g915o0ed9714ec>

### Upcoming SOPHE Webinar

#### Incorporating the Cultural & Linguistic Needs of Individuals with Limited English Proficiency in Disaster Preparedness (Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE)/CDC)

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, August 9; 2:00 pm (EST)

The challenges of meeting the health care needs of individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) are often magnified during disaster response. This session will provide background and recommendations for how emergency responders should address the cultural and linguistic needs of individuals with LEP as well as the response planning process for this population.

#### For more information on this call:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=pf7m85dab&oeidk=a07e4cgwwbs2020a1b6>

### 3 Upcoming COCA Calls

#### **Ready, Willing, and Able: An Update for Clinicians on Evidence-based Strategies to Strengthen Mental Health and Behavioral Capacity for Public Health Preparedness**

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, August 16; 2:00-3:00 pm (EST)

**Call Number:** 888-829-8675

**Passcode:** 3189025

**Register at:** <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event>

Join this call and interact with 3 subject matter experts from John Hopkins University as they consider behavioral and psychological preparedness for response to disasters, from the clinicians and first responders to the community as a whole.

For more information on this call: [http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2011/callinfo\\_081611.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2011/callinfo_081611.asp)

#### **Emergency Preparedness: Considerations in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome**

**Date/Time:** August 18, 2:00-3:00 PM (EST)

**Call Number:** 888-829-8675

**Passcode:** 3189025

**Register at:** <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event>

Chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) is a complex illness characterized by disabling fatigue and accompanying case-defining symptoms that are medically unexplained. CFS can impair an individual's ability to prepare for, respond to, or recover from a public health disaster.

For more information on this call: [http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2011/callinfo\\_081811.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2011/callinfo_081811.asp)

#### **Brucellosis in the United States - Current Perspectives**

**Date/Time:** Thursday, August 25; 3:00-4:00 pm (EST)

**Call Number:** 888-790-6180

**Passcode:** 1281914

**Register at:** <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event>

Diagnosis and treatment of brucellosis is challenging because of nonspecific symptoms, limited availability of validated tests, and variety of antimicrobials regimens and duration of therapy. Join us for this COCA call where a subject matter expert will review the current status of brucellosis, available diagnostics, and treatment regimens.

For more information on this call: [http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2011/callinfo\\_082511.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2011/callinfo_082511.asp)

**Conference and Training Opportunities** page: For federal and COCA Partner conference and training information for the **upcoming 6 months**, visit <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/training.asp>

**Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Resources** page: Find online and in-person training centers and resources at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/trainingresources.asp>

#### **CDC Health Partners Outreach Facebook Page**

CDC's Facebook page for Health Partners provides real time updates, guidance, and situational awareness for public health partners about how to prepare and respond to public health emergencies and disasters. Become a fan today! "Like" the page to receive updates, participate in future conversations, and more.

<http://www.facebook.com/CDCHealthPartnersOutreach>

## **COCA Calls/Webinars Available Online – CE Credit Available**

Archived COCA Conference Calls are available on the COCA Web site. Free CE credit/contact hours (CME, CNE, ACPE, CEU, and CECH) are available for most COCA calls.

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

**COCA Home Page:** <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca>

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## **CDC News and Announcements**

### **CDC Vital Signs Town Hall Teleconference**

#### **The Link Between Breastfeeding and Childhood Obesity**

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, August 9; 12:00-4:00 pm (EST)

The Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support (OSTLTS) will present a town hall teleconference to discuss the link between breastfeeding and childhood obesity.

[http://www.cdc.gov/ostlts/townhall/vitalsigns\\_20110809.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ostlts/townhall/vitalsigns_20110809.html)

### **UPDATED Public Health Emergency Response Guide for State, Local, and Tribal Public Health Directors – Version 2.0**

State, local, and tribal health departments play an extremely important role in all-hazards emergency preparedness and response. To provide public health professionals within these agencies with immediate access to appropriate guidance and information, CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH), Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services (EEHS) has developed an all-hazards public health emergency response guide to address this need.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/planning/responseguide.asp>

### **Emergency Water Supply Planning Guide for Hospitals and Health Care Facilities (AWWA/CDC)**

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) and CDC have released a new guide to help hospitals and health care facilities operate during water supply emergencies. The 94-page guide covers the establishment of response teams, assessment of typical water usage, analysis of emergency water supply alternatives, and other critical considerations.

[http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/drinking\\_water\\_advisory/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/drinking_water_advisory/index.html)

### **Planning for an Emergency Drinking Water Supply (EPA/AWWA)**

Because multiple government agencies and other entities are involved in emergency response, advanced planning is necessary for efficient collaboration. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and American Water Works Association (AWWA) collaborated on this guide outlining critical planning steps in the event of a drinking water disruption and reviewing the roles and responsibilities among various levels of government.

<http://www.awwa.org/files/GovtPublicAffairs/PDF/PlanningSupply.pdf>

### **When Every Drop Counts: Protecting Public Health During Drought Conditions - A Guide for Public Health Professionals (CDC/AWWA/EPA/NOAA)**

A collaborative effort between CDC/NCEH, the American Water Works Association (AWWA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), this

publication examines the relationship between drought and public health. It is intended to assist public health officials, practitioners, and other stakeholders understand and prepare for drought.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/Publications/Drought.htm>.

### **CDC Public Health Matters Blog: Tornado Survivors Battle Deadly Fungus Outbreak – August 1 (CDC)**

Read and comment on this description of how CDC teams collaborate with each other and the community to identify and control outbreaks in response to disaster.

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2011/08/tornado/>

### **Science Clips – July 26 (CDC)**

This week's top scientific articles, selected on the basis of potential for population impact and practical implementation, include: ***When the facts are just not enough: credibly communicating about risk is riskier when emotions run high and time is short*** and ***Impacts of climate change on public health in India: future research directions***.

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

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## **Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID)**

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

### **Vol 17, Number 8 – August 2011**

Highlights in this issue include

- [Oseltamivir-Resistant Pandemic \(H1N1\) 2009 Virus Infection in England and Scotland, 2009–2010](#)
- [Cholera in United States Associated with Epidemic in Hispaniola](#)

## **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)**

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

**July 29, 2011 / Vol. 60 / No. 29** [Download .pdf of this Issue](#)

- [Nonfatal Sports and Recreation Heat Illness Treated in Hospital Emergency Departments — United States, 2001–2009](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Fatal Fungal Soft-Tissue Infections After a Tornado --- Joplin, Missouri, 2011](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables](#)

**July 22, 2011 / Vol. 60 / No. 28** [Download .pdf of this Issue](#)

- [Announcement: Epidemic Intelligence Service Application Deadline --- September 1, 2011](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables](#)

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# Natural Disasters and Severe Weather

## **Extreme Heat (CDC)**

Guidance for prevention and treatment of heat-related illness.

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/>

## **Extreme Heat Media Toolkit**

Brochures, posters, and other materials to share with patients to remind them how to avoid succumbing to extreme heat while performing normal activities.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/extremeheat/materials.html>

## **Podcast: Beat the Heat When Working Outdoors**

Each year in the US, lives are lost to heat-related illness.

<http://www2c.cdc.gov/podcasts/player.asp>

## **Health and Safety Concerns for Natural Disasters and Severe Weather (CDC)**

"Information for Specific Groups" on this page provides guidance for human and veterinary response workers, volunteers, and evacuation center personnel about illnesses, injuries, carbon monoxide poisoning, animals and insects, food, water, cleanup, mold, environmental concerns, mental effects of disasters, and other consequences of these events.

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

## **Hurricane Information for Health Care Professionals (CDC)**

Clinical guidance for Carbon Monoxide poisoning and environmental health and toxicology, infection control, and reopening healthcare facilities are among the features on this page.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/hcp.asp>

## **Tornado Cleanup and Response Web Page Features Preventive Measures for Occupational Hazards (CDC)**

This page includes CDC immunization recommendations for disaster responders, health recommendations for relief workers, and interim assessment tools for occupational safety and health in various healthcare settings, as well as guidance for hazards and disaster site management.

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/emres/tornado.html>

## **Guidance on Microbial Contamination in Previously Flooded Outdoor Areas (CDC)**

Bacterial and viral microbial contamination of flood waters in previously flooded outdoor areas; harmful organisms can persist in the environment up to 6 months.

[http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/Publications/Guidance\\_Flooding.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/Publications/Guidance_Flooding.htm)

## **Guidelines for Fire Service Operations in a Hurricane Response (CDC)**

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) provides guidelines for preventing injury, illness, and death among fire fighters during responses to hurricanes, floods, and other large scale natural disasters.

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/emres/FF-flood.html>

### **Wildfires (CDC)**

The Wildfires page includes links to guidance for responders, evacuation center personnel, veterinary evacuation centers, and relevant health care topics.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/wildfires/>

### **Active Fire Mapping Program (US Forest Service)**

Maps and reports of current US large fires.

<http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/>

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## **Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases**

### **Weekly Flu View – July 29 (CDC)**

During week 29, 6.4% 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 6.5% for week 29.

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

### **Seasonal Flu: International Situation Update – July 22 (CDC)**

This report is a summary of key influenza-related updates created from regional World Health Organization (WHO) reports, country reports, CDC field staff updates, and other sources. Updates are listed by region.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/international/activity.htm>

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## **Travel Safety**

### **Outbreak Updates for International Cruise Ships – July 26 (CDC)**

Cruise ships participating in the Vessel Sanitation Program are required to report the total number of gastrointestinal (GI) illness cases (including zero cases) evaluated by the medical staff before the ship arrives at a U.S. port, when sailing from a foreign port.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/vsp/surv/GIlist.htm>

### **Current Travel Warnings – July 29 (US Department of State)**

Currently, travel warnings are in effect for 34 countries. 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, or 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](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html)

# Food, Drug and Device Safety

## Recalls, Market Withdrawals and Safety Alerts – July 30 (FDA)

For information on recent FDA recalls, market recalls, and safety alerts for food, drugs, and medical devices:

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

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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. This is a product of the Health Partners Outreach Team's Clinician Communication Section (CCS) who is responsible for the management of all COCA products.

For information on this and other clinical issues or to send your feedback please contact CCS 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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