



# COCA Update

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

December 3, 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 **December 17**.

This issue contains information from **November 19 – December 3, 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](#)

[CDC News and Announcements](#)

[Public Health Preparedness](#)

[Natural Disasters & Severe Weather](#)

[Emerging Infectious Disease \(EID\) Journal](#)

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

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

[Travel Safety](#)

[Food, Drug & Device Safety](#)

## COCA News and Announcements

### Recent COCA Call/Webinar:

**NEW: Multistate Outbreak Fungal Meningitis and Other Infections: Updated Clinical Guidance**

**Date:** Tuesday, November 27, 2012

During this COCA Call, CDC subject matter experts provided updated information on epidural abscess and other clinical syndromes being diagnosed in exposed patients and reviewed CDC's diagnostic and treatment recommendations for clinicians. For more information on this call:

[http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2012/callinfo\\_112712.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2012/callinfo_112712.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

**Digital Press Kit: The Impact of Unsafe Injection Practices in U.S. Healthcare Settings – November 28 (CDC)**

More than 150,000 patients have been impacted by unsafe injection practices since 2001. Although safe injection practices represent very basic infection control measures, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) routinely identifies and investigates outbreaks associated with deficient practices. •The One & Only Campaign aims to eradicate outbreaks from unsafe medical injections by raising awareness among patients and healthcare providers about proper practices.

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2012/dpk-unsafe-injections.html>

**CDC Health Alert Network (HAN): Health Concerns about Misuse of Pesticides for Bed Bug Control – November 27 (CDC)**

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are alerting the public to an emerging national concern regarding misuse of pesticides to treat infestations of bed bugs and other insects indoors.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00336.asp>

#### **Prevent the Spread of Norovirus – November 19 (CDC)**

Noroviruses are the most common cause of gastroenteritis in the United States. CDC estimates that each year more than 20 million cases of acute gastroenteritis are caused by noroviruses. That means about 1 in every 15 Americans will get norovirus illness each year. Norovirus is also estimated to cause over 70,000 hospitalizations and 800 deaths each year in the United States.

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/Norovirus/index.html>

#### **CDC Science Clips: Volume 4, Issues: 46-47 – November 26 (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: Children's Preparedness Website – (CDC)**

Parents, teachers, doctors and nurses are just some of the people who can help children get ready for and cope with disasters. Check out these resources to help keep kids safe in an emergency.

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

#### **CDC Works for You 24/7 Blog: The Critical Role of State Health Depts. in the U.S. Fungal Meningitis Outbreak: 4 Key Efforts – November 21 (CDC)**

This recent blog post is an excerpt from the testimony of Dr. Beth Bell, director of the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases at CDC, who discussed, among other things, the critical role state health departments played in detecting and sounding the alarm on this outbreak of fungal meningitis and other infections.

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/cdcworksforyou24-7/2012/11/the-critical-role-of-state-health-depts-in-the-u-s-fungal-meningitis-outbreak-4-key-efforts/>

#### **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**

#### **Hurricane Sandy Response and Recovery 2012 – (HHS/ASPR)**

<http://www.phe.gov/emergency/events/Pages/sandy-midatlantic-2012.aspx>

#### **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 18, Number 12 – December 2012**

Highlights in this issue include:

- [Outbreak of Influenza A \(H3N2\) Variant Virus Infection among Attendees of an Agricultural Fair, Pennsylvania, USA, 2011](#)
- [West Nile Virus Neurologic Disease in Humans, South Africa, September 2008–May 2009](#)

## 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>

**November 30, 2012 / Vol. 61 / No. 47** [Download .pdf document of this issue](#)

- [Take-Home Lead Exposure Among Children with Relatives Employed at a Battery Recycling Facility — Puerto Rico, 2011](#)
- [Announcement: National Influenza Vaccination Week — December 2–8, 2012](#)

**November 23, 2012 / Vol. 61 / No. 46** [Download .pdf document of this issue](#)

- [Multistate Outbreak of Salmonella Serotype Bovismorbificans Infections Associated with Hummus and Tahini — United States, 2011](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome in Visitors to a National Park — Yosemite Valley, California, 2012](#)

## Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

**Updated: Weekly Flu View – November 21 (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/>

**National Influenza Vaccination Week: December 2-8, 2012 – (CDC)**

National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) is a national observance that was established to highlight the importance of continuing influenza vaccination, as well as fostering greater use of flu vaccine after the holiday season into January and beyond. NIVW will be held December 2-8, 2012.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/index.htm>

**Updated: 2012 West Nile Virus – November 27 (CDC)**

As of November 27, 2012, 48 states have reported West Nile virus infections in people, birds, or mosquitoes. A total of 5,245 cases of West Nile virus disease in people, including 236 deaths, have been reported to CDC.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

## Travel Safety

**Outbreak Notice: Cholera in the Dominican Republic – November 28 (CDC)**

An outbreak of cholera has been ongoing in the Dominican Republic since November 2010. According to the Dominican Ministry of Health (Ministerio de Salud Publica y Asistencia Social [MSP]), as of November 3, 2012, 6,622 suspected cholera cases and 47 suspected cholera-related deaths have been reported for 2012.

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/outbreak-notice/cholera-dominican-republic.htm>

### **Outbreak Notice: Ebola in Uganda – November 28 (CDC)**

The Ugandan Ministry of Health (MOH) has reported an outbreak of Ebola hemorrhagic fever in the Luwero District of central Uganda. As of November 19, 2012, there have been 6 confirmed cases and 4 deaths.

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/outbreak-notice/ebola-uganda-2012.htm>

### **Current Travel Warnings – November 16 (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](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html)

## **Food, Drug and Device Safety**

### **Updated: Multistate Fungal Meningitis Outbreak Investigation: Clinician Guidance – November 21 (CDC)**

<http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/index.html>

### **NEW: CDC Health Alert Network (HAN): Update: Multistate Outbreak of Fungal Meningitis and Other Infections Associated with Contaminated Steroid Medication**

– November 20 (CDC)

Currently, more than 7 weeks after the three implicated lots of MPA were recalled, CDC continues to receive reports of fungal infection in exposed patients. Previously, the majority of new cases reported to CDC were patients with fungal meningitis following injection. Although cases of fungal meningitis continue to be reported, CDC has recently observed an increase in the number of patients presenting with evidence of epidural abscess, phlegmon, discitis, vertebral osteomyelitis, or arachnoiditis at or near the site of injection. These complications have occurred in patients with and without evidence of fungal meningitis.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00335.asp>

### **Updated: Multistate Outbreak of Salmonella Bredeney Infections Linked to Peanut Butter Manufactured By Sunland, Inc. – November 30 (CDC)**

A total of 42 people infected with the outbreak strain of Salmonella Bredeney were reported from 20 states. This outbreak appears to be over. However, Salmonella is an important cause of human illness in the United States. More information about Salmonella, and steps people can take to reduce their risk of infection, can be found on the CDC Salmonella Web Page.

<http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/bredeney-09-12/index.html>

### **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>

### **[Return to Top of Page](#)**

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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](mailto: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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