



COCA Update

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

September 12, 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 **September 26**.

This issue contains information from **August 29-September 12** 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 Facebook Page](#)
[COCA Home Page](#)

Topics and Highlights

[COCA News & Announcements](#) *New COCA Commentary Podcast*

[CDC News & Announcements](#) *CDC Info's New Operating Hours*

[Public Health Preparedness](#) *September is National Preparedness Month*

[Natural Disasters & Severe Weather](#) *General Resources; Drought, Wildfire & Extreme Heat; Storm Prep & Response; Floods*

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

[Emerging Infectious Diseases \(EID\)](#)

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

[Travel Safety](#)

[Food, Drug & Device Safety](#) *Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha (TNFa) Blocker Risk for Bacterial Growth; Food Recalls; Renal Impairment with Reclast*

COCA News and Announcements

PERCC Tools: Public Health Preparedness for Clinicians – August 30

CDC's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response funds Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Centers (PERRCs) to examine components of the public health system. This podcast is an overview of mental and behavioral health tools developed by the Johns Hopkins PERRC.

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

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>

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CDC News and Announcements

Public Health Grand Rounds – Traumatic Brain Injury

Date/Time: September 20; 1:00-2:00 p.m. (EST)

Location: Atlanta, GA; also Envision, IPTV, and Webcast

<http://www.cdc.gov/about/grand-rounds>

CDC Science Clips – September 6

This series features top scientific articles, selected on the basis of potential for population impact and practical implementation. <http://www.cdc.gov/phlic/sciclips/issues/>

Preparedness and response highlights in this issue include:

- Preliminary results of 2009 pandemic influenza surveillance in the United States using the Aggregate Hospitalization and Death Reporting Activity; and
- National and state vaccination coverage among children aged 19--35 months --- United States, 2010

CDC Info Announces New Operating Hours

CDC-INFO is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Contact Center. Representatives are available to answer questions in English and Spanish on a wide variety of disease prevention and health promotion topics from 8:00am to 8:00pm Monday through Friday, Eastern Time (ET). CDC-INFO is closed overnight (8:00pm to 8:00am ET), Saturdays and Sundays, and on major federal holidays (New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day).

<http://www.cdc.gov/cdc-info/>

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Public Health Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Resources Page (CDC)

Find online and in-person training centers and resources at

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

Homeland Security Information Network-and Healthcare and Public Health Portal (HSIN-HPH)

The HSIN-HPH Web portal is a public/private collaboration to protect critical infrastructure. It is the primary means by which the Department of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services share sensitive but unclassified information with partners. HSIN-HPH users can access information about threats and recovery activities affecting the healthcare and public health communities, report suspicious events, and collaborate with peers in research and strategy. HSIN-HPH is available to qualified members of the HPH community.

To request access: <https://connect.hsin.gov/hph/event/registration.html>

For questions: cip@hhs.gov

September is National Preparedness Month

September 2011 marks the 8th year the United States has observed National Preparedness Month, which is led by FEMA's Ready Campaign and is a nationwide effort encouraging individuals, families, businesses and communities to work together and take action to prepare for emergencies. Preparedness Month is supported by a coalition of public, private and non-profit organizations that help spread the preparedness message.

Here are some preparedness resources for healthcare providers:

- **Join our National Preparedness Month Conversation on Facebook Today!**
<http://www.facebook.com/CDCHealthPartnersOutreach>

- **FEMA: National Preparedness Month Coalition**
<http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM>
- **Be Ready! September is National Preparedness Month**
<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/BeReady>
- **Ready.gov (FEMA)**
<http://www.ready.gov/>
- **Emergency Planning for First Responders and Their Families**
<http://www.ready.gov/america/downloads/responder/RRToolkit.pdf>
- **Preparedness Resources for Outpatient Clinics and Urgent-Care Facilities**
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/healthcare/outpatient.asp>
- **Preparedness Resources for Hospitals**
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/healthcare/hospitals.asp>
<http://www.phe.gov/preparedness/planning/hpp/Pages/default.aspx>
- **Preparedness Resources for Pediatric Offices and Hospitals**
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/healthcare/pediatric.asp>
- **Communicating in the First Hour**
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/firsthours/intro.asp>
- **Public Health Preparedness Capabilities: National Standards for State and Local Planning**
<http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/capabilities/index.htm>
- **Preparedness Resources for Community Planners**
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/healthcare/communityplanner.asp>
- **HHS Federal State Local and Planning**
<http://www.phe.gov/preparedness/planning/pages/default.aspx>
- **HHS Responders, Clinicians & Practitioners**
<http://www.phe.gov/preparedness/responders/pages/default.aspx>
- **National Disaster Medical System (NDMS)**
<http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/responders/ndms/Pages/default.aspx>

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Natural Disasters and Severe Weather

[General Resources](#)

[Drought, Wildfires, and Extreme Heat](#)

[Storm Preparation and Response](#)

[Floods](#)

General Resources

American Red Cross Shelter and Messaging Service (ARC)

Users of this site can find information about shelters, search the registry for missing persons, or post their own condition and location to reconnect with family.

<http://www.redcross.org/portal/site/en/menuitem.53fabf6cc033f17a2b1ecbf43181aa0/>

Coping with Traumatic Events (SAMHSA)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provides perspectives on emotional and mental strain that traumatic events such as powerful storms and floods can have.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/MentalHealth/TraumaticEvent.aspx>

Residential and Community Safe Rooms for Severe Weather (FEMA)

Resources for preparing storm shelters provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/saferoom/index.shtm>

Keep Your Food and Water Safe During an Emergency (FDA)

Emergencies can happen. When they do, the best strategy is to already have a plan in place. This includes knowing the proper food and water safety precautions to take if hurricanes — or other flooding/power outages — do occur.

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/ucm076881.htm>

Drought, Wildfires and Extreme Heat

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.

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

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/>

Extreme Heat (CDC)

Guidance for prevention and treatment of heat-related illness.

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

Extreme Heat Media Toolkit (CDC)

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>

Storm Preparation and Response

Emergency Response Resources: Storm/Flood and Hurricane Response (CDC)

Response workers and volunteers can get information here to avoid work-related injuries and illness in the field.

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

Emergency Response Resources: Tornado Cleanup and Response (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>

Hurricane Information for Health Care Professionals (CDC)

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

Highlights on this page include:

- [Clinical Guidance for Carbon Monoxide \(CO\) Poisoning After a Disaster](#)
- [Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units \(PEHSUs\)](#)
- [Reopening Healthcare Facilities](#)
- [American Medical Association Hurricane Relief Efforts](#)
- [Disaster Information for People With Chronic Conditions and Disabilities](#)

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>

Hurricanes, Cyclones, Typhoons & Other Tropical Storms (CDC)

Links on this page include preparation for the ongoing hurricane season as well as shelter and recovery resources.

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

Floods

Floods (CDC)

Consumer information and worker safety topics dealing with flood recovery and environmental concerns related to standing water and saturated environments.

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

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

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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>.

September 9, 2011 / Vol. 60 / No. 35 [Download .pdf of this Issue](#)

- [Surveillance for Foodborne Disease Outbreaks --- United States, 2008](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables](#)

September 2, 2011 / Vol. 60 / No. 34 [Download .pdf of this Issue](#)

- [National and State Vaccination Coverage Among Children Aged 19--35 Months --- United States, 2010](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables](#)

Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID)

EID is prepared by the CDC. [Vol 17, Number 9 – September 2011](#)

Expedited Articles for October Issue – September 9 (CDC)

- [Similarity of Shiga Toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* O104:H4 Strains from Italy and Germany](#)
- [Oseltamivir-Resistant Pandemic \(H1N1\) 2009 Virus Infection in England and Scotland, 2009-2010](#)
- [Timeliness of Surveillance during Outbreak of Shiga Toxin-producing *Escherichia coli*, Germany, 2011](#)

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Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

Weekly Flu View – September 9 (CDC)

During week 35, 5.8% 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 6.4% for week 33.

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

Seasonal Flu: International Situation Update – August 25 (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

Current Travel Warnings – September 2 (US Department of State)

Currently, travel warnings are in effect for 36 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

Food, Drug and Device Safety

Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) Recalls – September 11 (USDA)

For information on this and other USDA food recalls: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fsis_Recalls/index.asp

- [Ground Turkey Recalled Due to Possible Salmonella Contamination](#)

When available, retail distribution lists of recalled items are posted on FSIS' website at www.fsis.usda.gov/FSIS_Recalls/Open_Federal_Cases/index.asp.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Recalls, Market Withdrawals and Safety Alerts – September 7

For information on all recent FDA recalls, market recalls, and safety alerts for food, drugs, and medical devices: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/default.htm>

- [Allergy Alert On Undeclared Sulfite In Deer Brand "Raisin Golden"](#)
- [Undeclared Milk Allergen in Quaker Chewy Smashbar](#)

Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha (TNF α) Blockers: Label Change - Boxed Warning Updated for Risk of Infection from Legionella and Listeria – September 7 (FDA MedWatch)

FDA notified healthcare professionals that the Boxed Warning for the entire class of Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha (TNF α) blockers has been updated to include the risk of infection from two bacterial pathogens, Legionella and Listeria.

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm270977.htm>

New Contraindication and Updated Warning on Kidney Impairment with Reclast (zoledronic acid) Use (FDA) – September 1

FDA has approved an update to the drug label for Reclast (zoledronic acid), used to prevent or treat osteoporosis, to better inform healthcare professionals and patients of the risk of renal failure. Kidney failure is a rare, but serious, condition associated with the use of Reclast in patients with a history of or risk factors for renal impairment.

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm270199.htm>

Food Recalls, Alerts, Reporting & Resources – August 31 (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. <http://www.foodsafety.gov/index.html>

- [Allergen Alert on Undeclared Egg in Prenatal Nutrients](#)

Spanish Versions of Drug Safety Communications – Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)

CDER 's Office of Communications has launched a pilot program to provide Spanish language versions of the agency's Drug Safety Communications (DSCs). Given various time and review constraints, the Spanish version DSCs will generally follow the English version by about 1-2 weeks

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm263010.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) which 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

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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