



# COCA Update

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

December 19, 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 **January 03, 2012**.

This issue contains information from **December 05 – December 19**, 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

[CDC News & Announcements](#)

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

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## CDC News and Announcements

### CDC Science Clips – Dec 13 (CDC)

This week's top scientific articles, selected on the basis of potential for population impact and practical implementation include: ***CDC's 2009 H1N1 Vaccine Pharmacy Initiative in the United States: Implications for Future Public Health and Pharmacy Collaborations for Emergency Response***  
<http://www.cdc.gov/phlic/sciclips/issues/>

### Have You Heard – Dec 09 (CDC)

CDC has confirmed two cases of human infection with two different novel influenza A viruses in different states. Both patients have fully recovered. While the viruses infecting both patients have been found in U.S. swine and some of the prior human infections with these viruses have been associated with direct or close swine contact, there are no reports of direct or close contact with swine prior to illness onset in either of these cases. Laboratory testing at CDC has confirmed that both novel viruses are susceptible to the antiviral medications oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza).  
[http://www.cdc.gov/media/haveyouheard/stories/novel\\_influenza.html](http://www.cdc.gov/media/haveyouheard/stories/novel_influenza.html)

## Public Health Preparedness

### **New:** Educational Program Reminds Parents to Keep Medication “Up and Away and Out of Sight” – Dec 13 (CDC)

The PROTECT Initiative, led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is launching an educational program, “Up and Away and Out of Sight,” to encourage parents to follow a few simple steps to protect children from unintentional medication overdoses. Overdoses can lead to harm, sometimes requiring emergency treatment or hospitalization and are a significant public health problem. Children are especially vulnerable to unintentional overdoses, most of which can be prevented. <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases>

### **Stay Safe this Holiday Season – Dec 12 (CDC)**

Tips from CDC's Injury Center on motor vehicle safety can help you protect yourself, your passengers, and your family and friends. Whether you're headed around town, out of town, or out to celebrate, we wish you a safe holiday season.

<http://www.cdc.gov/features/roadsafety/>

### **New: The Future of Global Immunizations: Will the Promise of Vaccines Be Fulfilled? – Dec 09 (CDC)**

CDC is involved in one of the most effective of all global public health missions—vaccination against deadly diseases. These efforts reduce the risk for disease to spread across other countries; ultimately, they protect Americans from sickness and death caused by vaccine-preventable diseases that are acquired overseas and carried into the United States by travelers. In the past two decades, immunization has prevented an estimated 20 million deaths worldwide from vaccine-preventable diseases. New vaccines currently under development have the potential to prevent millions of additional deaths.

<http://www.cdc.gov/GlobalHealth/>

### **Before Winter Storms and Extreme Cold – (FEMA)**

Preparing your home, family and vehicle for the upcoming winter season.

[http://www.fema.gov/hazard/winter/wi\\_before.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/hazard/winter/wi_before.shtm)

### **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 Page 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**

### **Winter Weather: Take Steps – Dec 07 (CDC)**

Taking preventive action is your best defense against having to deal with extreme cold-weather conditions. By preparing your home and car in advance for winter emergencies, and by observing safety precautions during times of extremely cold weather, you can reduce the risk of weather-related health problems.

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

### **Be Prepared to Stay Safe and Healthy in Winter – (CDC)**

Winter storms and cold temperatures can be hazardous, but if you plan ahead, you can stay safe and healthy. Prepare your home and cars. Keep emergency kits stocked. Be ready for power outages. Wear appropriate clothing. Check on children, the elderly and pets.

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/WinterWeather/>

### **Clinical Guidance for Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning After a Disaster – (CDC)**

[http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/co\\_guidance.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/co_guidance.asp)

### **Prevent Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning – (CDC)**

If you don't have a battery-powered or battery back-up CO alarm, now is a great time to buy one. More than 400 people die each year in the US from unintentional, non-fire related CO poisoning.

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/TimeChangeCODetectors/>

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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>.

**December 16, 2011 / Vol. 60 / No. 49 / Pg. 1673 – 1696** [Download .pdf document of this issue](#)

- [Announcements: Public Health Prevention Service Accepting Applications for 2012 Class and Field Assignments](#)
- [Announcements: Health Risk Assessment Recommendations Available Online](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables](#)

**December 9, 2011 / Vol. 60 / No. 48 / Pg. 1641 - 1672** [Download .pdf document of this issue](#)

- [Update: Influenza Activity — United States, October 2–November 26, 2011](#)
- [Recommendations for Use of an Isoniazid-Rifapentine Regimen with Direct Observation to Treat Latent \*Mycobacterium tuberculosis\* Infection](#)
- [Notes from the Field: \*Campylobacter jejuni\* Infections Associated with Sheep Castration — Wyoming, 2011](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables](#)

## Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

### Weekly Flu View – Dec 16 (CDC)

During week 49, 6.5% 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 7.2% for week 49.

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

### New, Simpler Way to Treat Latent TB Infection – Dec 12 (CDC)

Treating latent tuberculosis (TB) infection to prevent progression to TB disease is a cornerstone of the U.S. strategy for TB elimination. People with latent tuberculosis (TB) infection now have another option when it comes to treatment. A new regimen for the treatment of latent TB infection, called the 12-dose regimen, reduces the number of doses and shortens the duration of treatment.

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/TuberculosisTreatment/>

### **New:** Rabies Postexposure Prophylaxis Online Course – Dec 05 (CDC)

Rabies Postexposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Basics: Case Illustrations of the 2010 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Guidelines is a free online course developed by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) in collaboration with CDC. It is designed to educate health-care and public health professionals about rabies, the approach used in assessing rabies virus exposure, and administration of rabies PEP based on ACIP recommendations.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6045a5.htm>

## Travel Safety

### Cholera in the Dominican Republic – Dec 15 (CDC)

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

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**New: Lunar New Year – Dec 12 (CDC)**

The year of the Dragon begins January 23, 2012, and many travelers will visit Asia to celebrate the Lunar New Year. If you are traveling to Asia, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) would like to share information and tips that will help you stay healthy and safe during your trip.

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/news-announcements/lunar-new-year.htm>

## Food, Drug and Device Safety

**Nebraska Firm Recalls Ground Beef Products Due To Possible *E. Coli* O157:H7 Contamination – Dec 16 (USDA)**

Tyson Fresh Meats Inc., a Dakota City, Neb. establishment, is recalling approximately 40,948 pounds of ground beef products that may be contaminated with *E. coli* O157:H7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced.

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/Recall\\_101\\_2011\\_Release/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_101_2011_Release/index.asp)

**North Carolina Firm Recalls Oven Roasted Chicken Breast For Possible *Listeria* Contamination – Dec 09 (USDA)**

House of Raeford Farms, a Raeford, N.C. establishment, is recalling approximately 4,140 pounds of cooked chicken breasts that may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced.

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/Recall\\_097\\_2011\\_Release/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_097_2011_Release/index.asp)

**Investigation Announcement: Multistate Outbreak of *E. coli* O157:H7 Infections Linked to Romaine Lettuce – Dec 07 (CDC)**

CDC is collaborating with public health and agriculture officials in Missouri, other states, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate a multistate outbreak of *Escherichia coli* serotype O157:H7 infections linked to romaine lettuce.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2011/ecoliO157/romainelettuce/120711/index.html>

**FoodSafety.gov Reports FDA and USDA Food Recalls, Alerts, Reporting & Resources – Dec 18 (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>

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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 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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