



COCA Update

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

February 27, 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 **March 12**.

This issue contains information from **February 13 – February 27, 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.

Additional Resources

[CDC Emergency on Twitter](#)

[CDC Health Partners Outreach on Facebook](#)

[COCA Home Page](#)

Topics and Highlights

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COCA News and Announcements

Upcoming COCA Conference Call/Webinar:

2011-2012 Influenza Season: Antiviral Medication Recommendations

Date: *Tomorrow*, Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)

Join by Phone:

Dial: 800-779-7163

Passcode: 7319016

Join by Webinar: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PW6062720&p=7319016&t=c>

Overview:

CDC estimates that influenza virus infections in the United States result in an average of more than 200,000 related hospitalizations, and between 3,300 to 49,000 deaths each year, depending upon the severity of the influenza season. Annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged 6 months and older, and is the best way to prevent influenza. However, available evidence for seasonal influenza and 2009 pandemic H1N1 consistently indicates that antiviral treatment, when initiated as soon as possible, can have clinical and public health benefit in reducing severe outcomes of influenza. During this COCA conference call, a subject matter expert will review current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and CDC guidance on the use of antiviral medications in the prevention and treatment of influenza.

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Epidemiology and Clinical Features of Lyme Disease

Date: Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)

Join by Phone:

Dial: 888-790-6180

Passcode: 1281914

Join by Webinar: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PW7035569&p=1281914&t=c>

Overview:

Lyme disease is the most commonly reported vector-borne disease in the U.S. From 1992-2009, the number of reported cases in the U.S. tripled. Understanding the epidemiology and clinical features of Lyme disease is valuable for clinicians in emerging areas, clinicians in endemic regions who need a refresher course, and for health care providers in non-endemic regions who see travel-related cases. Join us for this COCA webinar where a CDC subject matter expert will review the epidemiology of Lyme disease, early signs and symptoms of Lyme disease, appropriate use of diagnostics, recommended treatment guidelines, and prevention practices.

Archived COCA Conference Calls are available at: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp>

CDC News and Announcements

CDC Scienceclips: Volume 4 – Feb 21 (CDC)

This week, Science Clips features scientific articles related to this month's Public Health Grand Rounds on the "Million Hearts" initiative. Million Hearts is collaboration between government and a broad array of healthcare organizations whose goal is to prevent one million heart attacks and strokes by 2017.

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

Prescription Painkiller Overdoses in the U.S. – Feb 17 (CDC)

Overdose deaths from prescription painkillers have skyrocketed in the past decade. Every year, nearly 15,000 people die from overdoses involving these drugs—more than those who die from heroin and cocaine combined.

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/VitalSigns/PainkillerOverdoses/>

ATSDR's Toxic Substances Web Portal – Feb 13 (CDC)

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) *Toxic Substances Web Portal* provides comprehensive access to the best science, the latest research, and important information about how toxic substances can affect health.

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

Public Health Preparedness

2012 Vaccine Recommendations: What They Mean for You – Feb 17 (CDC)

As an adult, you can protect yourself and your loved ones by keeping your vaccinations up-to-date. This year, small changes give adults – and young children around them – better, long-lasting protection.

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

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>

Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID)

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

Volume 18, Number 3 – March 2012

Highlights in this issue include

- [Nonpasteurized Dairy Products, Disease Outbreaks, and State Laws—United States, 1993–2006](#)
- [Community-associated *Clostridium difficile* Infections, Monroe County, New York, USA](#)
- [Using Genotyping and Geospatial Scanning to Estimate Recent *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Transmission, United States](#)

Natural Disasters and Severe Weather

Winter Weather: Hypothermia – (CDC)

When exposed to cold temperatures, your body begins to lose heat faster than it can be produced. Prolonged exposure to cold will eventually use up your body's stored energy. The result is hypothermia, or abnormally low body temperature.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/staysafe/hypothermia.asp>

Winter Weather: Take Steps – (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/>

Winter Weather: Indoor Safety – (CDC)

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/duringstorm/indoorsafety.asp>

Extreme Cold: A Prevention Guide to Promote Your Personal Health and Safety – (CDC)

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/guide.asp>

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

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

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- [Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Pregnant Women — 29 States and New York City, 2009–10 Season](#)
- [Fatal Exposure to Methylene Chloride Among Bathtub Refinishers — United States, 2000–2011](#)
- [Update: Influenza Activity — United States, October 2, 2011–February 11, 2012](#)
- [Announcement: Release of Online U.S. and State Trend Data for Health-Related Quality of Life](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables](#)

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- [Community-Based Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs Providing Naloxone — United States, 2010](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Norovirus Infections Associated with Frozen Raw Oysters — Washington, 2011](#)
- [QuickStats: Drug Poisoning Death Rates, by Intent — United States, 1999–2009](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables](#)

Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

Influenza

Weekly Flu View – Feb 24 (CDC)

During week 7, 7.3% 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 7.

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

WHO picks two new strains for next season's flu vaccine – Feb 24 (WHO)

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommended changing two of the three strains in next season's influenza vaccine for the Northern Hemisphere, ending a couple of years of stability in the vaccine's makeup.

<http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations>

Q & A: Vaccine Selection for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 Influenza Seasons – Feb 23 (CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/vaccine-selection.htm>

Infectious Diseases

Protect Your Child from Rotavirus Disease – Feb 17 (CDC)

Rotavirus can cause severe diarrhea, mostly in babies and young children. The good news is that there are vaccines to help protect your child from rotavirus disease.

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

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Travel Safety

Current Travel Warnings – Feb 21 (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

Food, Drug and Device Safety

FoodSafety.gov Reports FDA and USDA Food Recalls, Alerts, Reporting & Resources – Feb 24 (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>

Majority of dairy-related disease outbreaks linked to raw milk – Feb 21 (CDC)

The rate of outbreaks caused by unpasteurized milk (often called raw milk) and products made from it was 150 times greater than outbreaks linked to pasteurized milk, according to a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The 13-year review also revealed that the states where the sale of raw milk was legal had more than twice the rate of outbreaks as states where it was illegal.

http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2012/p0221_raw_milk_outbreak.html

Investigation Announcement: Multistate Outbreak of Shiga Toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* O26 Infections Linked to Raw Clover Sprouts at Jimmy John's Restaurants – Feb 15 (CDC)

CDC is collaborating with public health officials in multiple states and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate a multistate outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* serogroup O26 (STEC O26) infections likely linked with eating raw clover sprouts.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2012/O26-02-12/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 us 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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