



# COCA Update

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

April 23, 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 **May 5<sup>th</sup>**.

This issue contains information from **April 09 – April 23, 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

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## COCA News and Announcements

**Upcoming COCA Webinar:** Improving Disaster Planning in Nursing Homes and Home Health Agencies

**Date:** May 8, 2012

**Time:** 2:00 – 3:00 PM (Eastern Daylight Time)

**Call Number:** 1-888-790-6180

**Passcode:** 1281914

**Register for this webinar at:** <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PW7035569&p=1281914&t=c>

CDC's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response funds Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Centers (PERRCs) to examine the organization, function, capacity, and performance of components in the public health system in preparing for and responding to all potential threats and hazards. The Emory University PERRC conducted a study examining disaster preparedness in nursing homes and home health agencies. Although nursing homes and home health agencies care for over 2 million patients, they typically have not been included in disaster planning efforts. Please join us for this COCA call where subject matter experts will share findings from their study and discuss strategies to incorporate nursing homes and home health agencies into community-wide disaster planning.

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

Free CE credit/contact hours (CME, CNE, ACPE, CEU, CECH, and AAVSB/RACE) are available for most COCA calls.

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## **COCA Poster Presentation at the American Nephrology Nurses' Association 43rd National Symposium**

**Date:** Apr 29 - May 2

**Location:** Orlando, FL

COCA will present a poster titled *“Preparing Nephrology Nurses to Respond to Health Threats through Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity”*.

<http://www.annanurse.org>

## **CDC News and Announcements**

### **Did You Know?**

“Did You Know?” is a weekly feature from the Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support to highlight prevention activities. The series features research and program activity from CDC. Please access, use, and share this information broadly with your colleagues and partners.

<http://www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/didyouknow/index.html>

### **CDC Scienceclips: Volume 4 – Apr 17 (CDC)**

Each week, to enhance awareness of emerging scientific knowledge, selected science clips will be posted for the public health community. 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**

### **Public Health Response to a Changing Climate – Apr 16 (CDC)**

The changing climate endangers human health, affecting society. Scientists and public health experts are studying how quickly and how much the climate is changing, and ways in which humans can adapt to these changes. <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/ChangingClimate/>

### **New: Public Matters Blog – Apr 12 (CDC)**

- [Creating and Strengthening Community-Based Disaster Coalitions](#)
- [Vaccines: Test Your Knowledge](#)

### **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 4 – May 2012**

Highlights in this issue include

- [Antimicrobial Drug Resistance in \*Escherichia coli\* from Humans and Food Animals, United States, 1950–2002](#)
- [Bartonella spp. Bacteremia and Rheumatic Symptoms in Patients from Lyme Disease–endemic Region](#)
- [Human Infections with Novel Reassortant Influenza A\(H3N2\)v Viruses, United States, 2011](#)

## Natural Disasters and Severe Weather

### Wildfires – (CDC)

Smoke from wildfires is a mixture of gases and fine particles from burning trees and other plant materials. Smoke can hurt your eyes, irritate your respiratory system, and worsen chronic heart and lung diseases. Know whether you are at risk and protect yourself. <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/wildfires/>

### Tornadoes: Being Prepared – (CDC)

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/tornadoes/prepared.asp>

## 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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- [Measles — United States, 2011](#)
- [Human Papillomavirus–Associated Cancers — United States, 2004–2008](#)
- [Pseudomonas aeruginosa Respiratory Tract Infections Associated with Contaminated Ultrasound Gel Used for Transesophageal Echocardiography — Michigan, December 2011–January 2012](#)
- [Tracking Progress Toward Global Polio Eradication, 2010–2011](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Infections with \*Salmonella\* I 4,\[5\],12:i:- Linked to Exposure to Feeder Rodents — United States, August 2011–February 2012](#)
- [Announcements: World Malaria Day — April 25, 2012](#)
- [Announcements: National Infant Immunization Week — April 21–28, 2012](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables](#)

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- [Antibodies Cross-Reactive to Influenza A \(H3N2\) Variant Virus and Impact of 2010–11 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine on Cross-Reactive Antibodies — United States](#)
- [Rabies Risk Assessment of Exposures to a Bat on a Commercial Airliner — United States, August 2011](#)
- [Human Orf Virus Infection from Household Exposures — United States, 2009–2011](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables](#)

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## Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

### **Weekly Flu View – Apr 20 (CDC)**

During week 15, 7.0% 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 7.7% for week 15.

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

### **UPDATED: International Influenza Laboratory Capacity Review Tool – Apr 20 (CDC)**

The CDC-APHL International Influenza Laboratory Capacity Review Tool (IILCRT) is a data gathering tool to assess laboratory capabilities and capacities, with an emphasis on influenza diagnostics.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/international/international-influenza-lab-capacity-review.pdf>

### **National and State Healthcare-associated Infections Standardized Infection Ratio Report – Apr 19 (CDC)**

A new state-by-state breakdown of health care-associated infections shows reductions in infection rates across the country. The report also pinpoints that some medical procedures will require stronger infection prevention efforts to maximize patient safety. This is the first time that CDC is releasing a standardized infection ratio for central line-associated bloodstream infections for each of the 50 states. As seen in the report, 21 states had significant decreases in central line-associated bloodstream infections between 2009 and 2010, which has contributed to the progress seen on a national level.

[http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2012/a0419\\_healthcare\\_infection.html](http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2012/a0419_healthcare_infection.html)

### **Lao People's Democratic Republic to Launch Seasonal Flu Vaccination Program – Apr 17 (CDC)**

On April 24, 2012, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR, or Laos), a small and relatively resource-poor southeast Asian country, will launch a seasonal influenza vaccination program to protect adults at high risk of serious flu-related complications, including pregnant women, in that country. The program launch is the product of a 6-year collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Lao Ministry of Health to develop the country's influenza public health capacities.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/spotlights/vaccination-program-launch-lao.htm>

### **Answers to Common Questions about Flu Vaccine Safety (streaming video) – Apr 17 (CDC)**

Dr. Claudia Vellozzi with CDC's Immunization Safety Office answers questions about the safety of flu vaccines. This video is intended for general audiences as well as health care professionals.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/video/flu-vaccine-safety.htm>

## Travel Safety

### **Current Travel Warnings – Apr 18 (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)

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# Food, Drug and Device Safety

## FoodSafety.gov Reports FDA and USDA Food Recalls, Alerts, Reporting & Resources – Apr 23 (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>

### **Update: Multistate Outbreak of *Salmonella* Bareilly Infections Associated with a Raw Scraped Ground Tuna Product – Apr 20 (CDC)**

CDC is collaborating with public health officials in many states and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate a multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* serotype Bareilly infections. *Salmonella* Bareilly is an unusual serotype of *Salmonella*.

<http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/bareilly-04-12/index.html>

### **Fentanyl Patch Can Be Deadly to Children – Apr 19 (FDA)**

Young children have died or become seriously ill from accidental exposure to a skin patch containing a powerful pain reliever. As a result of this, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is issuing a safety alert to warn patients, caregivers and health care professionals about the dangers of accidental exposure to and improper storage and disposal of the fentanyl patch.

<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm300803.htm>

### **FDA takes steps to protect public health – Apr 11 (FDA)**

The FDA is issuing three documents that will help veterinarians, farmers and animal producers use medically important antibiotics judiciously in food-producing animals by targeting their use to only address diseases and health problems. Under this new voluntary initiative, certain antibiotics would not be used for so-called “production” purposes, such as to enhance growth or improve feed efficiency in an animal. These antibiotics would still be available to prevent, control or treat illnesses in food-producing animals under the supervision of a veterinarian.

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm299802.htm>

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The Emergency Risk Communication Branch (ERCB) Clinician Communication Team (CCT) 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 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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