



COCA Update

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

October 22, 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 **November 5**.

This issue contains information from **October 8 – October 22, 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](#)

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COCA News and Announcements

Recent COCA Call/Webinar:

Multistate Fungal Meningitis Outbreak Investigation Update: Information and Guidance for Clinicians

Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2012

During this COCA Call, subject matter experts provided updates to the current epidemiology of the outbreak, described clinical presentation and features of fungal meningitis, and reviewed CDC's recommended treatment guidance.

For more information on this call: http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2012/callinfo_101612.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 Emergency Response – Multistate Fungal Meningitis Outbreak Investigation

Updated: Multistate Fungal Meningitis Outbreak Investigation – October 21 (CDC)

CDC and FDA are coordinating a multi-state investigation of fungal meningitis among patients who received an epidural steroid injection. Investigation into the exact source is ongoing; however, interim data show that all infected patients received injection with preservative-free methylprednisolone acetate (80mg/ml) prepared by New England Compounding Center, located in Framingham, MA.

<http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/outbreaks/meningitis.html>

Updated: Clinician Resources:

Frequently Asked Questions For Clinicians: Multistate Fungal Meningitis Outbreak Investigation – October 15 (CDC)

http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/faq_meningitis_outbreak.html

What Should Physicians Be Doing? – October 16 (CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/what-physicians-should-be-doing.html>

CDC Health Alert Network (HAN): Update: Multistate Outbreak of Fungal Meningitis and Joint Infections Associated with Contaminated Steroid Medications – October 17 (CDC)

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00329.asp>

Interim Treatment Guidance for Central Nervous System (CNS) and/or Parameningeal Infections Associated with Injection of Potentially Contaminated Steroid Products – October 16 (CDC)

http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/guidance_cns.html

Interim Treatment Guidance for Septic Arthritis Associated With Injection of Potentially Contaminated Steroid Products – October 15 (CDC)

http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/interim_treatment_options_septic_arthritis.html

Interim Guidance for Management of Asymptomatic Persons Exposed to Potentially Contaminated Steroid Products – October 14 (CDC)

http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/interim_guidance_asymptomatic_persons.html

Case Definitions for Meningitis and Septic Arthritis – October 16 (CDC)

http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/casedef_multistate_outbreak.html

Diagnostic Testing for Septic Arthritis and Specimen Submission to CDC – Outbreak Associated with Injection of Potentially Contaminated Steroid Products – October 16 (CDC)

http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/guidance_diagnostic_testing_joints.html

Diagnostic Testing and Specimen Shipping for Central Nervous System and Parameningeal Infections – October 19 (CDC)

http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/instructions_testingandsubmission.html

CDC News and Announcements

Did You Know? – (CDC)

“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 Science Clips: Volume 4, Issue: 41 – October 15 (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

Public Health Matters Blog – Can Your Pet Sense Disasters? – October 15 (CDC)

The idea that animals can predict earthquakes and other natural disasters is not a new phenomenon. Scientists have been exploring this topic for years, investigating whether animals possess a sixth sense that allows them to predict natural disasters.

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2012/10/pet-sense-disaster/>

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

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 11 – November 2012

Highlights in this issue include

- [Investigation of Outbreaks Complicated by Universal Exposure](#)
- [Lack of Evidence for Zoonotic Transmission of Schmallenberg Virus](#)
- [Unchanged Severity of Influenza A\(H1N1\)pdm09 Infection in Children during First Postpandemic Season](#)

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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- [Multistate Outbreak of Fungal Infection Associated with Injection of Methylprednisolone Acetate Solution from a Single Compounding Pharmacy — United States, 2012](#)
- [Multistate Fungal Meningitis Outbreak — Interim Guidance for Treatment](#)
- [Announcement: World Polio Day — October 24, 2012](#)

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- [Use of 13-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine and 23-Valent Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine for Adults with Immunocompromising Conditions: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#)
- [Severe Respiratory Illness Associated with a Novel Coronavirus — Saudi Arabia and Qatar, 2012](#)

- [Announcements: Global Handwashing Day — October 15, 2012](#)
- [QuickStats: Percentage of Hospitalizations Ending in Death, by Selected First-Listed Diagnoses — National Hospital Discharge Survey, United States, 2000 and 2010](#)

Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

Weekly Flu View – (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/>

Updated: 2012 West Nile Virus – October 16 (CDC)

As of October 16, 2012, 48 states have reported West Nile virus infections in people, birds, or mosquitoes. A total of 4,531 cases of West Nile virus disease in people, including 183 deaths, have been reported to CDC

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

Travel Safety

Current Travel Warnings – October 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

Outbreak Notice – Malaria in Greece – October 19 (CDC)

Cases of malaria continue to be reported in Greece. No cases have been reported in Athens. The Hellenic (Greek) CDC and the European CDC are improving surveillance for malaria cases. In affected areas, mosquito control has been intensified, health care providers have been educated, and the public has been informed.

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/outbreak-notice/malaria-greece-sept-2012.htm>

Food, Drug and Device Safety

NEW: FDA Statement on Fungal Meningitis Outbreak: Additional Patient Notification Advised – October 18 (FDA)

CDC and FDA have confirmed the presence of a fungus known as *Exserohilum rostratum* in unopened medication vials of preservative-free methylprednisolone acetate (80mg/ml) from one of the three implicated lots from New England Compounding Center (NECC). A Patient Notification Letter on the FDA "Update on Fungal Meningitis" webpage under the "Related Information" section, is available for healthcare professionals notifying patients administered a drug produced by the NECC that has been recalled.

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm323946.htm>

MedWatch: The FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program – (HHS/USFDA)

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 – October 5 (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/index.html>

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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

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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