



COCA Update

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

February 14, 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 **February 28, 2011**.

The following CDC information and guidance is from **January 31 - February 14, 2011**. If you have any questions on these or other clinical issues, please write to us at coca@cdc.gov.

Topics and Highlights

- [COCA News & Announcements](#)
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COCA News and Announcements

COCA Conference Call Resources

Archived COCA Conference Calls are available on the COCA website at: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp>. You can get FREE CE credit/contact hours (CME, CNE, ACPE, CEU, and CECH) for most COCA calls. Download the PowerPoint and follow along with the audio file, both of which are posted on the COCA website after a call. Our most recent calls include:

Engaging Youth in Public Health Preparedness and Response (01/27/11)
http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2011/callinfo_012711.asp

Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Records Incentive Program: Promoting the Adoption of Electronic Health Information Technology (01/25/11)
http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2011/callinfo_012511.asp

COCA and Epi-X Exhibit

Date: February 22 – 25, 2011

Location: *2011 Public Health Preparedness Summit* (Booth # 1608)

The Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) and the [Epidemic Information Exchange \(Epi-X\)](#) will be sharing a booth at the *2011 Public Health Preparedness Summit*. Join COCA and Epi-X as they demonstrate support for our nation's local, state, and federal public health preparedness professionals. Representatives from both teams will be available at booth #1608 to provide information, answer questions, and enroll participants.

<http://www.phprep.org/2011/>

Communications Outreach to Vulnerable Populations during the H1N1 Pandemic (#B-10)

Date: February 23, 2011 Wednesday

Time: 1:30pm– 3:00 pm (ET)

Location: *2011 Public Health Preparedness Summit* (Room: International 10)

During the H1N1 pandemic, CDC made special efforts to reach organizations that serve vulnerable populations and provide specific messaging to those who were at higher risk. CDC, in cooperation with the HHS working group, “Hard to Reach Populations Outreach,” met to coordinate and intensify outreach and communications to a wide audience that included those with disabilities, racial and ethnic minorities, non-English speakers, homeless persons, and people with low literacy. Participate in this interactive session at the [2011 Public Health Preparedness Summit](#) and learn more about the outreach efforts of CDC’s [Health Partners Outreach Team](#), presented by members of the Community Health Outreach and Education Section.

For the program agenda, visit <http://www.phprep.org/2011/agenda/>

Current CDC Emergency Response

Cholera Information for Healthcare Professionals

Cholera resources for healthcare professionals addressing diagnosis, testing, treatment, patient care, and prevention.

http://www.cdc.gov/haiticholera/hc_professionals.htm

For additional information and Cholera resources visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/haiticholera/>

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

The *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* series is prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The data in the weekly MMWR are provisional, based on weekly reports to CDC by state health departments. The following emergency preparedness and response related articles of interest were recently published:

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- [Discordant Results from Reverse Sequence Syphilis Screening --- Five Laboratories, United States, 2006--2010](#)
- [Recommended Immunization Schedules for Persons Aged 0 Through 18 Years --- United States, 2011](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables](#)

To electronically subscribe to the *MMWR*, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr> and enter your email address in the box entitled **Get email updates** or click on **MMWR Subscriptions**.

MMWR is extending its FREE Continuing Education (CE) offering to reports published in the Weekly Series. To obtain credit, participants must register, log-in at <http://www.cdc.gov/tceonline> and select the relevant activity and type of credit/contract hours. For a list of available Weekly Series activities, click on Search and type in **MMWR** under Option 2. Questions and comments should be submitted to the *MMWR* CE mailbox at mmwrce@cdc.gov.

Infectious Diseases

Public Health Matters Blog – *Battling Disease Outbreaks in the Big Apple* – CDC (Feb 11)

More than one-third of New York City (NYC) residents are from outside the United States, so in addition to preparing for and responding to numerous indigenous infectious diseases, we also

encounter many imported cases, some of which end up causing outbreaks.

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2011/02/battling-disease-outbreaks-in-the-big-apple-2/>

Summary of Weekly Flu View – CDC (Feb 11)

Influenza activity in the United States increased for the week ending February 5 from the previous week, according to the FluView report. CDC tracks certain key flu indicators over the season. Most key flu indicators increased this week, including the number of people visiting doctors for influenza-like illness (ILI), the number of states reporting widespread influenza activity and the number of influenza-associated pediatric deaths. Although influenza activity can rise and fall during an influenza season, activity in the United States generally peaks in January or later in most years.

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

Seasonal Flu: International Situation Update – CDC (Feb 10)

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>

Travelers' Health

Carnival and Mardi Gras 2011! – CDC (Feb 14)

The point of Carnival and Mardi Gras is to have fun, but these festivities are also associated with certain health risks, primarily from crime, unsafe food, excessive drinking, risky sex, and heat-related illness. Malaria and other tropical diseases may also be common, depending on the country. If you plan to travel to celebrate Carnival, you can take some simple precautions to help you stay safe and healthy.

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/content/news-announcements/carnival-mardi-gras-2011.aspx>

Noncommunicable Diseases, Injury and Environmental Health

ATSDR Releases Peck Iron and Metal Superfund Site Health Assessment – ATSDR (Feb 2)

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has released the public comment version of a public health assessment for the Peck Iron and Metal Superfund site in Portsmouth, VA. The purpose of the assessment was to determine if exposure to chemicals from the site is a public health hazard for people who live and work in the area.

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/news/displaynews.asp?PRid=2500>

Public Health Preparedness and Response

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning Prevention – CDC (Feb 7)

Every year, more than 400 people die in the U. S. from accidental CO poisoning. When power outages occur during emergencies (hurricanes or winter storms), using alternative sources of power can cause CO to build up in a home and poison the people and animals inside.

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

Cool Tip of the Week – CDC (Feb 4)

Wind can lower the ambient temperature significantly. As the speed of wind increases, it can carry heat away from your body very quickly. When there are high winds, serious weather-related health problems are more likely, even when temperatures are only cool.

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

Occupational Safety and Health

Notice of Draft Publication Available for Public Comment – CDC (Feb 4)

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) requests comments on the draft guidance document, **Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance**, NIOSH Docket Number: NIOSH 223.

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docket/review/docket223/>

Food & Drug Safety

Recalls, Market Withdrawals, & Safety Alert – FDA (Feb 10)

For information on recent FDA recalls, market recalls, and safety alerts please click on the following link: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/default.htm>

Links to non-Federal organizations are provided solely as a service to our users. Links do not constitute an endorsement of any organization by CDC or the Federal Government, and none should be inferred. The CDC is not responsible for the content of the individual organizations.

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) who is responsible for the management of all COCA products.

If you need to unsubscribe or update your information, please email 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:

[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 \(SNAPS\)](#) - Snap Shots 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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