



# COCA Update

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

October 24, 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 **November 7**.

This issue contains information from October 11-24, 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

[COCA News & Announcements](#)

[CDC News & Announcements](#) *Zombiemia*

[Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#)

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

[Travel Safety](#)

[Food, Drug & Device Safety](#) *Listeria outbreak update; Scromboid poisoning associated with frozen tuna*

## COCA News and Announcements

### COCA Calls/Webinars Available Online – CE Credits Available

Archived COCA Conference Calls are available on the COCA Web site. Free CE credit/contact hours (CME, CNE, ACPE, CEU, and CECH) are available for most COCA calls.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp>

## CDC News and Announcements

### CDC Science Clips – October 18 (CDC)

This series features top scientific articles, selected on the basis of potential for population impact and practical implementation. <http://www.cdc.gov/phlic/sciclips/issues/>

Preparedness and response highlights in this issue include:

#### Disaster Control and Emergency Services

- [Communications, terrorism, and homeland security: new approaches, projects, and initiatives](#)
- [Federal interagency communication strategies for addressing radiation emergencies and other public health crises](#)
- [Current practice in Staphylococcus aureus screening and decolonization](#)
- [Outbreak of Shiga-toxigenic Escherichia coli O157:H7 infections associated with rodeo attendance, Utah and Idaho, 2009](#)

**New Video Message from Teens to Providers Urges Teen Pregnancy Counseling – October 10 (CDC/HHS)**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and CDC unveiled a new online video that features teens who urge US health care professionals to talk to teen patients about pregnancy and contraceptives. Each day, more than a thousand babies are born to teen mothers.

<http://www.cdc.gov/CDCTV/MessageHealthcare/index.html>

### **CDC Official Featured in History Documentary on Zombies this Tuesday**

**Date:** October 25

**Time:** 8:00 p.m. EST

The popularity of this summer's launch of CDC's Zombie Apocalypse emergency preparedness campaign continues to draw attention. CDC's Director of the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Dr. Ali Khan, joins zombie experts for the cable television channel special documentary, *Zombies: A Living History*, unlocks humanity's ideas of death, disease, the role our institutions play and responses to crisis throughout time.

<http://www.history.com/schedule/10/25/2011>

### **Preparedness 101: Zombie Novella– October 18 (CDC)**

CDC has a new way of teaching the importance of emergency preparedness. The agency's new graphic novel, "Preparedness 101: Zombie Pandemic" demonstrates the importance of being prepared in an entertaining way that people of all ages will enjoy. Readers follow Todd, Julie, and their dog Max as a strange new disease begins spreading, turning ordinary people into zombies.

[http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/zombies\\_novella.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/zombies_novella.htm)

### **CDC Zombie Campaign Spreads Preparedness Message – October 12 (CDC)**

CDC's Director of the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Dr. Ali Khan, participated in a standing-room-only panel discussion during September's science fiction and fantasy convention, Dragon Con, which is held annually in Atlanta. The agency's ongoing zombie-themed, "Get a kit, make a plan, be prepared" campaign has attracted attention in popular culture.

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2011/10/dragonkhan/>

#### **Related Blogs:**

CDC's Zombie Apocalypse: [http://emergency.cdc.gov/socialmedia/zombies\\_blog.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/socialmedia/zombies_blog.asp)

Dr. Ali Khan interview with Max Brooks, author of *The Zombie Survival Guide*:

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2011/10/q-a-with-max-brooks/>

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## **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)**

MMWR weekly reports and publications are prepared by the CDC. [Electronically Subscribe](#)  
[2011 Online Issues](#)

**October 21, 2011 / Vol. 60 / No. 41** [Download .pdf of this Issue](#)

- [State Electronic Disease Surveillance Systems --- United States, 2007 and 2010](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables](#)

**October 14, 2011 / Vol. 60 / No. 40** [Download .pdf of this Issue](#)

- [Recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\) for Use of Quadrivalent Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine \(MenACWY-D\) Among Children Aged 9 Through 23 Months at Increased Risk for Invasive Meningococcal Disease](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Q Fever Outbreak Associated with Goat Farms --- Washington and Montana, 2011](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables](#)

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## Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

### Weekly Flu View – October 21 (CDC)

During week 41, which ended October 15, influenza activity remained low in the United States. No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported; one human infection with a novel influenza A virus was reported. Of the 1,286 specimens tested, 6 (0.5%) were positive for influenza.

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

### CDC Statement on Results from RTS,S/AS01 Malaria Vaccine Trial – October 18 (CDC)

Results from the clinical trial in Africa of a malaria vaccine candidate show it prevented about half of malaria cases, including the most severe, in young children.

[http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/features/vaccine\\_trial\\_results.html](http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/features/vaccine_trial_results.html)

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## Travel Safety

### Current Travel Warnings – October 21 (US Department of State)

Currently, travel warnings are in effect for 33 countries. 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, or 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)

## Food, Drug and Device Safety

### FoodSafety.gov Reports FDA and USDA Food Recalls, Alerts, Reporting & Resources – October 22 (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>

### US Food and Drug Administration Food and Safety CORE Network (FDA)

- [Update on Recalled Whole Cantaloupes by Jensen Farms – October 21](#)
- [Recalled Frozen Ground Tuna Associated with Scromboid Poisoning – October 14](#)

## **Investigation Update: Multistate Outbreak of Listeriosis Linked to Whole Cantaloupes from Jensen Farms, CO – October 18 (CDC)**

Four outbreak strains of *Listeria monocytogenes* have been associated with 25 deaths in multiple states. CDC is collaborating with public health officials in several states and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate.

<http://www.cdc.gov/listeria/outbreaks/cantaloupes-jensen-farms/101811/index.html>

## **Listeriosis Information and Resources – (CDC)**

CDC's Division of Foodborne, Waterborne and Environmental Diseases in the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases provides outbreak updates, Listeria Initiative news, and describes people at risk for complications and death.

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

## **Multistate Foodborne Outbreaks – (CDC)**

This CDC site has information for health professionals and consumers on foodborne outbreaks.

<http://www.cdc.gov/outbreaknet/outbreaks.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. This is a product of the Health Partners Outreach Team's Clinician Communication Section (CCS) which 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.

[COCA Update Back Issues and Archive](#) – Find previously published resources.

[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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