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 December 17. This issue contains information from November 19 – December 3, 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

COCA News and Announcements

Recent COCA Call/Webinar:
NEW: Multistate Outbreak Fungal Meningitis and Other Infections: Updated Clinical Guidance
Date: Tuesday, November 27, 2012
During this COCA Call, CDC subject matter experts provided updated information on epidural abscess and other clinical syndromes being diagnosed in exposed patients and reviewed CDC’s diagnostic and treatment recommendations for clinicians. For more information on this call: http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2012/callinfo_112712.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 News and Announcements

More than 150,000 patients have been impacted by unsafe injection practices since 2001. Although safe injection practices represent very basic infection control measures, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) routinely identifies and investigates outbreaks associated with deficient practices. The One & Only Campaign aims to eradicate outbreaks from unsafe medical injections by raising awareness among patients and healthcare providers about proper practices. http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2012/dpk-unsafe-injections.html

CDC Health Alert Network (HAN): Health Concerns about Misuse of Pesticides for Bed Bug Control – November 27 (CDC)
The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are alerting the public to an emerging national concern regarding misuse of pesticides to treat infestations of bed bugs and other insects indoors.

http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00336.asp

Prevent the Spread of Norovirus – November 19 (CDC)
Noroviruses are the most common cause of gastroenteritis in the United States. CDC estimates that each year more than 20 million cases of acute gastroenteritis are caused by noroviruses. That means about 1 in every 15 Americans will get norovirus illness each year. Norovirus is also estimated to cause over 70,000 hospitalizations and 800 deaths each year in the United States.

http://www.cdc.gov/Features/Norovirus/index.html

CDC Science Clips: Volume 4, Issues: 46-47 – November 26 (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

NEW: Children's Preparedness Website – (CDC)
Parents, teachers, doctors and nurses are just some of the people who can help children get ready for and cope with disasters. Check out these resources to help keep kids safe in an emergency.

http://emergency.cdc.gov/children/

CDC Works for You 24/7 Blog: The Critical Role of State Health Depts. in the U.S. Fungal Meningitis Outbreak: 4 Key Efforts – November 21 (CDC)
This recent blog post is an excerpt from the testimony of Dr. Beth Bell, director of the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases at CDC, who discussed, among other things, the critical role state health departments played in detecting and sounding the alarm on this outbreak of fungal meningitis and other infections.


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

Hurricane Sandy Response and Recovery 2012 – (HHS/ASPR)

http://www.phe.gov/emergency/events/Pages/sandy-midatlantic-2012.aspx

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 12 – December 2012

Highlights in this issue include:

- Outbreak of Influenza A (H3N2) Variant Virus Infection among Attendees of an Agricultural Fair, Pennsylvania, USA, 2011
- West Nile Virus Neurologic Disease in Humans, South Africa, September 2008–May 2009

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

November 30, 2012 / Vol. 61 / No. 47 Download .pdf document of this issue

- Announcement: National Influenza Vaccination Week — December 2–8, 2012

November 23, 2012 / Vol. 61 / No. 46 Download .pdf document of this issue

- Multistate Outbreak of Salmonella Serotype Bovismorbificans Infections Associated with Hummus and Tahini — United States, 2011
- Notes from the Field: Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome in Visitors to a National Park — Yosemite Valley, California, 2012

Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

Updated: Weekly Flu View – November 21 (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/

National Influenza Vaccination Week: December 2-8, 2012 – (CDC)

National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) is a national observance that was established to highlight the importance of continuing influenza vaccination, as well as fostering greater use of flu vaccine after the holiday season into January and beyond. NIVW will be held December 2-8, 2012.

http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/index.htm

Updated: 2012 West Nile Virus – November 27 (CDC)

As of November 27, 2012, 48 states have reported West Nile virus infections in people, birds, or mosquitoes. A total of 5,245 cases of West Nile virus disease in people, including 236 deaths, have been reported to CDC.

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

Travel Safety

Outbreak Notice: Cholera in the Dominican Republic – November 28 (CDC)

An outbreak of cholera has been ongoing in the Dominican Republic since November 2010. According to the Dominican Ministry of Health (Ministerio de Salud Publica y Asistencia Social [MSP]), as of November 3, 2012, 6,622 suspected cholera cases and 47 suspected cholera-related deaths have been reported for 2012.

Outbreak Notice: Ebola in Uganda – November 28 (CDC)
The Ugandan Ministry of Health (MOH) has reported an outbreak of Ebola hemorrhagic fever in the Luwero District of central Uganda. As of November 19, 2012, there have been 6 confirmed cases and 4 deaths. http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/outbreak-notice/ebola-uganda-2012.htm

Current Travel Warnings – November 16 (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

Updated: Multistate Fungal Meningitis Outbreak Investigation: Clinician Guidance – November 21 (CDC) http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/clinicians/index.html

NEW: CDC Health Alert Network (HAN): Update: Multistate Outbreak of Fungal Meningitis and Other Infections Associated with Contaminated Steroid Medication – November 20 (CDC)
Currently, more than 7 weeks after the three implicated lots of MPA were recalled, CDC continues to receive reports of fungal infection in exposed patients. Previously, the majority of new cases reported to CDC were patients with fungal meningitis following injection. Although cases of fungal meningitis continue to be reported, CDC has recently observed an increase in the number of patients presenting with evidence of epidural abscess, phlegmon, discitis, vertebral osteomyelitis, or arachnoiditis at or near the site of injection. These complications have occurred in patients with and without evidence of fungal meningitis. http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00335.asp

Updated: Multistate Outbreak of Salmonella Bredeney Infections Linked to Peanut Butter Manufactured By Sunland, Inc. – November 30 (CDC)
A total of 42 people infected with the outbreak strain of Salmonella Bredeney were reported from 20 states. This outbreak appears to be over. However, Salmonella is an important cause of human illness in the United States. More information about Salmonella, and steps people can take to reduce their risk of infection, can be found on the CDC Salmonella Web Page. http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/bredeney-09-12/index.html

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

FoodSafety.gov Reports FDA and USDA Food Recalls, Alerts, Reporting & Resources – (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/recalls/recent/index.html

Return to Top of Page

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 health care 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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