



# COCA Update

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

May 20, 2013

**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 **June 3**.

This issue contains information from **May 6 – May 20, 2013** 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 and Announcements](#)

[CDC News and Announcements](#)

[Public Health Preparedness](#)

[Natural Disasters and Severe Weather](#)

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

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

[Travel Safety](#)

[Food, Drug and Device Safety](#)

## COCA News and Announcements

### Upcoming COCA Conference Exhibits and Presentations:

**IMPACT 2013 American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) 41st Conference**

**Date:** May 25 – May 29, 2013

**Location:** Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC

**Conference Website:** <http://www.aapa.org/>

Visit us to learn how COCA provides two-way communication between clinicians and CDC about emerging health threats, pandemics, natural disasters, and terrorism. COCA is a valuable resource that provides clinicians with a variety of products and services including: email updates on emerging health threats; training and conference announcements; direct email access for questions and feedback; and free CE opportunities. See the AAPA webpage above to plan your visit.

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

### CDC Science Clips: Volume 5, Issue: 19 – (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:** Tomorrow's Resilient Communities Start with Today's Plans – May 13 (ASPR)

Every disaster can impact health, so health is reflected in each framework, covering the entire continuum of preparedness. Find out where you fit into the National Planning Frameworks.

<http://www.phe.gov/ASPRBlog/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=50>

**NEW: From CDC to ABC: H7N9 from Hong Kong – May 7 (CDC)**

Taking on the role of interim CDC director can be an intimidating task, but an impending pandemic can make the position exponentially more daunting. This is the situation Dr. Richard Besser faced in 2009 when he stepped into his new job.

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2013/05/from-cdc-to-abc-h7n9-from-hong-kong/>

**NEW: CDC Media Advisory: CDC releases final West Nile virus national surveillance data for 2012 – May 13 (CDC)**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) today released the final 2012 national surveillance data for West Nile virus activity. To access the information, please visit

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

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2013/a0513-west-nile.html>

**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>

## 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>

**May 17, 2013 / Vol. 62 / No. 19** [Download .pdf document of this issue](#)

- [Spinal and Paraspinal Infections Associated with Contaminated Methylprednisolone Acetate Injections — Michigan, 2012–2013](#)
- [Assessment of Risk for Exposure to Bats in Sleeping Quarters Before and During Remediation — Kentucky, 2012](#)
- [Microbes in Pool Filter Backwash as Evidence of the Need for Improved Swimmer Hygiene — Metro-Atlanta, Georgia, 2012](#)
- [Announcements: Recreational Water Illness and Injury Prevention Week — May 20–26, 2013](#)

## Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

### Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus

**Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus – April 23 (CDC)**

CDC is following this situation closely and coordinating with domestic and international partners. This is an evolving situation and there is still much to learn. CDC will provide updated information as it becomes available. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm>

## Seasonal Influenza

### **Weekly Flu View – May 10 (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/>

### **Planning and Preparedness: Health Professionals and Seasonal Flu – (HHS)**

Health care providers play an important role during flu season. The following guidance and information will assist health care providers and service organizations to plan and respond to seasonal flu.

<http://www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/hospital/index.html>

## Travel Safety

### **Current Travel Warnings – May 17 (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)

## Food, Drug and Device Safety

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

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 – (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](#)**

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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](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 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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