



# COCA Update

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

June 3, 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 17**.

This issue contains information from **May 20 – June 3, 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

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## COCA News and Announcements

#### Upcoming COCA Call/Webinar:

**Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV): Information and Guidance for Clinicians**

**Date:** Thursday, June 13, 2013

**Time:** 2:00 - 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)

**Dial In Number:** 888-469-1678

**Passcode:** 3109821

#### Webinar:

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) is a newly identified virus that can cause severe acute respiratory illness and death. MERS cases have been linked to the Middle East, and there is documented spread of the virus internationally. So far, no cases of MERS have been reported in the United States. However, clinicians need to remain vigilant. Epidemiologic investigations have demonstrated that this unique virus spreads from person to person during close contact, such as within families and healthcare facilities. Clinicians have a critical role in recognizing and managing suspect cases of MERS. During this COCA call, a CDC subject matter expert will discuss the clinical signs, epidemiology and infection control recommendations for MERS-CoV.

[http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo\\_061313.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo_061313.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

**NEW: CDC Webinar: Implementing Clinical Fall Prevention in Your Practice: The STEADI Tool Kit for Health Care Providers**

**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2013

**Time:** 3:00 – 4:00 pm (Eastern Time)

**Registration Link:** <https://secure.confertel.net/tsregister.asp?course=577603>

The Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths & Injuries (STEADI) Tool Kit is a suite of materials created by CDC's Injury Center for health care providers. STEADI Tool Kit resources can be used to help assess, treat, and refer older adult patients based on their fall risk. Join this webinar to learn about the development of the STEADI Tool Kit, details of its unique resources, methods for incorporating these resources into your practice, and financial incentives for doing so. Featured presenters include Judy Stevens, PhD, Epidemiologist, National Center for Injury Prevention & Control at CDC, and Richard Schuster, MD, MMM, FACP, Professor of Health Policy and Management, Director of Center for Global Health at The University of Georgia. For more information on the STEADI Tool Kit visit: [www.cdc.gov/injury/steady](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/steady)

**NEW: View, Share, and Link: Two New Cool Videos About Hemophilia!**

The videos are geared towards middle-school age youth with hemophilia. Parents of children with hemophilia, teachers, nurses, coaches, and friends or neighbors of children with hemophilia may find the videos helpful as well.

<http://youtu.be/z3f8eIOVOrU>

<http://youtu.be/xqccE0IVKtg>

**CDC Science Clips: Volume 5, Issue: 21 – (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: CDC Press Release: MRSA study slashes deadly infections in sickest hospital patients – May 29 (CDC)**

Using germ-killing soap and ointment on all intensive-care unit (ICU) patients can reduce bloodstream infections by up to 44 percent and significantly reduce the presence of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in ICUs.

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2013/p0529-mrsa-study.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

### National Hurricane Preparedness Week (May 26 – June 1)

**NEW: 2013 Hurricane Health and Safety Tips – May 24 (CDC)**

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/index.asp>

**NEW: HHS Press Release: Take action during National Hurricane Preparedness Week – May 28 (HHS)**

National Hurricane Preparedness Week, May 25-June 1, is a time to emphasize that preparing for these massive storms is vital to every family's health and well-being. By preparing now, you can protect yourself and your loved ones from the damaging impacts of a storm.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2013pres/05/20130528a.html>

**NEW: Hurricane Sandy: What Have We Learned? – May 29 (CDC)**

As this year's hurricane season approaches I hope you'll take a moment to consider what you would do, not just in the extreme situations of Superstorm Sandy, but even in the more common thunderstorm or one of the possible 20 named storms that are predicted for this year. They may not be as extreme as Sandy but they can still bring with them destruction, flooding, evacuations, and any number of interruptions to everyday life.

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2013/05/hurricane-sandy-what-have-we-learned/>

### **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 31, 2013 / Vol. 62 / No. 21** [Download .pdf document of this issue](#)

- [CDC Grand Rounds: Preventing Unsafe Injection Practices in the U.S. Health-Care System](#)
- [World No Tobacco Day — May 31, 2013](#)
- [Antismoking Messages and Intention to Quit — 17 Countries, 2008–2011](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables](#)

## **Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases**

### **Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)**

**NEW: Determination of a Significant Potential for a Public Health Emergency and Declaration that Circumstances Exist Justifying an Authorization Pursuant to Section 564 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. § 360bbb-3(b)**

On Wednesday, May 29, 2013, the HHS Secretary signed a declaration that circumstances exist to justify an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) so that HHS agencies can take additional MERS-CoV (formerly called "novel coronavirus") preparedness measures. The declaration by the Secretary is a necessary first step in the legal and regulatory process that allows FDA to swiftly authorize the use of new laboratory diagnostic test kits designed to detect the MERS-CoV. CDC will share the MERS-CoV test kit domestically with qualified laboratories.

It does not indicate that an actual public health emergency exists in the United States. At this time, there are no reported cases of MERS-CoV in the United States. Because this is a new type of coronavirus, a specific diagnostic kit had not been previously developed and cleared by the FDA.

<http://www.phe.gov/emergency/news/healthactions/phe/Pages/mers-cov.aspx>

### **Weekly Flu View – May 24 (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 30 (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**

### **NEW: Multistate Outbreak of Salmonella Montevideo and Salmonella Mbandaka Infections Linked to Tahini Sesame Paste – May 22 (CDC)**

CDC is collaborating with public health officials in several states and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate a multistate outbreak of Salmonella Montevideo and Salmonella Mbandaka infections. Results from this ongoing investigation indicate that tahini sesame paste distributed by Krinos Foods, LLC of Long Island City, New York is the likely source of this outbreak.

<http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/montevideo-tahini-05-13/index.html>

### **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>

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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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