



COCA Update

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

September 9, 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 **September 23**.

This issue contains information from **August 26 – September 9, 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.

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](#)

[Emerging Infectious Disease \(EID\) Journal](#)

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

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

[Travel Safety](#)

[Food, Drug and Device Safety](#) *Recurrent Nationwide Shortage of Tuberculin Skin Test Antigen Solutions*

COCA News and Announcements

Upcoming COCA Call/Webinar:

Protecting Children at Highest Risk for Influenza Complications

Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2013

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

Dial In Number: 888-233-9077

Passcode: 3873879

Webinar:

Children with chronic medical conditions, including asthma, diabetes, and neurologic and neurodevelopmental disorders, are at higher risk for influenza-associated complications. Using antiviral therapies early and aggressively in these vulnerable children can lessen the impact of influenza infection. Clinicians have a critical role in taking action to immunize these children and their close contacts. During this COCA Call, subject matter experts from CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics will discuss strategies that primary care providers and medical subspecialists can use in partnership with parents to improve influenza prevention and control in children at highest risk.

CE = Continuing Education

http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo_092413.asp

Recent COCA Call/Webinar:

Improving the Health of Children and Adults through Vaccines: Updates and Recommendations for Clinicians

Date: Tuesday, August 13, 2013

Vaccines prevent children and adults from potentially harmful or deadly diseases. To promote health and prevent disease, CDC publishes written recommendations for vaccinating children and adults. These recommendations are based on information from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). It is important for pediatric and adult providers to stay up to date on the most recent ACIP recommendations. During this webinar, a CDC subject matter expert addressed recent vaccine recommendations along with available immunization resources.

CE = Continuing Education

http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo_081313.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

CDC Science Clips: Volume 5, Issue: 33 – (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

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

Food and Water Needs: Preparing for a Disaster or Emergency – (CDC)

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/foodwater/prepare.asp>

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 19, Number 9 – September 2013

Highlights in this issue include:

- [Acute Encephalitis Syndrome Surveillance, Kushinagar District, Uttar Pradesh, India, 2011–2012](#)
- [Nodding Syndrome](#)
- [Antigenic and Molecular Characterization of Avian Influenza A\(H9N2\) Viruses, Bangladesh](#)

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>

September 6, 2013 / Vol. 62 / No. 35 [Download .pdf document of this issue](#)

- [National Preparedness Month — September 2013](#)
- [CDC's Emergency Management Program Activities — Worldwide, 2003–2012](#)
- [Surveillance for Waterborne Disease Outbreaks Associated with Drinking Water and Other Nonrecreational Water — United States, 2009–2010](#)

Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

Update: Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) – September 6 (CDC)

A novel coronavirus called “Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus” (MERS-CoV) was identified in 2012 as the cause of respiratory illness in people. Investigations are being done to figure out the source of MERS-CoV and how it spreads.

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/index.html>

Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus

Update: Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus – September 6 (CDC)

Human infections with a new avian influenza A (H7N9) virus continue to be reported in China. The virus has been detected in poultry in China as well. While mild illness in human cases has been seen, most patients have had severe respiratory illness and some people have died. No cases of H7N9 outside of China have been reported.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm>

Seasonal Influenza

Weekly Flu View – September 6 (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 – September 9 (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

NEW: CDC Health Alert Network (HAN) Update: Recurrent Nationwide Shortage of Tuberculin Skin Test Antigen Solutions: CDC Recommendations for Patient Care and Public Health Practice – September 4 (CDC)

This notice updates and supersedes the advice in HAN 345 and advises public health officials, clinicians, and workers in occupational health and infection control about how to adapt testing protocols to the recurrent shortage.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00355.asp>

NEW: HHS Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Opioid Overdose Prevention Tool Kit

This tool kit equips communities and local governments with material to develop policies and practices to help prevent opioid-related overdoses and deaths. It addresses issues for first responders, treatment providers, and those recovering from opioid overdose.

<http://store.samhsa.gov/product/Opioid-Overdose-Prevention-Toolkit/SMA13-4742>

Update: Investigation of an Outbreak of Cyclosporiasis in the United States

Multistate Outbreak of Cyclosporiasis – September 4 (CDC)

On June 28, 2013, CDC was notified of 2 laboratory-confirmed cases of *Cyclospora* infection in Iowa residents who had become ill in June and did not have a history of international travel during the 14 days before the onset of illness. Since that date, CDC has been collaborating with public health officials in multiple states and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate an outbreak of cyclosporiasis.

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/outbreaks/investigation-2013.html>

Resources for Health Professionals – (CDC)

http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/health_professionals/index.html

MedWatch: The FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program – (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](#)

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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