



# COCA Update

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

September 23, 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 **October 7**.

This issue contains information from **September 9 – September 23, 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](#)

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## 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:** <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PW6481701&p=3873879&t=c>

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](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](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

### **NEW: 2013 Select Agent Workshop Webcast – (APHIS/CDC)**

**Date:** Friday, November 15, 2013

**Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm (Eastern Time)

**Registration:** [http://www.selectagents.gov/resources/2013\\_Fall\\_SA\\_Workshop\\_Registration\\_Form\\_English-Enabled.pdf](http://www.selectagents.gov/resources/2013_Fall_SA_Workshop_Registration_Form_English-Enabled.pdf)

The webcast will cover the changes to the Security section (section 11) of the select agent regulations, including information security, physical security, and personnel suitability, with emphasis on the additional requirements for entities possessing select agents and toxins designated as Tier 1 agents and toxins. If you are interested in participating in the webcast, please submit the registration form above no later than October 18, 2013. The webcast link, agenda, and supporting information will be sent to registered participants prior to the workshop. For more information: <http://www.selectagents.gov/>

### **CDC Science Clips: Volume 5, Issue: 35 – (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: September is National Preparedness Month**

#### **National Preparedness Month 2013**

National Preparedness Month is a great time to think about ways that you can prepare to stay safe and help others during a disaster or emergency. Whether it's by taking a First Aid and CPR class, joining a service organization or just putting preparedness apps on your phone so that you are prepared to make better decisions in a disaster, there are lots of things that you can do now to help yourself, your loved ones and your community stay safe when disaster strikes.

<http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/news/events/npm-2013/Pages/default.aspx>

#### **Be Ready! September is National Preparedness Month – (CDC)**

Throughout September there will be activities across the country to promote emergency preparedness. More than 3,000 organizations – national, regional, and local public and private organizations – are supporting emergency preparedness efforts and encouraging all Americans to take action.

<http://www.cdc.gov/features/beready/>

#### **National Preparedness Month 2013 Toolkit – (FEMA)**

The National Preparedness Month (NPM) 2013 Toolkit includes suggestions for activities and events that state, local, tribal and territorial governments, business, non-governmental organizations, and community organizations could sponsor to promote NPM.

<http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/readynpm/view?objectId=3200688>

### **NEW: Webinar: Training for Healthcare Providers on Indicators of Drinking Water Contamination – (EPA)**

**Date:** October 1, 2013

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

**Registration:** <https://www.thetestportal.com/RecognizingWaterContamination>

This webinar will educate public health professionals about drinking water systems and indicators of possible drinking water contamination, and will convey methods for communicating information to partners who play a role

in protecting public health. Teleconference and web conference information will be emailed to registered participants in advance of webinar.

**CE** = Continuing Education

**NEW: Public Health Matters Blog: Helping Children Cope With a Disaster – September 12 (CDC)**

Children often become distressed after a disaster, especially if it has directly impacted them or someone they care about. They may also feel sad or sorry for others and want very much to help them. Worries that something similar will happen to them or their family may lead them to ask a lot of questions so that they can better understand what has happened and therefore what they can do to protect themselves and their family. Parents and other adults who care for children can do a lot to help them understand and cope.

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2013/09/helping-children-cope-with-a-disaster/>

**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

**NEW: Hurricane Health and Safety Tips: Food and Water Needs: Preparing for a Disaster or Emergency – September 12 (CDC)**

Follow these steps to make sure you and your family have enough safe food and water (for drinking, cooking, bathing, etc.) available in the event of a disaster or emergency.

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

**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>

## 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 13, 2013 / Vol. 62 / No. 36 [Download .pdf document of this issue](#)**

- [National, State, and Local Area Vaccination Coverage Among Children Aged 19–35 Months — United States, 2012](#)
- [Influenza Vaccination Practices of Physicians and Caregivers of Children with Neurologic and Neurodevelopmental Conditions — United States, 2011–12 Influenza Season](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Measles Outbreak Among Members of a Religious Community — Brooklyn, New York, March–June 2013](#)
- [Announcements: National Child Passenger Safety Week — September 15–21, 2013](#)

## Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

**NEW: CDC Press Release: Untreatable: Report by CDC details today's drug-resistant health threats – September 16 (CDC)**

The report, Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States, 2013, presents the first snapshot of the burden and threats posed by antibiotic-resistant germs having the most impact on human health. The threats are ranked in categories: urgent, serious, and concerning.

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2013/p0916-untreatable.html>

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

**Update: Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) – September 19 (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 19 (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 13 (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](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html)

## **Food, Drug and Device Safety**

**Update: Multistate Outbreak of Cyclosporiasis – September 17 (CDC)**

As of September 13, 2013, a total of 642 ill persons with Cyclospora infection have been reported from 25 states.

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

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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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