



# COCA Update

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

December 16, 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 **December 30**.

This issue contains information from **December 2 – December 16, 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

#### Recent COCA Call/Webinar:

#### Assessing Risk and Strengthening Community-wide Preparedness

**Date:** Thursday, November 14, 2013

Risk assessments are a vital source of baseline information for preparedness planning. Community decisions made now affect the lives and investments of everyone in the community for decades. Therefore, it is important to collaborate with key stakeholders when using risk assessment tools to decide which hazards require attention and what actions must be planned for to protect the people, property, and environment. During this COCA Call/Webinar, learn how the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Upper Midwest Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center developed partnerships between health care and public health agencies to assess their community's risk and improve their community-based planning.

**CE**= Continuing Education

[http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo\\_111413.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo_111413.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: 43 – (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

### **NEW: Public Health Matters Blog: Winter is Coming...Be Ready – December 4 (CDC)**

Help spread the word about staying safe this winter. Share our *Game of Thrones*-inspired eCards or our Be Ready: Winter Weather infographic to encourage your friends and family to be prepared.

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2013/12/winter-is-coming-be-ready/>

### **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>

### **December 6, 2013 / Vol. 62 / No. 48 [Download .pdf document of this issue](#)**

- [Multistate Outbreak of \*Salmonella\* Chester Infections Associated with Frozen Meals — 18 States, 2010](#)
- [Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome Control and Elimination — Global Progress, 2000–2012](#)
- [Notes from the Field: \*Escherichia coli\* O157:H7 Outbreak Associated with Seasonal Consumption of Raw Ground Beef — Wisconsin, December 2012–January 2013](#)
- [Announcement: National Influenza Vaccination Week — December 8–14, 2013](#)

## Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

### **NEW: FDA News Release: FDA takes significant steps to address antimicrobial resistance – December 11 (FDA)**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is implementing a plan to help phase out the use of medically important antimicrobials in food animals for food production purposes, such as to enhance growth or improve feed efficiency. The plan would also phase in veterinary oversight of the remaining appropriate therapeutic uses of such drugs.

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm378193.htm>

### **NEW: Public Health Matters Blog: Outbreak of Meningitis Causing Health Officials to Look Overseas for Help – December 9 (CDC)**

This time last year public health officials were grappling with a meningitis outbreak linked to fungus found in tainted medication. Now officials are trying to rein in a different outbreak of meningitis, more specifically meningococcal disease, popping up on a college campus, including Princeton University.  
<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2013/12/meningitis-overseas-for-help/>

## Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus

### **Update: Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus – December 9 (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 – December 9 (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 – December 6 (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 – (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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