



# COCA Update

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

December 30, 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 **January 13**.

This issue contains information from **December 16 – December 30, 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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[Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#)

[Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Disease](#) *Notice to Clinicians: Early Reports of pH1N1-Associated Illnesses for the 2013-14 Influenza Season*

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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.

[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: 44 – (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: Public Health Matters Blog: Do 1 Thing: First Aid – December 23 (CDC)**

If an emergency happens and you have to call for an ambulance, do you know what to do while you wait? Do you have the supplies you need to do basic first aid? Or the training to perform CPR?

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2013/12/do-1-thing-first-aid/>

### **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>

## 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 20, 2013 / Vol. 62 / No. 50 [Download .pdf document of this issue](#)**

- [Outbreak of Staphylococcal Food Poisoning from a Military Unit Lunch Party — United States, July 2012](#)
- [Outbreak of \*Escherichia coli\* O104:H4 Infections Associated with Sprout Consumption — Europe and North America, May–July 2011](#)
- [Update: Influenza Activity — United States, September 29–December 7, 2013](#)
- [QuickStats: Percentage of Hospitalizations After Emergency Department Visits Resulting from Injury and Illness Among Persons Aged ≤18 Years, by Age Group — National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, United States, 2007–2010](#)

## Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

### **Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus**

#### **Update: Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus – December 27 (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**

**NEW: CDC Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory: Notice to Clinicians: Early Reports of pH1N1-Associated Illnesses for the 2013-14 Influenza Season – December 24 (CDC)**

From November through December 2013, CDC has received a number of reports of severe respiratory illness among young and middle-aged adults, many of whom were infected with influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 (pH1N1) virus.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00359.asp>

**Weekly Flu View – December 21 (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 24 (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: FDA News Release: FDA warns consumers not to use muscle growth product – December 23 (FDA)**

The Food and Drug Administration is advising consumers to immediately stop using a product called Mass Destruction, marketed as a dietary supplement for muscle growth. The product is labeled to contain at least one synthetic anabolic steroid and has been linked to at least one reported serious illness.

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm379711.htm>

**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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