



COCA Update

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

April 21, 2014

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 **May 5**.

This issue contains information from **April 7 – April 21** 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

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COCA News and Announcements

Recent COCA Call/Webinar:

Tickborne Diseases: A Springtime Review of Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention

Date: Thursday, April 10, 2014

From May through July, people get tick bites and tickborne diseases more often than any other time of year in the United States. In 2012, over 4,000 cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever and 30,000 cases of Lyme disease were reported to CDC. Tickborne diseases can cause symptoms that range from mild to life-threatening. Early recognition and treatment of tickborne diseases decreases the risk of serious complications. During this COCA call, CDC subject matter experts will describe the signs and symptoms, treatment, management, and prevention of tickborne diseases in the U.S., with an emphasis on Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2014/callinfo_041014.asp

Archived COCA Conference Calls are available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/index.asp>.

Free continuing education (CME, CNE, ACPE, CEU, CECH, and AAVSB/RACE) is available for most calls. For more information on free CE: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/continuingeducation.asp>

CDC News and Announcements

Got Drugs? – (CDC)

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal
CDC/ATSDR's Take Back Day – Wednesday, April 23, 2014

<http://intranet.cdc.gov/connects/event/got-drugs/>

CDC Science Clips: Volume 6, Issue: 15 – (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/scioclips/issues/>

Public Health Preparedness

NEW: What Consumers Need to Know About Food and Water Safety During Hurricanes, Power Outages, and Floods – (FDA)

Emergencies can happen. When they do, the best strategy is to already have a plan in place. This includes knowing the proper food and water safety precautions to take if hurricanes — or other flooding/power outages — do occur.

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/ucm076881.htm>

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

Always follow local safety instructions during floods. – (CDC)

Floods, big or small, can have devastating effects on your home and your family. You can take steps to reduce the harm caused by flooding. Learn how to prepare for a flood, stay safe during a flood, and protect your health when you return home after a flood.

<http://emergencydev.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/index.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>

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- [Assessment of Blood Lead Levels Among Children Aged \$\leq 5\$ Years — Zamfara State, Nigeria, June–July 2012](#)
- [Incidence and Trends of Infection with Pathogens Transmitted Commonly Through Food — Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network, 10 U.S. Sites, 2006–2013](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Increase in *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* Infections Associated with Consumption of Atlantic Coast Shellfish — 2013](#)
- [Announcement: Recommendation Regarding Reducing Alcohol-Impaired Driving — Community Preventive Services Task Force](#)
- [QuickStats: Percentage of Adults Aged \$\geq 25\$ Years Who Were Current Smokers or Current Regular Drinkers, by Education Level — National Health Interview Survey, United States, 2012](#)

Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

NEW: Risk of Human Salmonella Infections from Live Baby Poultry – (CDC)

Often, live baby poultry may be put on display at stores where children may be able to touch the birds or areas where they are displayed. Because these birds are so soft and cute, many people do not realize the potential danger that live baby poultry can be, especially to children.

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

Counterfeit Drugs – (CDC)

The World Health Organization recently issued an alert about counterfeit antimalarial medications being sold in West and Central Africa. Travelers should be aware that drugs purchased in other countries may be counterfeit.

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/CounterfeitDrugs/index.html>

Seasonal Influenza

Weekly Flu View – April 12 (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 – April 16 (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: FDA approves Ragwitek for short ragweed pollen allergies – April 17 (FDA)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today approved Ragwitek, the first allergen extract administered under the tongue (sublingually) to treat short ragweed pollen induced allergic rhinitis (hay fever), with or without conjunctivitis (eye inflammation), in adults 18 years through 65 years of age.

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm393820.htm>

NEW: FDA discourages use of laparoscopic power morcellation for removal of uterus or uterine fibroids – April 17 (FDA)

In a safety communication notice issued today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration discouraged the use of laparoscopic power morcellation for the removal of the uterus (hysterectomy) or uterine fibroids (myomectomy) in women because, based on an analysis of currently available data, it poses a risk of spreading unsuspected cancerous tissue, notably uterine sarcomas, beyond the uterus.

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm393689.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

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.

[Health Alert Network \(HAN\)](#) - CDC's primary method of sharing cleared information about urgent public health incidents with public information officers; federal, state, territorial, and local public health practitioners; clinicians; and public health laboratories.



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