



COCA Update

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

May 5, 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 19**.

This issue contains information from **April 21 – May 5** 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 Emergency Response](#) *Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus*

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COCA News and Announcements

COCA Calls/Webinars

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 Emergency Response – Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

NEW: Health Alert Network (HAN) – Confirmed Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) Case in Indiana, 2014 – May 3 (CDC)

The first case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infection in the United States, identified in a traveler, was reported to CDC by the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) on May 1, 2014, and confirmed by CDC on May 2. The patient is in a hospital in Indiana after having flown from Saudi Arabia to Chicago via London. The purpose of this HAN is to alert clinicians, health officials, and others to increase their index of suspicion to consider MERS-CoV infection in travelers from the Arabian Peninsula and neighboring countries..

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00361.asp>

NEW: Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) Interim Guidance for Health Professionals– May 2 (CDC)
Healthcare professionals should evaluate patients for MERS-CoV infection if they develop fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or shortness of breath, within 14 days after traveling from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/interim-guidance.html>

NEW: Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Hospitalized Patients with Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

Standard, contact, and airborne precautions are recommended for management of hospitalized patients with known or suspected MERS-CoV infection

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/infection-prevention-control.html>

NEW: Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) Preparedness

To aid providers and facilities, CDC has developed two checklists that identify key actions that can be taken now to enhance preparedness for MERS-CoV infection control.

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

NEW: Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) Resources for Healthcare Professionals, Labs, and the General Public – (CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/related-materials.html>

NEW: Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

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

Archived COCA Call

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV): Information and Guidance for Clinicians

Date: Thursday, June 13, 2013

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) is a newly identified virus that can cause severe acute respiratory illness and death. MERS cases have been linked to the Middle East, and there is documented spread of the virus internationally. During this COCA call, CDC subject matter experts discussed the clinical signs, epidemiology and infection control recommendations for MERS-CoV. There is no Continuing Education (CE) for this webinar.

http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo_061313.asp

CDC News and Announcements

Celebrating Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month – (CDC)

CDC celebrates Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month 2014 – Theme “Diverse Leadership + Expanding Opportunity: An Imperative for America”.

<http://cdctoday.cdc.gov/announcements/8223.html>

CDC Science Clips: Volume 6, Issue: 17 – (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: Prepare for Unpredictable Spring Weather – (CDC)

Prepare for storms, floods, and tornadoes as if you know in advance they are coming, because in the spring, they very likely will.

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

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

Returning Home After a Disaster: Be Healthy and Safe. – (CDC)

Tips for cleaning your home, stopping mold, protecting yourself from carbon monoxide poisoning, keeping drinking water and food safe, and more after a disaster.

<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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- [Potentially Preventable Deaths from the Five Leading Causes of Death — United States, 2008–2010](#)
- [Outbreak of Campylobacteriosis Associated with a Long-Distance Obstacle Adventure Race — Nevada, October 2012](#)
- [Falls and Fall Injuries Among Adults with Arthritis — United States, 2012](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Investigation of Infectious Disease Risks Associated With a Nontransplant Anatomical Donation Center — Arizona, 2014](#)

Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

NEW: May 5: Hand Hygiene Day – (CDC)

Hand hygiene is a simple thing and it's the best way to prevent infection and illness.

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HandHygiene/>

NEW: Trends in Foodborne Illness in the United States, 2013 – (CDC)

The nation's food safety grades are out and the results are mixed. CDC's annual report shows that foodborne infections continue to be an important public health problem in the United States.

<http://www.cdc.gov/features/dsfoodsafetyreport/index.html>

NEW: Take Caution When Bats Are Near – (CDC)

Bats play an important role in our ecosystem. However, they are also associated with diseases deadly to humans. Learn how you can stay safe when bats are near.

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/Bats/>

Seasonal Influenza

Weekly Flu View – April 26 (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 – May 5 (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/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.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

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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