



# COCA Update

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

June 2, 2014

**COCA Updates** are disseminated biweekly. More frequent distributions may occur when there is emergency information or an event-specific update to share. The next COCA Update is scheduled for **June 16**.

This issue contains guidance documents relevant to current public health events and information from **May 19 – June 2**.

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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[CDC Emergency Response](#) *Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)*

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[Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#)  
*Increase in US Measles cases*

[Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Disease](#) *Why Measles Matters (Web Conference)*

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## COCA News and Announcements

#### Recent COCA Calls/Webinars:

**Interim Clinical Guidance and CDC Updates for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)**

**Date:** Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) has caused severe respiratory illness and death in several countries. All cases have been linked, through residence or travel, to countries in and near the Arabian Peninsula. Epidemiologic investigations have demonstrated that this virus can spread from person to person during close contact, such as within families and healthcare facilities. Investigations of the two imported cases of MERS in the United States are ongoing.

During this COCA call, clinicians learned about the latest situation, surveillance, travelers' health, and updates to CDC clinical guidance for testing, patient evaluation, and infection control.

[emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2014/callinfo\\_052814.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2014/callinfo_052814.asp)

Archived COCA conference calls are available at [emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/index.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/index.asp).

Free continuing education credits (CME, CNE, ACPE, CEU, CECH, and AAVSB/RACE) are available for most calls. For more information about free CE, visit [emergency.cdc.gov/coca/continuingeducation.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/continuingeducation.asp)

## CDC Emergency Response – MERS-CoV

**Updated: Interim Guidance for Health Professionals – May 22 (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.

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/interim-guidance.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/interim-guidance.html)

### **Second MERS Case Imported to the United States – May 14 (CDC)**

On May 11, 2014, a second U.S. imported case of MERS was confirmed in a traveler who also came to the United States from Saudi Arabia. CDC is working very quickly to investigate this second U.S. case of MERS and respond to minimize the spread of this virus.

[www.cdc.gov/Features/novelcoronavirus/](http://www.cdc.gov/Features/novelcoronavirus/)

### **Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Hospitalized Patients with MERS-CoV – May 15 (CDC)**

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

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/infection-prevention-control.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/infection-prevention-control.html)

### **MERS Preparedness – (CDC)**

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.

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/preparedness/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/preparedness/index.html)

### **MERS Resources for Healthcare Professionals, Labs, and the General Public – (CDC)**

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/related-materials.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/related-materials.html)

### **MERS Frequently Asked Questions and Answers – (CDC)**

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/faq.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/faq.html)

## **CDC News and Announcements**

### **NEW: Global Health Matters Seminar: The GAVI Alliance: Driving Global Equity in Access to Vaccines – (CDC)**

**Date:** Wednesday, June 4, 2014

**Time:** 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EDT

**Bridgeline Information:**

- **866-657-4942 (U.S.)**
- **203-566-6936 (outside U.S.)**
- **Passcode: 9969789**

**Speaker:** Robert Newman, MD, Managing Director of Policy and Performance, GAVI Alliance

### **CDC Science Clips: Volume 6, Issue: 20 – (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.

[www.cdc.gov/phlic/sciclips/issues/](http://www.cdc.gov/phlic/sciclips/issues/)

## **Public Health Preparedness**

### **NEW: CDC Public Health Matters Blog: Neighbors Helping Neighbors – May 21 (CDC)**

When the Fairfax County Health Department in Virginia put out a call for volunteers to help conduct a tuberculosis (TB) contact investigation, Rosalia Parada, a long time Medical Reserve Corps volunteer, jumped at the chance to serve her community. The investigation was sparked when news of three students from Robert E. Lee High School acquired TB around the same time.

[blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2014/05/neighbors-helping-neighbors/](http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2014/05/neighbors-helping-neighbors/)

### **Emergency Preparedness and Response – (CDC)**

Find preparedness resources for all hazards.

[emergency.cdc.gov/hazards-all.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/hazards-all.asp)

## Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Resources for Clinicians – (CDC)

Find online and in-person training resources at  
[emergency.cdc.gov/coca/trainingresources.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/trainingresources.asp)

## Natural Disasters and Severe Weather

### Food and Water Needs: Preparing for a Disaster or Emergency – (CDC)

[emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/foodwater/prepare.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/foodwater/prepare.asp)

### Health and Safety Concerns for All Disasters – (CDC)

[emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/alldisasters.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/alldisasters.asp)

## Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

MMWR publications are prepared by CDC. To electronically subscribe, go to  
[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwrsubscribe.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwrsubscribe.html)

### May 29, 2014 / Vol. 63 (Early Release) [Download .pdf document of this issue](#)

- [Measles — United States, January 1–May 23, 2014](#)

### May 30, 2014 / Vol. 63 / No. 21 [Download .pdf document of this issue](#)

- [World No Tobacco Day — May 31, 2014](#)
- [Million Hearts: Prevalence of Leading Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors — United States, 2005–2012](#)
- [Progress Toward Polio Eradication — Worldwide, 2013–2014](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables](#)

## Infectious, Vector-Borne, and Zoonotic Diseases

### **NEW:** Current Issues in Immunization NetConference: Why Measles Matters – May 22 (CDC)

The United States is experiencing the largest number of measles cases reported by this time in the year since 1994 – a 20-year high. Measles is a highly contagious, acute viral illness that can lead to severe complications and death. Most U.S. cases are associated with importations from countries where measles is still common, including the Philippines where an outbreak began in October 2013. When measles reaches this country, it spreads quickly in unvaccinated populations. The increase in importations and subsequent transmission in certain settings highlights the importance of ensuring age-appropriate vaccination for international travelers and maintaining high vaccination coverage in the United States. There is a need for heightened awareness among healthcare providers regarding the possibility of measles.

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/ciinc/2014-05-22.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/ciinc/2014-05-22.html)

### **NEW:** Ten Things to Know about Valley Fever – May 22 (CDC)

Valley fever is a fungal respiratory disease that can be devastating. Learning about valley fever can help you recognize the symptoms early.

[www.cdc.gov/features/valley-fever-10-things/](http://www.cdc.gov/features/valley-fever-10-things/)

## Seasonal Influenza

### Weekly Flu View – May 17 (CDC)

Flu View is a weekly influenza surveillance report prepared by CDC Influenza Division. All data are preliminary and may change as CDC receives more reports.

[www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/](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.

[www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/hospital/index.html](http://www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/hospital/index.html)

## Travel Safety

### **Current Travel Warnings – May 23 (US Department of State)**

The U.S. Department of State issues Travel Warnings when long-term, protracted conditions make a country dangerous or unstable. Travel Warnings recommend that Americans avoid or carefully consider the risk of travel to that country. The State Department also issues Travel Warnings 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 State Department staff.

[travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html)

## Food, Drug, and Device Safety

### **NEW: Public Meeting: Proposed Rules on Food Labeling - Revision of the Nutrition and Supplement Facts Labels and Serving Sizes of Foods – (FDA)**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is announcing a public meeting about two proposed rules that appeared in the Federal Register on March 3, 2014.

[www.fda.gov/Food/NewsEvents/WorkshopsMeetingsConferences/ucm398002.htm](http://www.fda.gov/Food/NewsEvents/WorkshopsMeetingsConferences/ucm398002.htm)

### **MedWatch: The FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program – (FDA)**

MedWatch is your FDA gateway for clinically important safety information and reporting serious problems with human medical products.

[www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/default.htm](http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/default.htm)

### **FoodSafety.gov: Reports of FDA and USDA Food Recalls, Alerts, Reporting, and Resources – (HHS/USDA/FDA/CDC/NIH)**

Foodsafety.gov lists notices of recalls and alerts from both FDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Visitors to the site can report a problem or make inquiries.

[www.foodsafety.gov/recalls/recent/index.html](http://www.foodsafety.gov/recalls/recent/index.html)

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The Healthcare Preparedness Activity in the Division of Strategic National Stockpile, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response is responsible for the management of all COCA products.

**For information about this update or other clinical issues, or to send your feedback, please contact us at [coca@cdc.gov](mailto:coca@cdc.gov)**

CDC 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

[COCA RSS Feed](#) – subscribe to be notified of conference calls, updates, and CDC guidance for health providers

[Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication \(CERC\) Training](#) – training program that draws from lessons learned during public health emergencies, and incorporates best practices from the fields of risk and crisis 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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