This issue contains guidance documents relevant to current public health events and information from December 29 – January 5.

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 January 12.

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

COCA News and Announcements
Recent COCA Calls:
EMS and Ebola: Field Experience with Transporting Patients
Date: Monday, December 15, 2014
emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2014/callinfo_121514.asp

HIV Care Continuum: Keeping the Spotlight on Screening, Prevention, and Treatment
Date: Thursday, December 18, 2014
emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2014/callinfo_121814.asp

Archived COCA conference calls are available at 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

CDC Emergency Response – CDC Response to 2014 Ebola in the United States and West Africa
NEW: 2014 Ebola Outbreak in West Africa - Cumulative Reported Cases Graphs

NEW: Considerations for U.S Healthcare Facilities to Ensure Adequate Supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Ebola Preparedness
www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/healthcare-us/ppe/supplies.html

Updated: Case Counts
NEW: Interim Guidance for Ebola Virus Cleaning, Disinfection, and Waste Disposal in Commercial Passenger Aircraft

NEW: Questions and Answers about Ebola and Food Safety in the United States
www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/transmission/qas-food-safety.html

NEW: 2014 Ebola Outbreak in West Africa - Cumulative Reported Cases Graphs

NEW: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Interim Guidance for Managers and Workers Handling Untreated Sewage from Suspected or Confirmed Individuals with Ebola in the U.S.
www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/prevention/faq-untreated-sewage.html

CDC News and Announcements

CDC Science Clips: Volume 6, Issue: 51 – (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/library/sciclips/issues/

Public Health Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness and Response – (CDC)
Find preparedness resources for all hazards.
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

Natural Disasters and Severe Weather

Food and Water Needs: Preparing for a Disaster or Emergency – (CDC)
emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/foodwater/prepare.asp

Health and Safety Concerns for All Disasters – (CDC)
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
January 2, 2015 / Vol. 63 / Nos. 51 & 52 Download .pdf document of this issue

- Tetrodotoxin Poisoning Outbreak from Imported Dried Puffer Fish — Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2014
- Perceptions of the Risk for Ebola and Health Facility Use Among Health Workers and Pregnant and Lactating Women — Kenema District, Sierra Leone, September 2014
- Notes from the Field: Aseptic Meningitis Outbreak Associated with Echovirus 30 Among High School Football Players — Los Angeles County, California, 2014
- QuickStats: Death Rates from Viral Hepatitis Among Adults Aged ≥18 Years, by Age Group and Sex — National Vital Statistics System, United States, 1999–2011
Infectious, Vector-Borne, and Zoonotic Diseases

Seasonal Influenza

What You Should Know for the 2014-2015 Influenza Season

Information for Health Professionals
http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/index.htm

Weekly Flu View – December 29 (CDC)
Flu View is a weekly influenza surveillance report prepared by CDC’s Influenza Division. All data are preliminary and may change as CDC receives more reports.
www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

Planning and Preparedness: Health Professionals and Seasonal Flu – (HHS)
Healthcare providers play an important role during flu season. The following guidance and information will assist healthcare providers and service organizations to plan and respond to seasonal flu.
www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/hospital/index.html

Travel Safety

Current Travel Warnings – December 29 (U.S. 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

Food, Drug, and Device Safety

NEW: FDA Investigates *Listeria monocytogenes* Illnesses Linked to Caramel Apples – December 31 (FDA)
The FDA, CDC and state and local officials are investigating an outbreak of *listeriosis* linked to commercially-produced, prepackaged whole caramel apples.
www.fda.gov/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/Outbreaks/ucm427573.htm

MedWatch: The FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program – (FDA)
MedWatch is your Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gateway for clinically important safety information and reporting serious problems with human medical products.
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

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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
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 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 – 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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