



COCA Update

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

March 2, 2015

This issue contains guidance documents relevant to current public health events and information from **February 17 – March 2**.

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 **March 16**.

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](#)

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Topics and Highlights

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COCA News and Announcements

Recent COCA Calls/Webinars:

Protecting Children: Influenza Updates for Clinicians

Date: Thursday, February 26, 2015

emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2015/callinfo_022615.asp

Measles 2015: Situational Update, Clinical Guidance, and Vaccination Recommendations

Date: Thursday, February 19, 2015

emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2015/callinfo_021915.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: Addressing the Needs of Contacts of Ebola Patients

Contact tracing is an essential tool for responding to epidemics. Training of public health responders focuses almost exclusively on the technical aspects of contact tracing, and little on issues experienced by contacts themselves – issues that might prevent or impede the contact tracing process. Addressing these issues helps ensure contacts' compliance with tracing, monitoring, and quarantine. It requires recognition of contacts' unique cultural, linguistic, socioeconomic, educational, and mental health needs. The needs of contacts can be substantial. These included food, medicine, child care, addressing stigma, transportation, housing, educational needs, financial assistance, translation services, and emotional and spiritual support.

During the response to the Ebola epidemic, both in the U.S. and in West Africa, CDC contact-tracing teams found it necessary to partner with businesses, schools, charitable foundations, community and faith-based organization, non-government organizations, and mental health resources. Linkage to these resources and anticipation of contacts' needs should be part of the contact-tracing planning process and incorporated into emergency preparedness.

The bottom line is that anticipation of contacts' needs, and linkage to resources to address these needs, should be part of the planning process – that is, organized *before* an emergency rather than ad hoc during a response. Repeatedly we find in public health that we are most effective – and often can only be effective – when we care for patients and contacts as the true VIPs of a program.

Read the Article here:

Addressing Needs of Contacts of Ebola Patients During an Investigation of an Ebola Cluster in the United States — Dallas, Texas, 2014

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6405a2.htm?s_cid=mm6405a2_e

Tweet about it:

- Meeting needs of #Ebola patient contacts, such as food, Rx refills, etc. essential to contact tracing efforts. <http://1.usa.gov/19f8qMT>
- #Ebola prep should incl. partnering w. local charities, others in advance to meet needs of patient contacts. <http://1.usa.gov/19f8qMT>
- Partnering w. local orgs to meet needs of #Ebola patient contacts essential to contact tracing efforts. <http://1.usa.gov/19f8qMT>
- Engagement w. local partners before ID of #Ebola case can help address patient contact needs; contact tracing. <http://1.usa.gov/19f8qMT>

Share our stories from West Africa on contact tracing:

- Greg's Story: <http://www.cdc.gov/24-7/protectingpeople/disease-detectives/greg.html>
- Kari's Story: <http://www.cdc.gov/24-7/protectingpeople/disease-detectives/kari.html>
- Neil's Story: <http://www.cdc.gov/24-7/protectingpeople/disease-detectives/neil.html>
- Justin's Story: <http://blogs.cdc.gov/global/2014/12/15/stopping-the-transmission-of-ebola-through-community-engagement-and-education/>

NEW: Key Messages for Safe School Operations in Countries with Outbreaks of Ebola

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/case-counts.html>

Updated: Case Counts

www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/case-counts.html

CDC News and Announcements

CDC Science Clips: Volume 7, Issue: 8 – (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

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- [Transmission of Hepatitis C Virus Associated with Surgical Procedures — New Jersey 2010 and Wisconsin 2011](#)
- [Rapid Intervention to Reduce Ebola Transmission in a Remote Village — Gbarpolu County, Liberia, 2014](#)
- [Update: Ebola Virus Disease Epidemic — West Africa, February 2015](#)
- [Revised Device Labeling for the Cepheid Xpert MTB/RIF Assay for Detecting *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*](#)

Infectious, Vector-Borne, and Zoonotic Diseases

NEW: New CDC Study and Blog: National Burden of *Clostridium difficile* Infections

Clostridium difficile (*C. difficile*), a germ that causes major colon inflammation and deadly diarrhea, caused almost half a million infections in the United States in a single year, according to a study (<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/p0225-clostridium-difficile.html>) released today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). More details about the study, including effect on certain age groups, are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/media/dpk/2015/dpk-deadly-diarrhea.html>. Prevention progress of *C. difficile* in hospitals by state and hospital were previously published and can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/hai/progress-report/index.html> and <http://www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare>, respectively.

Seasonal Influenza

What You Should Know for the 2014-2015 Influenza Season

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2014-2015.htm>

Information for Health Professionals

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/index.htm>

Weekly Flu View – February 17 (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 – February 27 (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: Breaking News: FDA Issues Safety Alert for Duodenoscopes (ERCP endoscopes)

The FDA wants to raise awareness among healthcare professionals, including those working in reprocessing units in healthcare facilities, that the complex design of endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) endoscopes (also called duodenoscopes) may impede effective reprocessing.

<http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/Safety/AlertsandNotices/ucm434871.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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