



# COCA Update

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

January 4, 2016

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This issue contains guidance documents relevant to current public health events and information from **December 21, 2015–January 4, 2016**.

**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 18**.

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 Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity on Facebook](#)  
[COCA Home Page](#)

#### Topics and Highlights

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## COCA News and Announcements

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

### 2014 Ebola in the United States and West Africa

#### **NEW:** Enhanced Entry Airport Screening for Ebola Modified for Travelers from Guinea to the United States

As of December 29, 2015, CDC and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) modified enhanced Ebola port-of-entry screening for travelers from Guinea. Travelers will now answer questions about travel history and possible exposures to Ebola. Travelers will also provide their contact information so that the health department at their destination can connect with them, if needed.

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/s1223-enhanced-airport-screening.html>

#### **UPDATED:** Assessment of Persons Under Investigation Having Low (But Not Zero) Risk of Exposure to Ebola

This guidance is for state and local health department staff, infection prevention and control professionals, clinical healthcare providers, and healthcare workers who are coordinating the evaluation of persons under investigation. Use this guidance to evaluate ill patients with low (but not zero) risk of exposure to Ebola based on a complete travel, exposure, and health history.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/healthcare-us/evaluating-patients/persons-under-investigation-low-exposure-ebola.html>

**UPDATED: Case Counts**

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

## CDC News and Announcements

**NEW: CDC Year in Review: What's Next?**

CDC reviews the most pressing public health challenges of 2015 and previews plans for 2016.

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/p1228-eoy.html>

**NEW: 2015: What Kept Us Up At Night and What Will Keep Us Busy in 2016**

In 2015, CDC continued to work to end infectious disease threats and to improve the chronic health conditions by strengthening public health systems around the world. These are a few of the threats that kept us up at night in 2015 and will keep CDC busy in 2016.

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/dpk/2015/dpk-eoy.html>

**NEW: CDC To Play Key Role in National Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis Plan**

The White House released the “National Action Plan to Combat Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR TB)”. As a key implementer of the National Action Plan, CDC supports TB programs throughout the United States and around the world to find, treat, cure, and prevent TB. The National Action Plan will help us stay ahead of TB drug resistance with innovations in surveillance, outbreak detection, therapy for hard-to-treat cases, and a system to help address drug shortages.

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/s1222-tb.html>

**CDC Science Clips: Volume 7, Issue: 49**

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

## Public Health Preparedness

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

Find preparedness resources for all hazards.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/health-professionals.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

**Be Prepared to Stay Safe and Healthy in Winter – (CDC)**

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

**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)

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- [Tuberculosis Contact Investigations — United States, 2003–2012](#)
- [Increases in Drug and Opioid Overdose Deaths — United States, 2000–2014](#)
- [Fatal Bacterial Meningitis Possibly Associated with Substandard Ceftriaxone — Uganda, 2013](#)

## Infectious, Vector-Borne, and Zoonotic Diseases

### Seasonal Influenza

#### **Pregnant? Get a Flu Shot! – (CDC)**

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

#### **What You Should Know for the 2015-2016 Influenza Season – (CDC)**

[www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/upcoming.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/upcoming.htm)

#### **Weekly Flu View – December 19 – (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/](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/)

#### **Information for Health Professionals – (CDC)**

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.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/index.htm)

## Travel Safety

#### **NEW: Polio in Burma (Myanmar) – (CDC)**

Alert - Level 2, Practice Enhanced Precautions

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/polio-myanmar>

#### **Current Travel Warnings – December 31 – (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](http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html)

## Food, Drug, and Device Safety

#### **NEW: ED-530XT Duodenoscopes by FUJIFILM Medical Systems, U.S.A.: Safety Communication - FUJIFILM Medical Systems Validates Revised Reprocessing Instructions – (FDA)**

The FDA has been working with duodenoscope manufacturers as they modify and validate their reprocessing instructions. The revised instructions include a more rigorous protocol for pre-cleaning, manual cleaning and high-level disinfection procedures.

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm478949.htm>

#### **NEW: Perseus A500 Anesthesia Workstation by Draeger: Class I Recall - Faulty Power Switch May Cause Device to Stop Working – (FDA)**

Draeger is recalling the Perseus A500 anesthesia workstation because a faulty power switch may fail, causing the workstation to alarm and shut down unexpectedly. If this occurs, ventilation may fail and the patient may not receive either anesthesia or enough oxygen. Until the replacement of the power switch takes place, Draeger recommends that users operate affected Perseus A500 workstations under continuous supervision.

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm478940.htm>

#### **Food Safe and Pregnant: Tips for the Holidays and Beyond – (CDC)**

The holiday season is filled with parties, family gatherings, and lots of food. While everyone wants to keep food safe, it is especially important for pregnant women to do so. Here are some tips to share with pregnant women this holiday season.

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

### **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](http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch)

### **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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**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 Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity 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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