

## Preparedness and Planning

### “Fusion Centers” Promote Intra-Agency Information Sharing

State, local and tribal law enforcement officials will receive federal intelligence through new coordinating entities, called Fusion Centers, established to focus the information in a way that meets officials’ needs and unifies federal policy on threats to public order. The ultimate goal of a fusion center is to provide a mechanism where law enforcement, public safety, and private partners can come together with a common purpose and improve the ability to safeguard our homeland and prevent criminal activity.

### U.S. Senate Bill Presented to Provide Radios

On February 28, Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans urged the U.S. Senate to pass a homeland security bill that includes money to pay for compatible radios and other updated communications equipment for first responders. The bill, similar to one the U.S. House passed in January, would enact remaining 9/11 Commission recommendations. The bill’s provisions include \$3.3 billion in grants to help state and local governments build interoperable communications systems so police, firefighters and others from different organizations can talk to one another in the event of a terrorist attack or natural disaster. It also would set aside \$3.1 billion annually to states



to prepare for terrorist or natural disasters, but would direct most of the grants to areas deemed most at risk for terrorist attack. It is likely that President Bush will veto the full bill if it keeps a provision that would extend collective bargaining rights to the nation’s 45,000 Transportation Security Administration screeners.

*Excerpted from Deb Price / Detroit News*

### Hurricane Katrina’s Impact on Persons with Disabilities

This research represents the most recent in-depth effort to understand how persons with disabilities prepared for, reacted to, and recovered from the devastating impact of the storm in portions of the Gulf Coast most affected. In addition, this work sought to understand the roles and relationships that Centers for Independent Living (CILs) played in all phases of the disaster, with a special emphasis on their relationship to the emergency management system. The study revealed three significant gaps in areas affecting persons with disabilities: ineffective pre-disaster planning by CILs, persons with disabilities, and emergency management; poorly developed pre- and post-disaster communication and information sharing within and between these three entities; and underdeveloped pre- and post-disaster coordination between these three entities and other elements of support within communities.

## News

### MDCH Tests PanFlu Plan

In January, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) held a tabletop exercise to test its Pandemic Influenza Response Plan. See [page 3](#) for more information.

### FDA Recalls Peanut Butter and Several Toppings

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has linked *Salmonella* contaminated peanut butter and toppings to ConAgra plant in Georgia. See [page 3](#) for more information.

### Two New Avian Influenza Vaccines Show Promise

Sanofi Aventis and GlaxoSmithKline have both produced avian influenza vaccines that show some effectiveness against the H5N1 strain of the virus. See [page 4](#) for more information.

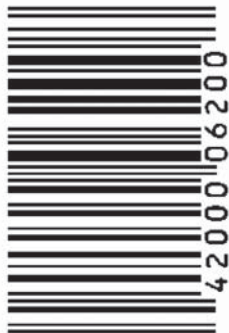
### Three OPHP Staff Members Serve State for 30+ Years

Cheryl Ballard, Marsha Teichman, and Bill Colville receive top honors for their work with the State of Michigan. See [page 6](#) for more information.

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### **New Technology to Detect Biological Threats**

In an effort to detect biological threats quickly and accurately, a number of new detection technologies have been developed. Researchers from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) reviewed several of the latest technologies in *The Analyst*. One technique uses nanowires to act as “barcodes” for identifying multiple pathogens via their unique fluorescent characteristics. Another detection strategy involves the development of electrical current-based readout of the nanowires for protein and virus sensing. For more information, see the [LLNL news release](#).

### **Vaccines Across the Life Span**

Published in February, the 2007 immunization supplement in the *Journal of Family Practice*, “[Vaccines Across the Life Span](#),” is now available online. The 76-page supplement contains seven articles and an 8-page color centerfold with pictures of vaccine-preventable diseases and immunization schedules.

### **Infant Vaccination Information**

*Baby 411* and *Toddler 411* offer parents advice on infant vaccines. Each book has a chapter on vaccinations that covers topics such as the following: vaccines and the diseases they stop, the biggest vaccine misconceptions, truths about vaccines, vaccine controversies, and vaccine shortages. For additional information visit the [Windsor Peak Press website](#).

### **Updated Toxic Substances Information Directory**

The updated version of the [Toxic Substances Information Directory](#), developed by the MDCH Chemical and Terrorism Emergencies Section, is now available online. The Directory provides an easy-to-use, quick reference document for public health professionals when looking for information on an environmental or occupational health topic. The Directory contains contact information for federal, state, non-governmental, and university agencies/organizations responsible for toxic substances testing, monitoring, and reporting.

### **Emergency Response Planning for Child Care Providers**

This [toolkit](#) is designed to prepare child care providers for emergency events and to assist in the recovery effort by helping children cope with the traumatic event. There is a version of the toolkit available for purchase which also contains a train-the-trainer guide and a CD-ROM with PowerPoint presentations.

### **Seattle-King County Public Health Emergency Bench Book**

This [bench book](#) contains the State of Washington legal authorities for emergency management and public health agencies, relevant court rules, relevant provisions of the King County and City of Seattle Codes, and sample pleadings for isolation and quarantine. It also contains references to relevant federal laws. Annual updates are planned.



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## **Pandemic**

### **All Hazards and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness**

In a public health emergency such as pandemic influenza, the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) All Hazards module will serve a useful role in tracking persons treated, and/or provided prophylaxis as a result of an

emergency. The state will be able to quickly assess and monitor antiviral, pre-pandemic vaccine, and pandemic vaccine use by recipient tier groups. MCIR linkages to VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) and AERS (Adverse Event Reporting System) support post-marketing safety surveillance for approved vaccine and drug products. IVEN (Influenza Vaccine Exchange Network) will allow for redistribution of vaccine during a pandemic response. MC-IR's tracking function will allow local health departments to maintain accurate, real-time patient data, and also serves as a record-keeping mechanism for short and long-term event recovery. The Division of Immunization will activate the All Hazards module when there are confirmed outbreaks overseas (Federal Stage 2), i.e., evidence of increased person-to-person transmission (World Health Organization Phase 4). During a WHO Phase 4, All Hazard Scan forms will be distributed and used to document vaccines and antivirals administered.

### **EU May Need Two Years to Prepare for Pandemic**

It will take at least two years before the European Union (EU) is fully ready to deal with an influenza pandemic. While all EU countries have completed national preparedness plans for how to deal with a possible pandemic, more work is needed to make them fully operational. EU officials said countries still need better multi-sectoral planning, to make sure government agencies can effectively cooperate on curbing an outbreak.

### **Protective Garb for Health Workers**

A [special committee](#) of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) is studying questions about the role of equipment such as masks, gowns, and gloves in protecting healthcare workers during an influenza pandemic and is expected to release a report in September.

## **Exercises**

### **MDCH Holds PanFlu Workshop**

On January 10, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) held a workshop to review the department's Pandemic Influenza Response Plan. The exercise was an all-day event with approximately sixty participants from the Bureaus of Laboratory and Epidemiology, and Office of Public Health Preparedness. During the morning session, each bureau/office gave a short presentation on their role in an influenza pandemic followed by questions and comments. This allowed all attendees to better understand roles in such an event. During the afternoon session, each bureau/office discussed their particular pandemic response as an event progressed from a World Health Organization (WHO) Phase 4 to WHO Phase 6. Attendees became more comfortable with the Pandemic Influenza Response Plan and recognize the interplay of bureaus/office.

## **Surveillance**

### **Dilution of Smallpox Vaccine – Revisited**

There are currently three types of smallpox vaccine available for use in the U.S. in the event of a bioterrorism attack: Dryvax, Wetvax, and ACAM2000. Previous trials have shown that, under emergency circumstances, the Dryvax and Wetvax vaccines could be diluted 1:5 or even 1:10 with minimal loss of efficacy. Researchers have recently conducted [additional dilution trials](#) with Dryvax and Wetvax, and have shown that diluted vaccine remains effective and is associated with reduced vaccine-associated morbidity.



### **Peanut Butter Recall**

In late February, tests by several states identified *Salmonella* in many open jars of Peter Pan® and Great Value® peanut butter recovered from consumers. Samples collected by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at ConAgra's Georgia processing plant revealed the presence of *Salmonella*, which matched the outbreak strain recovered from consumers who became ill. Three peanut butter toppings have been added to the recall list. Please see the [FDA press release](#) for more information.



TM & © 2007 CBS Broadcasting Inc.

### **WHO's Global Avian Influenza Response**

The World Health Organization (WHO) is coordinating the global response to human cases of H5N1 avian influenza and monitoring the corresponding threat of an influenza pandemic. Information found on their [website](#) tracks the evolving situation and provides access to both technical guidelines and information useful for the general public.

### **FDA Approves Sanofi Aventis Avian Influenza Vaccine**

In mid-February, Food and Drug Administration officials said a Sanofi Aventis avian influenza vaccine could play an important role in protecting against a pandemic. On February 27, a federal panel unanimously voted that the vaccine was effective, despite evidence that it will only protect approximately 45% of adults against the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu. The government is stockpiling the vaccine, even without FDA approval, for eventual interim use to protect emergency workers and first responders in a pandemic.

*Excerpted from Andrew Bridges / Associated Press*

### **GlaxoSmithKline Vaccine May Treat Many Bird Flu Strains**

GlaxoSmithKline PLC announced [new study results](#) showing that even though their pre-pandemic vaccine uses an H5N1 strain from Vietnam, it reacts against the Indonesian version of the virus. The vaccine was developed with an adjuvant (a component used to stretch the active ingredient) exclusive to GlaxoSmithKline. Results proved the adjuvant could increase the number of vaccine doses by 10 times, which would be crucial in a pandemic situation when demand would far outstrip supply. Many basic questions regarding H5N1 vaccines remain unanswered, such as the threshold of antibodies necessary for protection.

*Excerpted from Maria Cheng / AP Medical Writer*

### **New Avian Flu Market Tool**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is supporting a unique partnership between the University of Iowa's schools of business and medicine to run prediction markets designed to accurately forecast the timing and extent of a human-to-human bird flu outbreak. The new [Avian Flu Market](#) (AFM) may provide public health officials with a valuable surveillance tool.

### **Southern China Is Epicenter of Bird Flu**



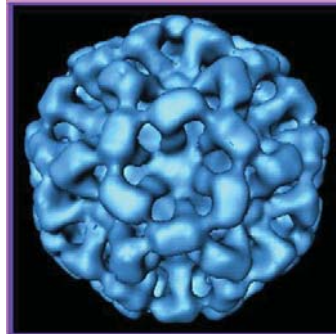
University of California at Irvine researchers have combined genetic and geographic data of the H5N1 avian flu virus to reconstruct its history over the past decade. They found that multiple strains of the virus originated in the Chinese province of Guangdong, and they identified many of the migration routes through which the strains spread regionally and internationally. The study appears this week in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#).

### **China Confirms Human Case of Bird Flu**

The [Ministry of Health in China](#) has reported one case of human infection with the H5N1 avian influenza virus. The case is a 44-year-old woman from Fujian province, who became ill with fever and pneumonia on February 18. She was hospitalized on February 22 where she remains in critical condition. The Fujian provincial laboratory confirmed the case on February 26 and the national laboratory confirmed the case the next day. Information provided to the World Health Organization indicates that she is a farmer who kept birds in her back yard and was possibly exposed to sick birds. An investigation is under way to determine if this exposure was the source of her infection. Close contacts have been placed under medical observation. Of the twenty-three cases confirmed to date in China, fourteen have been fatal.

### **Michigan Hit Harder by Flu-Like Viruses**

Physicians in Metro Detroit and across the state are dealing with more reports of norovirus outbreaks at nursing homes, restaurants, schools and other public places. In 2005, there were 34 reported norovirus cases in Michigan. In 2006, 144 norovirus outbreaks were reported – a 323% jump from the previous year, according to the Michigan Department of Community Health. So far in 2007, 41 outbreaks already have been reported. While norovirus – whose symptoms also include severe diarrhea and vomiting – has made headlines by striking cruise ships, it's actually just a group of viruses that cause gastroenteritis. Unlike influenza, however, the virus does not cause respiratory problems. The best prevention is frequent hand-washing and cleaning surfaces with bleach.



## **Healthcare Preparedness**

### **Hurricane Katrina Lessons Learned for Primary Healthcare**

This event featured a [roundtable discussion](#) that explored outcomes from Hurricane Katrina. Panelists explored some direction for future disaster response, health disparity and care access solutions and health care reform.

### **HHS Initiative to Assist Hospitals in Effective Communication**

On March 5, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a new program, "[Effective Communication in Hospitals](#)", to assist hospitals in meeting the communication needs of individuals who do not speak English as their primary language (i.e. are limited English proficient) or who are deaf or hard of hearing. Hospital associations in the following nine states have committed to working on this initiative: Kentucky, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, and Washington. Additional state hospital associations may be added in the future.

### **Region 1**

- The Fifth Annual D1RMRC WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) / CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear, Explosives) Symposium concluded this week in East Lansing. This year marked a new partnership with the Region 1 Homeland Security Board, who co-sponsored the event. Despite winter advisories, approximately 200 people participated in this two-day event held at Michigan State University's Kellogg Center. Dr. Jon Krohmer, former Region 6 Medical Director, returned to provide a presentation on his role as Deputy Medical Director for the Department of Homeland Security. In addition, our Public Schools partners provided presentations on several educational tracks.

- Region 1 has made significant strides in developing a regional trauma and burn surge supply cache. With almost \$250,000 in enhancements, this supply cache greatly expands the regional surge capacity and capability for those that may need critical care during mass casualty events. This enhancement occurred in conjunction with the first phase of the regional ventilator purchase. Both these regional resources would not be possible without HRSA funding and regional cooperation of the hospitals.
- The spring will bring the next round of the D1 Olympics, which is a training exercise using the four Mobile Medical CBRNE Support Units (MMCSU), and creating a healthy competition. Performance will be graded over a one-day event. The D1RMRC staff will also be conducting the tertiary site assessments to the Region 1 hospitals, validating past performance and verifying new goals identified in both the District 1 Systems Improvement Plan (SIP) and the HRSA objectives.



## Other News

### Health Officer May Fill Dual Role

Jackson County doesn't want to let Health Officer Ted Westmeier get away. He now holds the same position in Livingston County, and tentative discussions are under way for him to serve both areas part-time. County officials say appointing Westmeier would abide Governor Granholm's call for consolidation among local governments.

*Excerpted from Kristin Longley*



### Microsoft Moves into Health Care Services

On February 26, the Microsoft Corporation made its first foray into the growing consumer health care market with its acquisition of Medstory, a closely held company that is developing an internet search engine for health information. The search technology should be incorporated into the fitness section of its main MSN Web site and other areas. Chief Executive Steve Ballmer announced "The Connected Health Framework Architecture and Design Blueprint", the first in a series of guidance documents and tools Microsoft has created for health care providers.

*Excerpted from Carmen Fleetwood / Associated Press*

### OPHP Staff Members Celebrates 30+ Years with State

Three staff members of the Office of Public Health Preparedness are celebrating thirty or more years of employment with the state.

- Cheryl Ballard began her career with the state in 1971. Her first role was with the State Police, but she moved to Department of Community Health (then Public Health) in 1978. Cheryl is currently Assistant to the OPHP Director, Dr. Jacqueline Scott.
- Marsha Teichman began working for the state in 1973. During her time with the state, she has worked for the Attorney General's Office and the Departments of Natural Resources and Treasury. She began working for Community Health in 1975, and worked for the Bureau of Laboratories for fourteen years. Marsha currently serves as a Department Analyst 12.



- Bill Colville. Bill began his career with the state in 1974. During his tenure with the state, he has worked for Social Services, the Department of Management & Budget. He transferred from Vital Records to Community Health in 1991. Bill currently serves as the Michigan Health Alert Network Coordinator.



## Training & Education

Date	Event	Location
Mar. 12, 2007 12:30-3pm or Mar. 12, 2007 12:30-3pm or May 1, 2007 8am-4pm	<b>DelValle Institute For Emergency Preparedness Mini-Conferences 2007</b> The series will demonstrate the need for information sharing, interagency communication, personal preparedness and risk awareness, as well as suggest strategies for meeting these needs. Series topics include: Lessons Learned From Hurricane Katrina, Lessons Learned From Columbine, Public Safety Response to Meth Labs, and Medical Intelligence and Information Sharing. For more information see the <a href="#">informational flyer</a> .	TBD
Mar. 19, 2007 8am-3:30pm	<b>Chemical Sleuthing: Web-Based Tools for Public Health</b> This one-day interactive training course will teach strategies to find relevant information using the internet and to utilize specialized computer-based chemical tools. The free training course is entirely hands-on and uses chemical emergency scenarios to provide real-life examples of these resources. Sign up for the (limited seating) face-to-face course in Lansing. Or, sign up for the distance learning (live webcast) course. Register <a href="#">online</a> , by email at <a href="mailto:prepared@umich.edu">prepared@umich.edu</a> , or by phone at (734) 763-6526.	Online
Mar. 22, 2007 1-2:30pm	<b>Psychology of Terrorism and Psychological Counterterrorism: 7 Things You Should Know</b> This program will focus on the most important component of the war, which is the psychology of the weapon itself and its implications for public health preparedness and response. For more information view the <a href="#">informational flyer</a> .	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150

\* For all events at OPHP, please call to schedule at least 24 hours prior to the start of the event.



Oceana County, MI - By Pamela Ball



By Cheryl Perlejewski

Date	Event	Location
Mar. 28, 2007 2-3pm	<p><b>Critical Resource Logistics &amp; Distribution</b> In the event of a natural or manmade disaster, critical resources will be necessary for preservation of life, safety, and security. Preparedness plans must include a way to identify, dispatch, mobilize, accurately track, and demobilize available human and material resources across all incident phases. We will explore Critical Resources Logistics and Distribution on this edition of Live Response. For more information visit the <a href="#">informational website</a>.</p>	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Apr. 30-May 4 or Aug. 27-31, 2007	<p><b>Advanced Public Information Officers Course</b> The goal of this <a href="#">course</a> is prepare PIO's to make significant, positive contributions to their community's response to health-related emergencies by providing credible information to the public. Students will learn to apply their knowledge and skills to a health emergency situation through instruction and a series of practical exercises. Course topics include: legal issues, risk communication, interpersonal skills, conflict resolution, communicating during an emergency, media relations, use of the joint information center and stress management. There is no charge to the student for this training. FEMA will reimburse students for their travel expenses to the course. For information about the course contact Mr. Pete Vogel, course manager, at (301) 447-1101 or <a href="mailto:pete.vogel@dhs.gov">pete.vogel@dhs.gov</a>.</p>	Noble Training Center 490 Care Drive Ft. McClellan, AL 36205 (256) 240-7500
May 6-9, 2007	<p><b>6th UCLA Conference on Public Health and Disasters</b> Opening Keynote: Public Health and the Human Cost of War Presented by: Frederick M. Burkle, Jr., MD, MPH, DTM Senior Fellow, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative Harvard School of Public Health Closing Keynote: The 150th Anniversary of the Fort Tejon Earthquake Presented by: Lucile Jones, PhD Project Chief, Multi-Hazards Demonstration Project U.S. Geological Survey To register, please visit UCLA's Center for Public Health <a href="#">website</a>.</p>	Torrance Marriott 3635 Fashion Way Torrance, CA 90503 (310) 316-3636
May 8-11, 2007	<p><b>Great Lakes Homeland Security Training Conference and Expo "Coming Together Under One Umbrella"</b> The combined effort of the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management &amp; Homeland Security Division, the Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness, the Michigan Emergency Management Association, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation will provide a broad range of top-rated speakers, hands-on workshop sessions, an expanded exhibit hall and networking opportunities. Watch for additional information on the <a href="#">MSP-EMHSD website</a>.</p>	Devos Place 303 Monroe Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (616) 742-6500
May 17, 2007 12-1:30pm	<p><b>Pandemic Influenza Preparedness for Schools</b> This <a href="#">broadcast</a> will cover topics such as school closure, continuity of education, average daily attendance, issues specific to certain populations, and ways schools can incorporate pandemic flu planning into their existing safe school plans.</p>	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150

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