

## Preparedness and Planning

### BioWatch Program Moves Ahead

The BioWatch Program is funded and overseen by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Michigan is fortunate to have a BioWatch Jurisdictional Coordinator located within the state to serve as a conduit to DHS for state and local agencies. The BioWatch Program uses a series of pathogen detectors to monitor air quality. These detectors collect airborne particles onto filters, which are subsequently transported to laboratories for analysis. It is expected that this system will provide early warning of a pathogen release, alerting authorities before victims begin to show symptoms and providing the opportunity to deliver treatments earlier, decreasing illness and death. BioWatch is a collaboration of federal, state, and local agencies. The Environmental Protection Agency maintains the sampling component, the sensors that collect airborne particles. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention coordinates analysis, the laboratory testing of the samples, though testing is actually carried out in state and local public health laboratories. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is designated as the lead agency for the law enforcement response if a bioterrorism event is detected. Local jurisdictions are responsible for the public health response to positive findings.

### Interpol Bioterrorism Incident Pre-Planning and Response Guide

This [guide](#) from Interpol, the world's largest police organization with 183 member countries, has provided this comprehensive guide to bioterrorism pre-planning and response. The guide is meant as a starting place, and urges all relevant parties to pursue inter-departmental relationships that will be essential during a bioterrorism event.



### WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program

The World Trade Center ([WTC](#)) Medical Monitoring & Treatment Program is a unique program federally funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). It is the only program that provides free health monitoring and focused treatment for workers and volunteers who took part in the rescue, recovery, cleanup, and restoration activities at the WTC site on September 11.

### FDA Urgently Warns about Potentially Contaminated Olives

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is [alerting](#) consumers to possible serious health risks from eating olives that may be contaminated with a deadly bacterium, *Clostridium botulinum*. *C. botulinum* can cause botulism, a potentially fatal illness. The olives are made by Charlie Brown di Rutigliano & Figli S.r.l, of Bari,



## News

### Mystery Powder in Mail Triggers Scare at Gerber

On April 12, an employee in the administration offices at Gerber Products Company opened an envelope containing an unknown brown powder. Early reports indicated that the brown powder sickened two employees at the baby food manufacturer. The women who reported feeling ill said they had eye and throat irritation. The two workers were treated and released from Gerber Memorial Health System. As a precaution, 12 to 15 others were sent through a decontamination shower. State health authorities will further test the substance and a final determination on the substance is expected by April 20.

### Boy Recovering from Smallpox Vaccine Infection

A two-year-old Indiana boy who contracted a rare and life-threatening infection from his soldier father's smallpox vaccination is recovering. See [page 5](#) for more information.

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Read the Next *Guardian* Issue:  
May 18, 2007

Italy and are being recalled by the manufacturer. No illnesses have been reported to date in connection with this recall.

### **Common Foodborne Pathogens**

This [report](#) describes preliminary surveillance data for 2006 and compares them with baseline data from the period 1996-1998. Incidence of infections caused by *Campylobacter*, *Listeria*, *Shigella*, and *Yersinia* has declined since the baseline period. Incidence of infections caused by Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* O157 (STEC O157) and *Salmonella*, however, did not decrease significantly, and *Vibrio* infections have increased, indicating that further measures are needed to prevent foodborne illness and achieve national health objectives.

## **Pandemic**

### **First H5N1 Vaccine for Humans**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently [announced](#) the first approval in the United States of a vaccine for humans against the H5N1 influenza virus, commonly known as avian or bird flu. The vaccine could be used in the event the current H5N1 avian virus were to develop the capability to efficiently spread from human to human, resulting in the rapid spread of the disease across the globe. Should such an influenza pandemic emerge, the vaccine may provide early limited protection in the months before a vaccine tailored to the pandemic strain of the virus could be developed and produced.



### **Travel Industry Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist**

Businesses in the travel industry—including travel agencies and air, rail, bus, and cruise lines—will play a key role in protecting the health and safety of their personnel and travelers in the event of a pandemic. Planning and coordinating with public health and emergency management agencies at the local, state, national, and international levels

are critical. To help with this, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have developed a helpful [checklist](#). It identifies important steps that businesses in the travel industry can take now to prepare for an influenza pandemic. This checklist provides a general framework for developing a pandemic influenza plan. Individual businesses will need to adapt this checklist to meet their unique needs and circumstances. Many of these activities will also help travel-related businesses prepare for other kinds of emergencies.

### **Traveling Puppet Show Promotes Bird Flu Awareness**

The Lao National Puppet Theatre is holding [puppet shows](#) to promote bird flu awareness in Lao PDR. The troupe has traveled hundreds of kilometers from the country's capital, Vientiane, as part of a joint campaign led by the Lao Government and UNICEF to combat the spread of avian and human influenza. The program is funded by a grant from the people of Japan.

### **Hygiene Education Campaign in Egypt**

This [article](#) from UNICEF that highlights the continuing efforts to educate the public in Egypt on avian influenza prevention.



## Surveillance

### New Study Finds Drug-Resistant Flu Type

A [new study](#) appearing in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* shows that patients with type B flu had resistance to two flu drugs - Tamiflu® and Relenza®. Type B influenza is normally a milder flu causing smaller outbreaks than the more common type A. Previous studies, including work by the same researchers, have found a few cases of resistance to Tamiflu® in type A flu, the variety thought most likely to cause a pandemic if bird flu changes into a form that is more easily spread among people. *Excerpted from Carla K. Johnson / Associated Press Writer*

## Communications



### CDC Website Gets Redesign

On April 19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) unveiled a [new website](#) designed to improve the usability and performance. The new CDC.gov website provides better access to health and safety topics, data and statistics, news and events, and expanded tools and resources, as well as an improved search engine. The new website is user-centered, based on research, and is the product of extensive user testing of CDC's principal audiences.

### Communicating in the First Hours – Now Available in Spanish

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Public Affairs and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have developed public health messages and other related [communications resources](#) for federal, state, local, and tribal public health officials to use during a response to a terrorism or other public health emergency. The website provides messages that apply to all Category A Biological Agents, as classified by the CDC, as well as messages about chemical and radiological events and suicide bombing. Now there is also a link on each page to the same material in Spanish.

### Avian Flu Travel Information

["Keep Bird Flu Out of the United States"](#) poster is now available as well as the brochure ["Import Legal Birds and Bird Products"](#).

## Exercises

### OPHP Conducts Risk Communication Exercise

On April 17, the Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP) conducted an all-day risk communications exercise. During the exercise, the Community Health Emergency Coordination Center (CHECC) was partially activated. The scenario centered on the possible arrival of the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus, and was driven by (fictitious) information generated by the Michigan Department of Community Health's Bureau of Epidemiology. The risk communication team tested multiple communication channels to deliver information to local partners.



### SNS Local Health Department Plan Reviews – 2007

Between April and August 2007, the State of Michigan Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Team is conducting on-site visits with each local health department

jurisdiction. The visits include a detailed review of the Local SNS Plan, which will be evaluated according to requirements delineated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Strategic National Stockpile (DSNS). Local health departments are required to demonstrate compliance with the CDC SNS Local Assessment Tool. The State SNS Team will be visiting each Local Distribution Node and a Dispensing Site to validate that the locations comply with CDC criteria. These on-site visits will be an opportunity to verify the excellent work occurring at the local level, as well as prepare each local health department for a possible CDC evaluation in the future. For further information, please contact Jan Davis, Acting SNS Coordinator, at [davisjan@michigan.gov](mailto:davisjan@michigan.gov).



## Regional News

### Region 8 Sponsors Key Exercise

On April 24, Region 8 is offering an exercise, "Pharmaceutical Response to Biological Agents", at the Airport Services Center, Sawyer Airport in Marquette County. The intended audience for the exercise is hospital response and pharmacy personnel, county emergency management, public Health, HRSA response personnel, county government officials, and law enforcement. The all-day exercise will inform attendees of three major pharmaceutical deployment programs available in Michigan: SNS, CHEMPACK, & MEDDRUN. This exercise is designed to inform participants about:

- requirements for requesting deployment of pharmaceuticals,
- the contents of each pharmaceutical program,
- expectations when accepting deployed assets,
- and how to receive and distribute SNS assets.

This program was designed with assistance from the Michigan Department of Community Health Office of Public Health Preparedness, Region 8 Bio-Defense Network, and Region 8 Local Public Health Departments. Personnel from MDCH/OPHP will provide lecture and exercise direction including:

- Discussion of CHEPAK, MEDDRUN, and SNS programs: inventory management, request procedures, security requirements, transfer procedures, and re-supply of assets.
- Scenario Discussion: response to biological agent
- Distribution Node & MI TED package: unloading, transfer of assets, security of facility, inventory requirements, and re-supply of assets.
- Point of Dispensing: security of assets, registration of patients, dispensing of medications, completion of dispensing documentation, and educational information dissemination to patients.



There is no cost to attend this exercise. For planning purposes, please register early. Contact Cal Burdick, EPC Marquette County Health Department, at [cburdick@hline.org](mailto:cburdick@hline.org) or by telephone at (906) 475-9977. Come and network with people from other agencies in Region 8 and share your knowledge and expertise in this important learning opportunity.

## Other News

### Child Recovering from Vaccine Infection

A two-year-old Indiana boy who contracted a rare and life-threatening infection from his soldier father's smallpox vaccination is recovering. Doctors have relied on some untested measures to save the boy's life, including skin grafts and an experimental drug that has never been used to treat a human patient. The boy has been in pediatric intensive care at the University of Chicago's Comer Children's Hospital for the past month with a virulent rash over 80 percent of his body. He developed the rash after coming in contact with his father, who had recently been vaccinated for smallpox before he was

to be deployed overseas by the Army. The boy is not suffering from smallpox, but from the related virus that is used to convey immunity to the much deadlier disease. Health officials say there is no infection risk for the general population because the virus can be spread only through close physical contact.



### Michigan Historical Museum 100-Year Anniversary Exhibit

In celebration of the Michigan Department of Community Health's (MDCH) Bureau of Laboratories' (BOL) anniversary, we are proud to announce that a 100-Year Anniversary Exhibit is currently being displayed at the [Michigan Historical Museum](#) Atrium. The exhibit will display an overview of 100 years of public health achievements in Michigan using a timeline, photos, and various pieces of laboratory equipment displayed in a temporal fashion. The exhibit will be displayed until June 30. Admission to the museum is free and parking is \$0.75 per hour during the weekdays and free on the weekends. For more information regarding the exhibit and other activities planned, visit the [MDCH/BOL 100-Year Anniversary webpage](#). This page contains a picture gallery of BOL Centennial Events and a blog where former employees and citizens who have been touched by the work of the laboratory can chronicle and share memories and photos.

## Training & Education

Date	Event / Description	Place
Apr. 24, 2007 1-2pm	<b>Bombings: Injury Patterns and Care</b> The goal of this content is to cover the unique knowledge and skills required to effectively respond to a mass casualty explosive or bombing event. The content can be integrated into existing materials or taught as a stand-alone course. The content includes: (1) the uniqueness of blast injury, including blast physics, (2) the most common types of blast injuries, and (3) the appropriate treatment (pre-hospital and initial hospital) for injuries that result from blasts. Slides will be posted on the Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) <a href="#">website</a> prior to the call.	Conference Call (888) 790-3168 Passcode: COCA

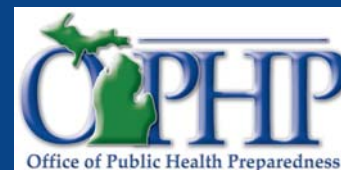
Date	Event / Description	Place
Apr. 25, 2007 Jun. 28, 2007 Jul. 17, 2007 Aug. 7, 2007 Aug. 14, 2007 Aug. 16, 2007	<p><b>Applied Incident Command for Public Health</b></p> <p>This training will be offered in six locations around the state. It is highly interactive course in order to give public health professionals the opportunity to experience the Incident Command System (ICS) in an instructive setting. Participants will be led through an illness outbreak from the vantage point of a public health responder. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss, in small groups, the process of an ICS-based response to two different types of public health emergencies. Continuing education credits are available. The course is offered free of charge. For more information, visit the Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness's <a href="#">website</a>.</p>	Berrien Spring Marquette Traverse City Northville Clarkston Lansing
Apr. 26, 2007 1pm-2pm	<p><b>Hospitals, Treatment Centers, and Public Health</b></p> <p>This broadcast will focus on many of the issues facing both public health planners and their local treatment center partners, including the asset request process, apportionment considerations, and training for treatment center managers and employees. State and local SNS planners and health care professionals will share their experiences in developing coordinated plans for an emergency response, demonstrating the importance of strong partnerships between local health care entities and public health during an SNS response. The program is also viewable by webcast.</p>	Satellite Broadcast Webcast
Apr. 27, 2007 11am-1pm	<p><b>Global Food–Local Outbreaks (Public Health Grand Rounds)</b></p> <p>Foodborne outbreaks continue to present challenges to the health of the nation. Recent outbreaks of E. coli and Salmonella suggest that breaches in food safety measures are occurring at various levels of food production and handling. Through national case studies, leading experts in the field of food safety will present challenges to and strategies for ensuring a safe food system. This course will offer case presentations as well as a discussion with the panel of experts and the audience. This course is free and offered on-site or via webcast. More information and online registration is available on the <a href="#">MI-CPHP website</a>.</p>	Gratiot-Isabella RESD 1131 East Center St Ithaca, MI 48847 T: (989) 875-5101 TDD: (989) 875-8720
Apr. 30-May 4 or Aug. 27-31, 2007	<p><b>Advanced Public Information Officers Course</b></p> <p>The goal of this <a href="#">course</a> is prepare PIOs 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



Date	Event / Description	Place
May 17, 2007 8:30am-4:00pm  or  May 24, 2007 8:30am-4:00pm	<b>7th Annual Michigan Communicable Disease Conference</b> This all-day conferences will provide the latest communicable disease information on such topics as waterborne diseases, bioterrorism agents, Clostridium difficile associated disease, poison control, surveillance systems, local public health investigations, and many other topics. Any persons involved with communicable disease prevention and control (such as public health nurses, sanitarians, medical directors, health officers, infections control professionals, and infectious disease physicians) are welcome to attend. CME and CEU credits offered. Conference fee is \$20 advance only. <a href="#">Registration information and agenda</a> are available online. Questions can be referred to Gina Moreno, at (517) 335-8165 or e-mailed to morenog1@michigan.gov.	Garland Resort 4700 N. Red Oak Rd. Lewiston, MI 49756 (877) 442-7526  or  Lansing Sheraton 925 South Creyts Rd Lansing, MI 48917 (517) 323-7100
Jun. 13-15, 2007	<b>Great Lakes Border Health Initiative Annual Conference</b> Plenary topics and breakout session track topics will be available soon on the <a href="#">GLBHI website</a> , along with the official agenda and registration information. For more information, or to be added to the GLBHI mailing list, please contact Kathy Allen-Bridson at (517) 335-8199 or allenbridsonk@michigan.gov or Michelle Bruneau at (517) 335-6533 or bruneaum@michigan.gov.	Conf Ctr Niagara Falls 101 Old Falls Street Niagara Falls, NY 14303 (716) 278-2100
Jun. 14, 2007 8am – 4:30pm	<b>“Expanding Roles &amp; Responsibilities” 2nd Annual Conference - The Contributing Human Service Worker in Disaster Planning</b> Topics include: Children and Terrorism, Contingency Planning, Immediate Post Event Interventions: Helpful or Harmful?, Incident Command Systems, Safety and Situational Awareness, Changing Roles, Human Response to Disaster and Reaching Vulnerable Audiences in an Event. Target audience: Social Workers, Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Physicians, Nurses, Teachers, School Administrators, Clergy, and any other interested parties. See the <a href="#">informational brochure</a> for more information. To register please visit the MI-TRAIN <a href="#">website</a> .	Lansing Sheraton 925 South Creyts Rd Lansing, MI 48917 (517) 323-7100
Jul. 8-27, 2007	<b>42nd Graduate Summer Session in Epidemiology</b> Presented by the University of Michigan’s School of Public Health. One- and Three-Week courses are available. Topics include: Fundamentals of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Infectious Diseases, Public Health Practice, Molecular Epidemiology of Cancer, Clinical Trials, SAS, Logistic Model, Linear Regression, Survival Analysis, Behavioral Change, Social Epidemiology, Longitudinal Studies, Global Health. For further information, please see U of M’s SPH website.	Univ. of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI (734) 764-5435



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