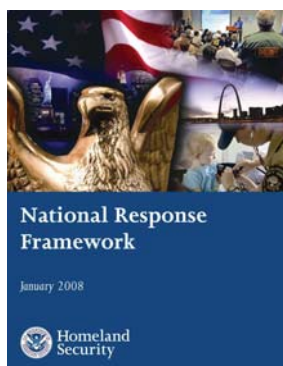


Preparedness and Planning

National Response Framework Released

The *National Response Framework* is a guide to how the nation conducts all-hazards response. It is built upon scalable, flexible, and adaptable coordinating structures to align key roles and responsibilities across the nation, linking all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector. It is intended to capture specific authorities and best practices for managing incidents that range from the serious but purely local, to large-scale terrorist attacks or catastrophic natural disasters. The core document, along with the Emergency Support Function Annexes and Support Annexes, supersedes the corresponding sections of the *National Response Plan* (2004, with 2006 revisions). The incident annexes remain in effect until superseded at a later date.



Tools for Communities' Assessment of Medical Surge Capacity

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has put together a list of documents to assist in community assessment of medical surge capacity. The documents include information on personal protective equipment, isolation/quarantine, alternate care center site selection, community-based mass prophylaxis, and others.

Public Health Action Agenda

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Public Health Law Program, the CDC Coordinating Office of Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response, and partners have issued the National Action Agenda for Public Health Legal Preparedness -- a resource for public health officials and policy makers to use in assessing and improving their jurisdictions' legal preparedness for public health emergencies. The Action Agenda is available online.

Department of Homeland Security Releases ID Regulation

On January 13, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced a final rule establishing minimum-security standards for state-issued drivers' licenses and identification cards. The rule sets uniform standards that enhance the integrity and reliability of drivers' licenses and identification cards, strengthen issuance capabilities, and increase security at drivers' license and identification card production facilities. The final rule also dramatically reduces state implementation costs by roughly 73 percent.

Growing Business Dependence on the Internet

Business Roundtable issued a report on the resilience of the internet during emergencies. The report details how much businesses will rely

News

Tools for Working with the Media

Contra Costa has created a website from which you can download various media-related communication tools. *Walking the Media Minefields* and *Crisis & Risk Communication* are two of the tools available. See page 2 for more information.

Product Recall Expands

New Era Canning Company is expanding its product recall because of potential contamination to all canned green beans and garbanzo beans distributed by the company nationwide over the last five years. See page 3 for more information.

ACLU Criticizes Federal Government's Pandemic Plans

According to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), U.S. policy in preparing for a potential bird flu pandemic is veering dangerously toward a heavy-handed law-enforcement approach. See page 4 for more information.

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on the internet in times of crisis and whether or not the internet will be able to keep up with the demand. They also issue recommendations on what businesses should do when it comes to the internet and emergencies. The [full report](#) is available online.

Communications

Plain Language Thesaurus

Compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Marketing, the [Plain Language Thesaurus](#) aims to help make health information clear and easy to understand. The technical terms found in health information can be confusing. This thesaurus offers plain language equivalents to medical terms, phrases, and references that we often use.



Tools for Working with the Media

Contra Costa has created a website from which you can download various [media-related communication tools](#). *Walking the Media Minefields* is a 60-90 minute training that includes PowerPoint, a trainer's script and real-life clips of press conferences and interviews that illustrate how to work effectively with the media. *Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication* is a shortened version of the nationally acclaimed Barbara Reynold's production, complete with trainer's script. *Media Advocacy Training* provides information on how to use the media to frame your messages and further your policy agendas. See the link to their online publications for other public health issues, including engaging the community.

Multilingual Dispensing Site Signage

In 2007, the Cambridge Advanced Practice Center for Emergency Preparedness developed a series of pictograms designed to promote universal access to emergency dispensing sites. [The signs](#) were developed in collaboration with local and state public health professionals, and experts in universal design and accessibility. These signs provide large, high contrast pictograms of station activities; simple, one-word descriptions in English, Spanish, and thirteen other languages; a four-step process sign; and an all-hazards approach to allow versatility and scalability.



Who's Irrational? When People "Ignore" Risk Data

Peter Sandman, a risk communication expert, talks about how to handle a situation when the public ignores data that suggests that a disease or chemical is not harmful. [The article](#) is available online.

Surveillance

H5N1 Is Evolving and Spread Via Poultry Products

On January 17, the Writing Committee of the Second World Health Organization Consultation on Clinical Aspects of Human Infection with Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Virus published a [review article](#) in the *New England Journal of Medicine* providing updated information on human cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza A (H5N1) infection. The article indicates that highly pathogenic avian influenza A (H5N1) viruses continue to evolve. Although the introduction of H5N1 into some new geographic regions may have occurred as a result of

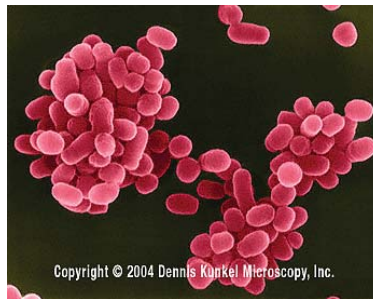
wild bird migration, the authors conclude that the principal mechanism of spread of H5N1 has been the movement of poultry and poultry products. The authors judge that there is a low risk of H5N1 being introduced to North America by wild bird migration through Alaska.

Possible Botulism Risk in Canned Green Beans and Garbanzo Beans

On January 18, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that New Era Canning Company in New Era, Michigan, is expanding its [product recall](#) because of potential *Clostridium botulinum* contamination to all canned green beans and garbanzo beans distributed by the company nationwide over the last five years. *C. botulinum* can cause botulism, a serious and sometimes life-threatening condition. The affected cans are large institutional-sized containers, weighing approximately six and a half pounds. To date, no illnesses have been reported to the FDA. However, consumers should not consume these products, even if they appear to be normal, because of the potential serious risk to health. Consumers who have the affected products or who have used them in recipes should immediately throw the cans and food away.

Potential *Brucella* Exposure during Laboratory Test

In November 2006, [two cases](#) of brucellosis in microbiologists at two clinical laboratories were reported to state health departments in Indiana and Minnesota. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) investigation determined that 146 workers at the two laboratories had been exposed to *Brucella*. In November 2007, New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) officials notified the CDC of potential exposures to attenuated vaccine strain *Brucella abortus* (RB51) in multiple clinical laboratories that participated in a Laboratory Preparedness Survey (LPS) proficiency test. The [CDC report](#) summarizes the results of the investigations. As of January 14, 2008, follow-up by public health officials with LPS-participating laboratories throughout the United States identified a total of 916 laboratory workers in 254 laboratories with potential RB51 exposure. The results highlight the need for routine adherence to recommended biosafety practices when working with infectious organisms, particularly during widespread infectious-disease events.



Study Identifies Key Factor in Flu Infection

Scientists have identified a key factor that determines the ability of influenza viruses to infect cells of the human upper respiratory tract — a necessary step for sustaining spread between people. [The research](#), described in the January 6 online edition of *Nature Biotechnology* offers new insights into how the H5N1 avian flu virus currently circulating in birds would have to change in order to gain a foothold in human populations.

Pandemic Planning

Pandemic Influenza Storybook

This year, 2008, marks the 90-year anniversary of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic. That outbreak is among the most memorable in the annals of public health history and is one of the touchstones for today's public health preparedness initiatives. To mark this important anniversary, and to highlight the 1957 (Asian) and 1968 (Hong Kong) pandemic flu events, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Crisis & Risk Communication Team is gathering pandemic flu stories from our colleagues both within and outside

of CDC. The stories will be formatted into an online, interactive “storybook” that will include photos and videos. If you have a pandemic flu story that you would like to share within the pages of the “[Pandemic Influenza Storybook](#)”, please complete the submission form and return it by March 1, 2008.

Acambis Unveils Positive Results in Flu Vaccine

Acambis stated its experimental universal [pandemic flu vaccine](#) that safeguards against A strains of the virus was “well tolerated” in clinical trials. Antibodies against the virus were produced by 90 percent of participants when an immunological agent from Antigenics was added to the vaccine. Along with Merck and other drug manufacturers, Acambis hopes to create a single shot that would protect against the H5N1 bird flu virus and all other pandemic flu strains, though Michael Watson, vice president of research and development at Acambis, says it could take five years or more for the vaccine to make it to the market.

Travelers Keep Themselves Safe from Bird Flu

There are several health issues that travelers to Asia should know about. Influenza (also called the flu or seasonal flu) is a common cause of illness among travelers and can be prevented through influenza vaccination. In addition, a different type of flu called H5N1 (“bird flu”) has been found in poultry and wild birds in Asia. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests [safety measures](#) you should follow if traveling to Asia to celebrate the Lunar New Year.



Do U.S. Pandemic Plans Threaten Rights?

According to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), U.S. policy in preparing for a potential bird flu pandemic is veering dangerously toward a heavy-handed law-enforcement approach. The ACLU, which advocates for individuals’ legal rights based on the U.S. Constitution, said federal government’s pandemic plans were confusing and could emphasize a police and military approach to outbreaks of disease, instead of a more sensible public health approach. The Department of Health and Human Services said the ACLU had misunderstood the government’s approach and that current plans already incorporate many of the [ACLU’s recommendations](#).

Other News

California Public Utilities Commission Seeks Statewide 211 Service

In January 16, 2008, California’s Public Utilities Commission held a one-day workshop to discuss communications issues and lessons learned as a result of the recent Southern California firestorms. Commissioners Timothy Alan Simon and Rachelle Chong said that the state should focus on implementing a statewide 211 service, and a more efficient emergency notification process. Although local 211 provides that type of service, it isn’t available everywhere in California. Commissioner Chong stressed the need to look into the possibility of implementing in-language emergency messages -- spoken and written -- and said that such emergency notifications must also reach the deaf and disabled community.

2007 Notable Biosecurity Publications

The Center for Biosecurity asked colleagues to reflect on what they read in 2007 and suggest those publications that were most memorable, influential, or

representative of new ideas or concepts in biosecurity. The [listed publications](#) influenced the reviewers' collective thinking about biosecurity by offering important insights, valuable new information, novel ways of looking at old problems, or simply confirmation that (much) work is left to be done in the years ahead.

Cough and Cold Medications Not Appropriate for Children

On January 17, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a [Public Health Advisory](#) for parents and caregivers, recommending that over-the-counter (OTC) cough and cold products should not be used to treat infants



and children less than 2 years of age because serious and potentially life-threatening side effects can occur from such use. OTC cough and cold products include decongestants, expectorants, antihistamines, and anti-tussives (cough suppressants) for the treatment of colds. There are a wide variety of rare, serious adverse events reported with cough and cold products. They include death, convulsions, rapid heart rates, and decreased levels of consciousness. The

announcement does not include the FDA's final recommendation about use of OTC cough and cold medicines in children ages 2 to 11 years.

Training & Education

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Jan. 30, 2008 8-1:30pm	Basic Disaster Life Support Courses This five-hour didactic course is designed to develop commonality of approach and language and to improve the care and coordination of response in WMD disaster and public health emergencies. The curriculum includes an overview of the "D-I-S-A-S-T-E-R" paradigm, injuries and responses associated with different types of disasters, an overview of the public health system, and the psychosocial aspects of disasters. Please refer to the informational flyer for more information and registration details.	RESA Auditorium 5454 Venoy Road Wayne, MI 48184
Jan. 30, 2008 2-3:30pm	Political Leadership, Health Policies and Health Disparities This program was presented at the 135th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association. Speakers discuss the design of strategies to eliminate health disparities worldwide by studying demographics and utilizing new technologies. See the informational flyer for more information.	OPHP * Library (517) 335-8150

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Jan. 31, 2008 1-2:30pm	<p>The Emergency Management Assistance Compact and Its Application for Public Health Emergency Response and Recovery Operations</p> <p>This broadcast will provide an introduction to EMAC – its organization, processes, and procedures. The presenters will also discuss how EMAC was used to provide public health and environmental health emergency response assistance during the 2005 hurricane season and how it can be used to mitigate resource shortfalls in future disasters. See the informational flyer for more information.</p>	OPHP * Library (517) 335-8150
Feb. 5, 2008	<p>Legal Issues in Emergency Management</p> <p>This one-day workshop discusses current laws and legal issues in emergency management and homeland security. Topics covered are the Michigan Emergency Management Act, public health codes, fire laws, police powers, mutual aid compacts, liability issues, and current disaster case law.</p>	Lansing
Feb. 28-29 or Mar. 5-6, 2008	<p>Basic PIOs' Workshop</p> <p>This is a two-day workshop for entry-level or less experienced disaster Public Information Officers (PIOs) and staff, emphasizing the skills needed to manage crisis information in emergency and disaster events. Topics include responsibilities of a Public Information Officer in disasters, effective media interviews, crisis information planning, and Joint Information Center (JIC) management.</p>	Gaylord Lansing
Mar. 3-4, 2008	<p>National Hospital Emergency Preparedness Conference</p> <p>The conference will provide information on the new Joint Commission standards, the new NIOSH requirements, how the federal funding stream works, the role of the corporate office in the midst of a crisis, and how to handle staff behavioral health support. CME, ANCC Contact hours and ACEH credits are offered. For more information, call Ms. Lisa Rizzolo at (202) 877-7453.</p>	Washington, DC
Mar. 5, 2008 8:30am-4pm	<p>Health Literacy</p> <p>The "Plain Language" training will feature Janet Ohene-Frempong who is a specialist in developing clear, effective cross-cultural consumer communications. Their focus is on nutrition but health literacy principles will be covered. Reservation information will be located online. The registration fee is \$35.</p>	Michigan State Univ. Kellogg Center Big Ten Room East Lansing, MI 48824
Mar. 11-14, 2008 8:30-5pm	<p>Emergency Services Media Relations Seminar</p> <p>This intensive, four-day seminar has been developed especially for senior leaders, PIOs and others with media and public relations responsibilities in law enforcement, fire, medical, health, schools and other emergency services, hospitals, government and private organizations with crisis communication needs. This course is especially designed to train you how to work and partner with those in other fields during a crisis. Fee is \$525.</p>	Virginia Beach Resort Virginia Beach, VA

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Mar. 19, 2008	<p>Tools for Investigating Outbreaks This computer-based workshop focuses on Epi Info™, a powerful tool used to investigate disease outbreaks. The workshop stresses the utility of this essential tool and provides guided practice for participants. During this hands-on session, participants will be asked to apply their knowledge of Epi Info to a public health outbreak scenario. For more information, see the University of Michigan's School of Public Health website.</p>	<p>MSU Henry Center 3535 Forest Road Lansing, MI 48910</p>
Apr. 15-16, 2008 Jun. 17-18, 2008	<p>PREPARE Train-the-Trainer Prepare the long-term care workforce with knowledge and competencies to deal with natural disasters and other public health emergencies. Readiness, recognition, and multidisciplinary response to disasters and emergencies. Educate core trainers. Produce an effective long-term care workforce able to treat older adults in such emergencies. Alert the public health system of emergencies. Resources for continuing disaster preparedness education. Evaluating the program's impact. There is no charge for attending this program. See the informational flyer for details. Register now as seating is limited.</p>	<p>Gaylord Lansing</p>
Apr. 22-24, 2008	<p>Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference Save the Date! More details will follow.</p>	<p>DeVos Center 303 Monroe Ave. NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503 T: (616) 742-6500</p>
Apr. 30-May 2, 2008	<p>COOP Train-the Trainer This course provides emergency planners and other interested parties with the knowledge and skills to develop Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans and then be able to offer training to other emergency planners and state, local, and tribal personnel in their jurisdiction. Look for the COOP link on the MI-TRAIN homepage for more information.</p>	<p>OPHP Joint Activity Room Lansing, MI</p>
May 5-6, 2008	<p>Emergency Planning This two-day course examines emergency and disaster planning principles and Michigan initiatives for new emergency management professionals. Planning concepts include preparedness, mitigation planning, hazard analysis, hazardous material planning, and new federal initiatives. This course is strongly recommended for all entry-level emergency managers.</p>	<p>Lansing</p>
May 19-22, 2008	<p>Effective Managing Transit Emergencies This course will provide information on understanding the importance, purpose, development, and implementation of emergency management and how it relates to the other safety functions of a transit system. Participants will learn how to better understand the emergency management concept and the role of the transit system in responding to emergency/disaster situations in both the community and transit system. Materials fee is \$55.</p>	<p>Grand Rapids, MI</p>
May 22, 2008	<p>Developing Volunteer Resources This one-day course is designed to cover a broad range of issues in disaster volunteerism expanding on the concepts presented in the prerequisite Independent Study. Topics will include spontaneous volunteerism in disasters, liability issues, marketing, recruitment, and recognition of volunteers.</p>	<p>Lansing</p>

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Jun. 12, 2008	Behavioral Mental Health Conference Save the Date! More details to follow.	Lansing
Jul. 8-10, 2008	Great Lakes Border Health Initiative Conference Save the Date! For more information, view the announcement flyer .	Ann Arbor, MI
Jul. 23-24, 2008	Emergency Planning for Special Needs Populations This two-day course covers the unique concerns for organizations responsible for the care of "special needs" groups in disasters. This course will expand on the concepts covered in the prerequisite Independent Study 197 by discussing definition of "special needs populations" and highlighting the planning elements of mass care, sheltering, and evacuation.	Lansing



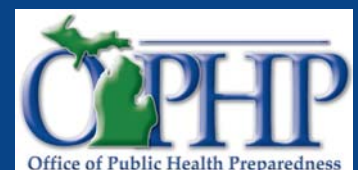
Photo by Bruce Wrenn



Photo by Cristian & Brenda



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