



Preparedness and Planning

Anthrax Prophylaxis and Treatment Recommendations

In March 2006, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) convened approximately forty subject matter experts to “review research developments and clinical experience with anthrax prophylaxis and treatment and to make consensus recommendations for updating guidelines for PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis), treatment, and clinical evaluation of patients with anthrax.” The journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases* recently published a [conference report](#) summarizing the meeting’s presentations, discussions, and consensus recommendations. The major challenges discussed in the meeting related to the treatment of severe anthrax disease were 1) the preference given to ciprofloxacin over doxycycline, as concomitant meningitis should be suspected in all patients and ciprofloxacin has better meningeal penetration; and 2) the emphasis on “early and aggressive” drainage of pleural effusions in all patients.

USGS Unveils WaterWatch

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) unveiled an online service that helps federal flood control and response agencies, as well as the general public, obtain accurate, continuous [flood forecasting](#) and hazard information. The online service forms part of the agency’s WaterWatch technology and information site, available on the internet. The USGS’ real-time water monitoring data will help the National Weather Service (NWS) to make accurate and timely flood forecasts, issue flood warnings to local emergency managers and inform operators of flood-control dams and levees to take action to reduce flood impacts.

ReadyMoms Toolkit

The [ReadyMoms Toolkit](#), as presented at the recent Public Health Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, is now available. This toolkit includes brochures, posters, a complete list for a two-week stockpile of food for a family of 4, lists and display signs for non-food preparedness items, explanatory notes and supporting handouts. All items are formatted and ready-to-print.

FEMA for Kids

Play games, enjoy stories, do puzzles, go through mazes, watch videos - welcome to “[FEMA for Kids](#)”. Underneath all the fun is a lot of good information that makes kids and their families better prepared in the event of a disaster. Kids can become Disaster Action Kids and their very own certificate to hang on the wall!

Global Health E-Brief

The 2008 first quarter [Global Health E-Brief](#) is now available. This issue focuses on efforts to harmonize national global public health priorities across the U.S. government and other public-private partnerships

News

“Tools of the Trade for Human Service Workers in Preparedness and Response” Conference

This annual conference promotes an intellectual exchange among Michigan’s behavioral health professionals, local health departments and others involved in improving mental health surrounding public health preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery to emergency and disaster. Please note there is a non-refundable conference fee of \$20.

See [brochure](#), or [page 7](#), for more information.

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Read the Next *Guardian* Issue:
May 23, 2008

through Global Health Engagement—a strategic approach to leverage U.S. public health capabilities in support of equity, security, diplomacy, trade, development and the environment. This issue also features activities that exemplify Global Health Engagement, and a plan to chart its success.

State of CDC Released

On April 21, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released “The State of CDC.” The annual report offers a glimpse inside the nation’s health protection agency and it reflects the state of our nation’s well-being by reporting on successes in disease prevention and control from the last year. The [full report](#) can be accessed online.

OSHA Standards

The Occupational OSHA’s [*Medical and Dental Offices: A Guide to Compliance with OSHA Standards*](#), provides a brief overview of the hazards most frequently found in medical and dental offices. It also highlights the OSHA-approved standards and guidelines employers must follow to promote employee safety and health. The brochure summarizes standards on: bloodborne pathogens, hazard communication, ionizing radiation, exit routes, and electrical hazards. The booklet [*Model Plans and Programs for the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens and Hazard Communications Standards*](#) is another resource offering recommendations and information to help employers prevent workplace injuries and keep employees safe.

TOPOFF4 after Action Quick Look Report

The T4 Full-Scale Exercise (FSE) used a radiological dispersal device (RDD) scenario based on National Planning Scenario 11 to test the full range of federal, state, territorial, and local capabilities. This scenario included coordinated attacks in Guam, Oregon, and Arizona. Nearly every capability in the DHS Target Capabilities List (TCL) was exercised. This overarching AAR/QL focuses on five of those capabilities: Intelligence/Information Sharing and Dissemination, On-Site Incident Management, Emergency Operations Center Management, Emergency Public Information and Warning, and Economic and Community Recovery. This [short report](#) notes the capabilities which were exercised and presents in table format problem “Observations” together with “Recommendations/Corrective Actions, broken up into Capability areas.

Laboratory-Acquired Vaccinia Exposures and Infections

This [report](#) describes five recent occurrences of laboratory-acquired Vaccinia virus (VACV) infections and exposure and underscores the need for proper vaccination, laboratory safety, infection-control practices, and rapid medical evaluation of exposures in the context of orthopoxvirus research.

CDC’s Webcast Toolkit on Vaccine Storage & Handling

CDC recently updated its excellent [webcast toolkit](#) on vaccine storage and handling entitled How to Protect Your Vaccine Supply. The toolkit covers the following: cold chain, storage and handling plans, vaccine personnel, storage equipment, storage practices, temperature monitoring, storage troubleshooting, selected biologicals, inventory management, vaccine shipments, and preparation and disposal. A CD-ROM will be available in the next several months.

Immunization Legislation Tracking Website

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) created a website to [track state and federal immunization legislation](#) which provides links to government websites and full text of bills. Legislation updates are available on the following topics: School and Childcare Facility Mandates, Thimerosal/Mercury, Immunization Information Systems, Health Care Facilities, Vaccine Education and Research, Preparedness/Emergency Management, Vaccine Preventable Diseases, and Antibiotic Resistance.

Immunization Toolkit

The 2008 Providers Immunization Toolkit for Children & Adults is a resource guide containing the most current standards of practice, forms, & vaccination methodologies for immunization in Michigan. The 2008 Toolkits are now available for ordering at www.healthymichigan.com. Please view the [AIM website](#) for the most up-to-date immunization information.

WISER 4.0 Available

This new version of the software introduces a biological substance list to augment the existing chemical and radioisotope lists. Highlights of this version include: substance data for the six "Category A" biological agents; WMD Response Guidebook pages are included into the substance data where appropriate; a new tool for general browsing of the guide pages of the WMD Response Guidebook; a new Radiation Unit Conversion tool; automatically check for updates; and incorporation of the latest NLM Hazardous Substance Data Bank updates. You can download [WISER 4.0](#) from the website, or access the [online version](#).

Information-Seeking Behavior of Emergency Preparedness and Management Professionals

This [study](#) is for the National Library of Medicine on information requirements for health-related issues in emergency preparedness, management, and response. Results are presented of a designed inquiry based upon returns of thirty-four professionals. The emphasis is on determining what sources are now used and what needs are unmet.

Surveillance

South Korea Issues Nationwide Bird Flu Alert

On April 9, South Korea issued a [nationwide bird flu alert](#), deployed troops and put firefighters on standby to try to contain the spread of the disease. The agriculture ministry extended the "orange" vigilance level to the whole country after previously covering only the badly hit southwest. The ministry confirmed twenty outbreaks involving the H5 virus, of which at least six were the deadly H5N1 subtype. There are an additional fourteen suspected cases, including one on a farm in Pyeongtaek, 70 kilometres south of Seoul. Officials have slaughtered 2.2 million chickens and ducks in and around infected farms.

Pandemic Planning

Indonesia Exercises National Response Plan

A small rural village in Bali spent months preparing to participate in Indonesia's first massive pandemic influenza exercise, which occurred on April 26-27. Indonesia has good reason to drill on a large scale: 107 people have died from H5N1 avian influenza avian flu there, a number that represents close to 50% of the world's total human deaths from H5N1, and the virus is endemic in bird populations in most of the country. Visit the [Clinicians' Biosecurity Network website](#) for full details of the exercise.

Pandemic Influenza Draft Comment Period

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) has released a draft version of "At-Risk Populations and Pandemic Influenza Planning:

Guidance for State, Territorial, Tribal, and Local Health Departments.” The draft is open for [public comment](#) until May 14, 2008.

USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service

Nothing is more important than providing food when people find themselves suddenly, and often critically, in need following a storm, earthquake, flood or other disaster emergency. USDA makes sure that people have enough to eat. The [Food and Nutrition Service \(FNS\)](#) coordinates with state, local and voluntary organizations to: provide food for shelters and other mass feeding sites, distribute food packages directly to households in need (in limited situations), and issues emergency food stamp benefits. A human pandemic is likely to receive a Presidential disaster declaration, which provides FNS with the authority needed to approve state requests for a Disaster Food Stamp Program (DSFP).

PanFlu and At-Risk Populations

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) has developed recommendations for state, territorial, tribal, and local health officials on how to [protect at-risk populations](#) during an influenza pandemic. The suggestions put forward by these groups will be the basis for a set of detailed national recommendations that describe how to: collaborate with and engage at-risk populations; locate and quantify at-risk populations; communicate with and educate at-risk populations; provide services, both clinical and non-clinical, to at-risk populations; and test, exercise, measure, and improve preparedness levels of at-risk populations.

Handcuffing the Flu: Can a Law Enforcement/National Security Approach to Pandemic Preparedness Protect the American People?

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) posted a webcast of a panel discussion on the rights of Americans during a pandemic. Their focus is on how to protect public health without infringing on the rights of Americans. The [video](#) is available online.

Simply Living Smart

Simply Living Smart is a website that gives simple information on how to prepare food and water for an emergency. The [website](#) contains shopping lists; how to use different types of grains, and other useful tips to help people start preparedness planning.

Rumors: Information is the Antidote

Risk Communications consultant Peter Sandman writes about rumors in his latest article. The [article](#) focuses on addressing rumors quickly whether they are correct, incorrect, or not have enough information to confirm either way. The article is available online.

Estimating the Costs of School Closure during a Pandemic

British researchers addressed the cost of school closure during a pandemic. This study was written because much has been said of mitigating the pandemic by closing schools, but not much has been said on how much it would cost to undertake. The [article](#) is available online.

Antivirals for Pandemic Influenza: Guidance on Developing a Distribution and Dispensing Program

The Institute of Medicine issued a report in antiviral strategies for a pandemic. This includes who should get them and why, how the states should structure their distribution plans, and the ethics of distribution. The [report](#) is available online.

Regional News

Will Northern Michigan Nurses Serve in a Pandemic?

The Health Department's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Lori Wesolowski, has just completed an intriguing survey in collaboration with the University of Michigan's College of Nursing. This study assessed the willingness of northern Michigan nurses to care for influenza patients in the event of a major virulent pandemic. Well over half the nurses (64%, n = 152) indicated they would be willing to care for patients. Nearly half the respondents had children at home, and for that group, the availability of another person to care for the family was a major determinant of their willingness to serve. Factors such as the nurses' age, health, religious faith, and confidence in hospital infectious control measures were not shown to be significant elements in the nurses' willingness to serve. Most of the survey's respondents (84%, n = 152) indicated that the availability of antiviral prophylaxis would increase their willingness to serve influenza patients.

Other News

Detroit Hospital Receives Grant for the Safe Escape Program

Children's Hospital of Michigan, in Detroit, is one of six children's hospitals nation-wide to receive a \$100,000 grant award that will allow them to establish Safety Stores that also include the Safe Escape Program. The Safe Escape program provides adapted products and education to families to support safe evacuation in a fire, emergency or disaster for children with health care needs or disabilities. This program empowers families to make specific, customized emergency evacuation plans for their home.

Man Charged in Ricin Plot

On April 16, a man who authorities believe was sickened by the deadly toxin ricin was arrested on federal charges after he was released from a hospital. Roger Bergendorff, 57, had been hospitalized since February 14. He is charged with possession of a biological toxin and two weapons offenses stemming from materials authorities said were found in late February in his room at an extended-stay motel several blocks off the Las Vegas Strip.

Japan to Vaccinate Health Workers against H5N1

Japan is to become the first country in the world to vaccinate thousands of officials against bird flu. Six thousand health workers and other staff will be inoculated over the next few months, and the program might be extended to cover millions more. The vaccine has been made using the deadly H5N1 strain of the disease collected in Vietnam and Indonesia.

Training & Education

Anatomy of a Disaster Video

Three years after the explosion that killed fifteen workers and injured 180 others at the BP Texas City refinery, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) has released a new, comprehensive safety video that describes the causes of the accident and key safety lessons. The 56-minute video, "Anatomy of a Disaster: Explosion at BP Texas City Refinery," is available for viewing in the Video Room of the Chemical Safety Board's website. DVDs of the video will be provided at no charge through CSB's online request form.

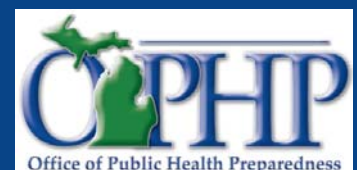
Date/Time	Event	Location
May 14, 2008 2-3pm	<p>Implementing Biosurveillance and Environmental Health Response</p> <p>Tarrant County will introduce the concept of a public health community of practice in which biosurveillance data is gathered and shared between key stakeholders and public health in a comprehensive, collaborative, rigorous manner. Twin Cities Metro APC will share their expertise in building environmental health emergency response capacity. Potential roles and responsibilities for environmental health professionals will be discussed and two environmental health emergency response plans will be reviewed.</p>	OPHP Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
May 16, 2008 8am-1pm	<p>Active Duty: Making Data, Policy, and Politics Work for Public Health</p> <p>This half-day workshop will focus on the important role of health-related data in formulating effective public health policy in the context of a political society. This is a hands-on workshop, so come prepared for participation and lively discussion! We will work through real and specific examples and you should leave with practice materials. To register and for more information, please see the Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness's website or call (734) 763-6526.</p>	University of Michigan School of Public Health 109 S. Observatory Rm 2675 Ann Arbor, MI 48109 T: 734-615-9439 F: 734-763-7976 E: mphtc@umich.edu
May 19-22, 2008	<p>Effective Managing Transit Emergencies</p> <p>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>	Grand Rapids, MI
May 22, 2008 1-2pm	<p>Understanding and Responding to the Needs of Children After Large-Scale Disasters</p> <p>Faculty will discuss how children may respond to traumatic events, with a focus on CBRNE incidents. Ideas for interventions, including a new model of Psychological First Aid will be presented. Finally, recommendations for preparation considerations will be explored. For more information, please see the informational flyer.</p>	OPHP Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
May 22, 2008 2-3pm	<p>Agriculture and Food Vulnerability Assessment Training: How Safe Is The Food On Our Table?</p> <p>Here are some of the key learning objectives for this program: What are the essential criteria for assessing potential food safety vulnerabilities? How can we identify and implement systems that will reduce these vulnerabilities? How practical exercises identify threats to animal and food processing facilities? How software assessment tools can be used to evaluate potential vulnerabilities?</p>	OPHP Large Training Room (517) 335-8150

Date/Time	Event	Location
May 22, 2008	MDCH Communicable Disease Conference This conference will provide the latest knowledge on communicable disease diagnosis, surveillance and reporting, incorporation of epidemiologic principles, and laboratory test interpretation. Conference fee is \$20 per person. Please see the informational brochure for more information, including registration details.	Comfort Inn & Suites Hotel and Conf. Center 2424 South Mission St. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 T: (989) 772-4000
May 22, 2008	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.	Lansing
May 27-Jul. 14, 2008	Demystifying Data: Accessing, Interpreting, and Using Health Data This course focuses on the effective and systematic use of data in an evidence-based approach to decision making. Participants will be able to use data to develop a brief statement of the problem, describe the issue quantitatively, and develop data-based program or policy options. The course is designed for those who need to use data in their daily work but may not have considerable training in the use of data. For more information, see the Michigan Public Health Training Center website .	School of Public Health University of Michigan 109 S. Observatory, Rm. 2675 Ann Arbor, MI 48109 T: 734-615-9439 F: 734-763-7976 E: mphtc@umich.edu
Jun. 5, 2008 8:30am-4pm	Adolescent Immunization Conference The purpose of this conference is to: promote adolescent immunizations in Michigan, educate providers about newly recommended adolescent vaccines, overcome barriers to vaccinating adolescents, discuss strategies for increasing adolescent immunization rates, and give providers the tools to communicate with parents, pre-teens, teens, and adolescents through college age about the importance of vaccination. Registration fee is \$50. For further information, including registration, please visit the conference website .	Grand Valley State Univ. Eberhard Center Grand Rapids, MI
Jun. 12, 2008	"Tools of the Trade for Human Service Workers in Preparedness and Response" Conference This annual conference promotes an intellectual exchange among Michigan's behavioral health professionals, local health departments and others involved in improving mental health surrounding public health preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery to emergency and disaster. Please note there is a non-refundable conference fee of \$20. Logon to MI-TRAIN , search for course ID 1010420, and register today!	Lansing Conf. Center 333 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933

Date/Time	Event	Location
Jun. 17-18, 2008	<p>Prepare Train-the-Trainer</p> <p>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>	Lansing
Jul. 6-25, 2008	<p>Graduate Sessions in Epidemiology</p> <p>Courses are for all public health professionals and anyone interested in health research. One- and three-week courses are available in a range of topics. Distance learning courses available for the Fundamentals of Biostatistics, and the Fundamentals of Epidemiology. CME credit is available.</p>	The Univ. of Michigan School of Public Health 109 Observatory St. Ann Arbor, MI 48109
Jul. 8-10, 2008	<p>Great Lakes Border Health Initiative Conference</p> <p>Save the Date! For more information, view the announcement flyer.</p>	Ann Arbor, MI
Jul. 23-24, 2008	<p>Emergency Planning for Special Needs Populations</p> <p>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.</p>	Lansing



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