

Preparedness and Planning

Scientists Working on *Clostridium botulinum* Antidote

According to [research findings](#) appearing in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, scientists are close to developing an effective antidote for *Clostridium botulinum* toxin—one of the world's most feared biological weapons. The *C. botulinum* bacterium produces seven different neurotoxins, which attach to proteins inside human nerve cells and blocks the chemicals they use to communicate with each another and with muscles. This can paralyze breathing muscles, which eventually suffocates the victim. The new protein developed at the Brookhaven National Laboratory acts on the most powerful of these seven toxins, for which there is no medical treatment.



Developing a Food Defense Plan for Warehouse and Distribution Centers

To help owners and operators of warehouse and distribution centers, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has created a guide to assist with developing a cost-effective [Food Defense Plan](#) for their facilities. The guide was developed in consultation with a variety of warehouse and distribution center establishments. Food Defense Plans put measures in place that reduce the chances of the food supply becoming intentionally contaminated using a variety of chemicals, biological agents or other harmful substances by people who want to harm us. These agents could include materials that are not naturally-occurring or substances not routinely tested for in food products.

Food Safety Report

The Trust for America's Health (TFAH) released [Fixing Food Safety: Protecting America's Food from Farm-to-Fork](#). This report provides an overview of the current problems in U.S. food safety and recommended solutions. Fixing food safety in the U.S. will require a collaborative effort by food producers, processors, distributors, retailers, and consumers, combined with strong leadership from the federal, state, and local government.

Cancer Awareness among People Who Lived Near Nuclear Sites or Mined Uranium

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) launched a nationwide [outreach effort](#) to raise awareness about the need for cancer screening among people who lived near nuclear weapons testing facilities in the mid-20th century. The effort also targets former test site employees and workers in the uranium mining industry.

News

OSHA Offers Guide to Stockpiling Masks, Respirators

The U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), has introduced workplace health guidelines to help businesses understand their pandemic influenza risks and what they need to do to prepare. See [page 2](#) for more information.

China Devastated by Disaster and Disease

China experienced a Richter scale magnitude 8.0 earthquake earlier this month. Tens of thousands are killed with millions homeless. In addition, the country has been devastated by foot-and-mouth disease. See [pages 5 and 6](#) for more information.

Last Chance to Register for the Third Annual Behavioral Mental Health Conference

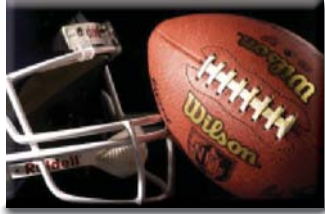
This annual conference promotes an intellectual exchange among Michigan's behavioral health professionals, local health departments and others involved in improving mental health surrounding public health preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery to emergency and disaster. See [page 7](#) for registration information.

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Public Health, Safety, and Security for Mass Gatherings

On May 13, the Majority Staff of the Committee on Homeland Security, released a comprehensive report examining homeland security challenges for mass gatherings. [The report](#) details thirty recommendations for what should be done by federal, state, and local governments, as well as the private sector to protect the public should an act of terrorism or disaster occur. The report shows that mass gatherings such as the Super Bowl, NASCAR races, concerts, and political conventions could be terrorist targets. The report's recommendations focus on countering biological terrorism and other threats to human health, planning for emergencies, and sharing information and resources.



Strengthening the Strengtheners: A Toolkit in Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response for Congregations

The Montgomery County Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program has put together a very useful collection of resources, checklists, and assessment questions from various faith-based, community, and federal organizations to help places of worship develop plans for emergencies. The materials include stockpiling lists and considerations, plus information on emotional distress and coping. This [brief guidebook](#) addresses special populations, such as children, seniors, persons with disabilities, animals and pets.

Definitive Care for the Critically Ill During a Disaster

In a supplement to the May issue of CHEST, the journal of the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP), four articles outline an approach to planning and implementing mass critical care during a disaster. The articles were developed via an expert task force coordinated by ACCP. They represent independent suggestions geared for preparedness planners and others. A [summary of the articles](#) is available online.

OSHA Offers Guide to Stockpiling Masks, Respirators

The U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), has introduced [workplace health guidelines](#) to help businesses understand their pandemic influenza risks and what they need to do to prepare. The 47-page document offers advice for all types of work settings, from retail stores to hospitals and encourages employers to stockpile respirators and facemasks because of the likelihood that they will run short during an influenza pandemic. OSHA will accept comments about proposed recommendations until July 8. [Comments can be submitted online.](#)



Geospacial Tool Tracks Global Disease Outbreaks

The U.S. Geological Survey unveiled an updated and expanded online version of the [Global Wildlife Disease News Map](#) Version 2. Contagion among wild animals, which has often resulted in human disease outbreaks, now can be tracked via an improved online geospacial tool. The online tool taps into the organization's electronic library. It searches for all available information related to various diseases and medical conditions. News reports flow from more than twenty online sources. The tool provides information in several formats, including a blog, desktop widgets, e-mail and Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds. The new version can display material at many levels, including continent, country, administrative unit, county or place.

Fungi Lock away Uranium

Researchers from Scotland's University of Dundee have discovered that common [backyard fungi](#) may be the key to cleaning and reclaiming depleted ura-

mium (DU) contaminated soil in places like Iraq and Bosnia. Radioactive dust particles dispersed by exploding DU artillery and tank shells leave the contemporary battlefield a dangerous place--and there's been little hope of decontamination, until now.

Mercury: A Possible Scenario...

Helen wasn't feeling well. She had been in bed and thought that she might have the flu. She decided to take her temperature. The household thermometer was the older-style, mercury-filled glass type. She accidentally hit it on the bed while shaking it down. The thermometer broke, spilling mercury on her bed. She gathered up the bedding and took it to the laundry room to wash it. The comforter was too bulky and heavy to wash. She had not seen any mercury on it so she put it back on the bed along with the clean sheets. Helen used her vacuum to clean up the mercury on the bedroom floor.

Helen called the local health department just to be safe. They came to her house and brought the Lumex (a machine that measures mercury vapor levels) to see if her home was contaminated. A little mercury vapor was found in the rooms outside of the bedroom, perhaps tracked on slippers. The vacuum was found to be contaminated and had likely spread the mercury vapor throughout the house. High mercury levels were found in the bedroom, with the mattress and carpeting giving off the most vapor.

The health department recommended Helen throw away the mattress and replace it with a new one, remove the carpet and padding in the bedroom and replace it with new, throw out the vacuum (first cutting off the cord so that no one else can use it), and check with her homeowners insurance to see if it will cover the cost of the cleanup.

Contact your local health department, the Michigan Department of Community Health's (MDCH) toll-free information line at 1-800-648-6942, or [MDCH's mercury website](#) for more information.

Communications

Disaster Preparedness Health Education Information

This [website](#) offers Disaster Preparedness Health Education Information in various languages including Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Marshallese and Vietnamese. Topics include biological emergencies, bombing or explosive emergencies, chemical emergencies, pandemic flu, nuclear or radiation emergencies, planning for emergencies and preventing illness. Audio translations are available in addition to forty-nine signs and fact sheets in twelve languages.

Preparedness for Individuals on Dialysis

["Ready in 3"](#) for Individuals on Dialysis is part of the overall Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services "Ready in 3" emergency preparedness project. The guide is available in English, Spanish, Bosnian and Braille. These materials are specifically tailored to the needs of people with end-stage renal disease (ESRD). In the event that dialysis centers are closed or have limited

staffing during an emergency, individuals can use these basic self-care tips to shelter-in-place for three to ten days. A detailed three-day diet plan describes meals and snacks that can limit the amount of wastes in the blood if an individual is unable to access dialysis services. The checklist and dietary plan may be excellent resources for government agencies or dialysis centers that wish to help prepare ESRD patients for emergencies.

“Plan to Be Safe” Campaign

The [“Plan to Be Safe”](#) campaign and training, provides simple, clear personal preparedness tools in multiple languages. The educational toolkit includes a poster with a take-away brochure, which emphasizes preparing a disaster kit with at least nine items, and a tri-fold brochure. The tri-fold brochure highlights a three-step plan (preparing the disaster kit is one step). All three materials are available in Cambodian, Chinese, English, Farsi, French, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Preparedness Checklist for Case Management and Home Care Services

This emergency [preparedness checklist](#) is designed to ensure that clients receiving home care and case management services are better able to cover gaps in their own care during emergencies. They are encouraged through a clear, simple planning checklist to take a few key steps: have a conversation about emergency preparedness; develop an emergency plan; and gather a three days or more supply of nine essential items in preparation for an emergency event. The checklist can be modified to meet the needs of other vulnerable populations receiving case management and home-care services.



Vulnerable Populations Action Team

The Vulnerable Populations Action Team (VPAT), launched by Seattle and King County Public Health, ensures that vulnerable populations have access to public health information and services about preparedness, response, and recovery. The [VPAT website](#) shares specific planning initiatives and tools in the areas of resource management, technical assistance/ trainings, MOU development, communications coordination, and partner/stakeholder engagement that can be used at the local level to improve any community’s level of preparedness. The materials on the website are available in multiple languages.

Pandemic Planning

Promising Practices Database Adds At-Risk Groups

The Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) announced an important addition to the Promising Practices database: [At-Risk Groups](#). This fourth category of Promising Practices, pertaining to planning for At-Risk Groups, was added in April. The expansion is part of CIDRAP’s work for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) on its At-Risk Populations Project (ARPP).

The Thin White Line

The book, *The Thin White Line*, presents a story about a hypothetical pandemic that takes place in the future. The author gives a terrifying vision about how a pandemic might unfold, focusing on the Canadian experience but relevant to any country. More information [about this book](#) is available online.

Regional News

Region 5 Showcases MI-TESA II at Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference

Last month, the 2008 Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference display area featured the two-tent configuration of the MI-TESA II (Transportable Emergency Surge Assistance) medical unit from Region 5. The 6,000+ square foot display included Region 5's Mobile Medical Disaster Simulation and Response Trailer as well as their Portable Oxygen Generation unit (POG). Region 5 staff demonstrated how the MI-TESA II Medical Unit would be used to provide victim triage and assessment, advanced medical stabilization, and on-going treatment in a two-tent, two-trailer configuration. The newest addition to the MI-TESA "tool box", a portable X-Ray unit, was also demonstrated.

Region 5's MI-TESA Medical Unit enables deployment in a scalable response with the tent systems distributed and stored on three to four trailers, plus two self-contained 56,000 watt generators, the Mobile Medical Disaster Simulation & Response Trailer, and the POG trailer. MI-TESA II can be configured with up to six tents and accommodate up to 40 patients. This project exemplified the benefits of cross-cutting collaboration between healthcare, public health, and emergency management preparedness partners.

Other News

Lawrence Livermore Lab Breached during Exercise

One night several weeks ago, a commando team posing as terrorists attacked and penetrated the Lawrence Livermore lab, quickly overpowering its defenses to reach its "objective" — a mock payload of fissile material. [The exercise](#) highlighted a number of serious security shortcomings at Livermore, including the failure of a hydraulic system essential to operating an extremely lethal Gatling gun that protects the facility. Experts said that the test amounts to an embarrassment to those responsible for securing the nation's nuclear facilities, and that it required immediate steps to correct what some called the most dangerous security weaknesses ever found at the lab.

Chinese Earthquake Kills Tens of Thousands

On May 19, a magnitude 8.0 [earthquake struck China](#). Over ten million people were affected, half of which were left homeless after the quake. The more than 41,000 confirmed dead must be buried, many in mass graves dug into the hillsides and often still unidentified. The more than 30,000 people still missing must be retrieved from the depths of the debris. Along with homes, roads and schools, millions of lives must be rebuilt.



Many Sick in China

As of May 5, China reported a jump in the number of children sickened with hand, foot and mouth disease, saying more than 9,700 cases have been reported. At least 24 deaths in the central province of Anhui and Guangdong province in the south have been blamed on enterovirus 71, one of several viruses that cause the disease, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Training & Education

Critical Incident Stress Management

Sponsored by Region 2 South, two sessions of "Group Crisis Intervention" will be offered in June 2008. The first session will occur on June 9 and 10 at the Washtenaw County Library. The second session will occur on June 24 and 25 at the Circle of Life Center in Detroit. State of Michigan social workers can earn fourteen education credit hours for this course. Classes filled up quickly, so register early! These courses are being offered free of cost to Region 2 South members.

Date/Time	Event	Location
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
May 28, 2008 2-3pm	Agriculture and Food Vulnerability Assessment Training: How Safe Is The Food On Our Table? 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?	OPHP Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
May 29, 2008 2-3pm	Standards, Accreditation, and Improvement: Raising the Bar of Public Health Performance This broadcast will discuss the relationship between public health agency performance and health outcomes and the connection of quality improvement and accreditation with CDC's National Public Health Performance Standards Program. The case study features a local health department's improvement process and will provide some on-the-ground insight. A panel of experts will discuss the surrounding issues of accreditation and quality improvement.	OPHP Large Training Room (517) 335-8150

Date/Time	Event	Location
Jun. 5, 2008 8:30am-4pm	<p>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.</p>	Grand Valley State Univ. Eberhard Center Grand Rapids, MI
Jun. 12, 2008 10-11:15am	<p>Adapting Standards of Care under Extreme Conditions This broadcast offers guidance for professionals during disasters, pandemics, and other extreme emergencies. The presenters will identify significant policy questions to be addressed and will suggest strategies to guide health professionals, institutions and policy makers in such challenging situations. You can register for this broadcast on MI-TRAIN.</p>	OPHP Large Conference Room (517) 335-8150
Jun. 12, 2008	<p>“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!</p>	Lansing Conf. Center 333 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933
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>	Lansing
Jun. 18, 2008 8am-1:30pm	<p>Basic Disaster Life Support This five-hour 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. For more information, including registration information, please visit the Region 2 South website.</p>	RESA Auditorium 5454 Venoy Road Wayne, MI 48184
Jul. 6-25, 2008	<p>Graduate Sessions in Epidemiology 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

Date/Time	Event	Location
Jul. 8-10, 2008	Great Lakes Border Health Initiative (GLBHI) Conference This two-day conference is an opportunity for public health, clinical, food protection and emergency management professionals along the international borders of Canada and the United States to gather and discuss ongoing collaborative work regarding infectious disease surveillance. See the GLBHI website for more information.	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



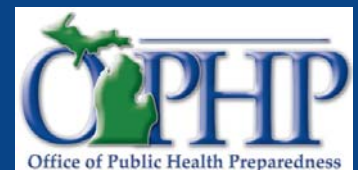
Photo by Matt Mulford



Photo by Bruce Wrenn



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