



Preparedness and Planning

Michigan Receives over \$2 Million in Grants

In February 2008, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) made available \$24 million in competitive funds to enhance pandemic influenza preparedness. Michigan received [an award](#) of more than \$2 million. The Michigan Department of Community Health's (MDCH) Office of Public Health Preparedness will provide the oversight and distribution to three sub-recipient projects: a Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) expansion, a new electronic mortality reporting system, and a pilot project through Spectrum Healthcare System.

Special Needs Patients Support Hospital Decon Team

In August 2008, Spectrum Health (based in Grand Rapids) completed the most recent in a series of highly-focused decontamination exercises. A total of eight special needs patients went through the hospital's temporary decontamination showers. The special needs patients included those with electric wheelchairs, non-motorized wheelchairs, a guide dog, a patient with an insulin pump (external), deaf and hard of hearing, and a young man who is legally-blind. Hospital staff members helped patients through a unique ambulance bay shower with fixed overhead showers and temporary walls. Patients, staff, and observers commented that the patients were glad that a hospital is concerned enough about them and their needs to practice such an event. For more information on this important exercise, please contact Julie Bulson at julie.bulson@spectrum-health.org.

Emergency Managers' Preparedness Toolkit Available

The Office on Disability (OD) launched the revised Emergency Preparedness Toolkit. The toolkit was developed as a result of needs identified during Hurricane Katrina. It is designed to serve as a comprehensive guidebook and resource for the emergency management community at the federal, state, local, and tribal government levels. However, anyone can [access the toolkit](#) and utilize its information and resources. The goal of this project is to increase the level of training and understanding regarding the needs of persons with disabilities in emergency situations.

HHS Announces New Steps in Anthrax Preparedness

On October 1, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [announced](#) two new actions in the department's ongoing activities to bolster the nation's preparedness for a potential outdoor anthrax (*Bacillus anthracis*) attack. The first action focuses on United States Postal Service letter carriers who volunteer to deliver medicines directly to residences in their communities during an emergency. In a related action, HHS issued a declaration under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) that provides liability protection for activities related to developing, manufacturing, distributing, prescribing,

News

Preparedness Toolkit for Emergency Managers

The toolkit was developed as a result of needs identified during Hurricane Katrina. It is designed to serve as a comprehensive guidebook and resource for the emergency management community. Please [share this toolkit](#) with your local emergency manager!

New Flu Lab Test Approved

This new genetic test for the influenza virus will allow labs across the country to identify flu strains within four hours. The test correctly detected the most common flu viruses about 99 percent of the time. See [page 2](#) for more information.

Can Voluntary Organizations Handle Large-Scale Disasters?

Voluntary organizations have traditionally played a major role in the nation's response to disasters, but the response to Hurricane Katrina raised concerns about their ability to handle large-scale disasters. See [page 3](#) for more details.

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dispensing, administering and using anthrax countermeasures in preparation for, and in response to, a potential anthrax attack. This includes entities, such as large “big-box” retail stores, retail pharmacies, and other private sector businesses, that help to deliver and distribute medicines. Providing liability protection to all involved in such efforts will help ensure their full participation and bolster response efforts.

\$63 Million Awarded in Emergency Preparedness Grants

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced approximately \$63 million in grant awards to improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities under the new Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) and Interoperable Emergency Communications grant programs (IEC). More than \$14.5 million in fiscal year (FY) 2008 EOC grant awards will help address identified deficiencies and needs in order to



support flexible, sustainable, secure and interoperable EOCs. The FY 2008 IECGP awards \$48.5 million to improve interoperable emergency communications for response to natural disasters, acts of terrorism and other manmade disasters. IECGP funding will assist states and territories in implementing their components of Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans and aligning priorities with the goals outlined in the National Emergency Communications Plan.

Travel Restriction for Public Health Purposes

Persons with communicable diseases who travel on commercial aircraft can pose a risk for infection to the traveling public. In June 2007, federal agencies developed a public health “Do Not Board” (DNB) list, enabling domestic and international public health officials to request that persons with communicable diseases who meet specific criteria and pose a serious threat to the public be restricted from boarding commercial aircraft departing from or arriving in the United States. The public health DNB list is managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). From June 2007 to May 2008, CDC received forty-two requests to place individuals on the public health DNB list. Thirty-three (79%) persons met the criteria and were placed on the list.

New Influenza Laboratory Test Approved

The government approved a new genetic test for the influenza virus that will allow labs across the country to identify flu strains within four hours. The test correctly detected the most common flu viruses about 99 percent of the time. Labs must purchase Applied Biosystems equipment to run the test, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has agreed to provide the necessary chemicals. It also picked up some viruses that the older test missed. The CDC expects as many as thirty state laboratories to be using this new test by the end of 2008.

Flu Shots Available in Ample Supply

The government is anticipating a record number to get their flu shots this year, including 30 million school-age children. This year promises an ample vaccine supply: 143 million to 146 million doses. Just a fraction of those at highest risk from influenza’s seasonal march across the country get protected. For example, only 72 percent of people age 65 and older were vaccinated in the 2006-07 flu season, the latest data available - even though Medicare pays for their doses. Anyone who has a chronic illness such as asthma or heart disease, or a weak immune system, is in special need of vaccination. Flu kills about 36,000 Americans a year and leads to about 200,000 hospitalizations. Visit your local health department to schedule your vaccination today!

Public Health and Human Services Leaders Speak Out

On September 15, the American Public Human Services Association released "[For Those We Serve](#)," a white paper representing the view of the nation's public health and human service leaders. The paper outlines five broad areas: the general plight of low-income families and the increasing numbers who are not technically "in poverty" but are on the margins of society; the need to strengthen economic supports and the community institutions that undergird wellfunctioning families; the issues of child well-being and the right of all children to live in a safe and permanent home; the challenges of delivering available, affordable, high-quality health care; and the urgent need to repair the broken partnership between states and the federal government.

New Survey Identifies Holes in Preparedness

Nearly two-thirds of parents in the United States say they would disregard orders to evacuate in a disaster and would rush to pick up their kids from school, according to a new survey. [A survey](#) by the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and the Children's Health Fund found that 63 percent of parents would ignore orders from public officials and try to get to their children, a move that could possibly hinder rescue efforts and add to traffic congestion.



Past Experiences Offer Insights for Recovery

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to identify insights from past disasters and share them with state and local officials undertaking recovery activities. Drawing on experiences from six major disasters that occurred from 1989 to 2005, GAO [identified](#) the following selected insights: (1) Create a clear, implementable, and timely recovery plan; (2) Build state and local capacity for recovery; (3) Implement strategies for businesses recovery; and (4) Adopt a comprehensive approach toward combating fraud, waste, and abuse.

Mass Care in Disasters

Voluntary organizations have traditionally played a major role in the nation's response to disasters, but the response to Hurricane Katrina raised concerns about their ability to handle large-scale disasters. [This testimony](#), provided by the Government Accountability Office, examined (1) the roles of five voluntary organizations in providing mass care and other services, (2) the steps they have taken to improve service delivery, (3) their current capabilities for responding to mass care needs, and (4) the challenges they face in preparing for large-scale disasters. Capabilities assessments are preliminary, but current evidence suggests that in a worst-case large-scale disaster, the projected need for mass care services would far exceed the capabilities of these voluntary organizations without government and other assistance—despite voluntary organizations' substantial resources locally and nationally.

ShakeOut Scenario Prepares for Earthquake Disaster

A 7.8 magnitude Southern Californian earthquake - about the same as the recent Sichuan, China quake - would kill 1,800 people, injure 50,000 and wreak about \$200 billion in damage. [This report](#) is the most comprehensive look at what a major Southern California earthquake could mean and is the framework for "Golden Guardian '08" - California's largest earthquake preparedness drill, set for November 2008.



Southern California Wildfires After Action Report Released

[This report](#) offers seventy-one specific recommendations for strengthening and improving preparedness, response actions and recovery efforts that are inclusive of people with disabilities and activity limitations. Many of the recommendations reinforce a variety of continuing emergency concerns that existed before the 2007 fires. The intended audience for this report includes state, regional, and local government policy makers and emergency planners, nongovernment organizations, long-term care facilities, and older adults and disability advocates. This report covers cross-cutting issues, communication access, mass care and shelter, evacuation and transportation, the roles of nongovernmental providers and advocacy organizations in disaster response, long-term care facilities, and training and exercise programs.

Surveillance

***Escherichia coli* Outbreak Linked to Lettuce**

On September 26, the Michigan Department of Community Health issued a [public health alert](#) due to illnesses from the twenty-six cases of *E. coli* strain O157:H7 thought to be associated with bagged, industrial-sized packages of iceberg lettuce sold through wholesale venues to restaurants and institutions. As of September 30, thirty cases had been identified statewide, including seven cases at Michigan State University (Ingham County), five inmates at the Lenawee County Jail, three students at the University of Michigan (Washtenaw County), four in Macomb County, three each in Wayne and Kent counties, and one each in St. Clair and Oakland counties.



West Nile Virus and Mortgage Crisis Link?

Emerging Infectious Diseases published an article linking failing adjustable rate mortgages and West Nile Virus (WNV). The authors found that abandoned homes in California also had standing water that was available for mosquito breeding. The [full article](#) is available online.

Communications

Toolkit for Speaking with Limited English Proficiency Individuals

Ten hospitals with racially and ethnically diverse patient populations participated in "Speaking Together: National Language Services Network", a program aimed at improving the quality and availability of health care language services for patients with limited English proficiency (LEP). [This toolkit](#) provides advice to hospitals on improving quality and accessibility of language services.

Disaster Preparedness for the Deaf Community

The "Disaster Preparedness and the Deaf Community" [guidebook](#) was written by a group of deaf/hard-of-hearing American Red Cross volunteers from Rochester, New York in partnership with the Rochester Institute of Technology National Technical Institute for the Deaf. The purpose of this document is to encourage and assist deaf/hard-of-hearing community members to prepare for all types of disasters. The guidebook contains clear, concise instructions that are organized into four sections: 1) Get Informed, 2) Make a Plan, 3) Build a Kit, and 4) Maintain Your Plan & Kit.

Simplification Made Simple

Dr. Peter Sandman, a risk communication consultant addresses the issue of how to simplify a complex subject. The purpose of simplification is to clarify a complex topic to the public. [The article](#) is available online.

Pandemic Planning

Cross-Protection during the 1918 Pandemic Influenza

A study published in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases* addresses the debate on whether there was cross-protection between waves of the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic. The researchers studied monthly hospitalization and mortality rates for respiratory illness in military and civilians in the US and Great Britain. The data showed that those who were exposed early in 1918 were protected from subsequent waves. The full article is available online to [subscribers](#).

Regional News

Tribal Health Officials Conduct Pandemic Influenza Exercise

The Lac Vieux Desert (LVD) tribal health officials -- with assistance from local public health, hospitals and emergency response agencies from the surrounding area -- conducted a full-scale pandemic influenza exercise on October 1. More than sixty volunteers, most of them high school students or members of the LVD tribal community, participated in the exercise. Volunteers were coached to present a variety of flu symptoms in severities ranging from worried well, to mild, moderate and severe. The volunteers, posing as "patients", arrived at the LVD Health Center in groups of five to ten, approximately every half hour. The purpose of this exercise was to practice response to a mid-winter outbreak of a virulent and highly contagious pandemic influenza.

Gogebic County Emergency Manager James Loeper, who organized the planning meetings and tabletop exercise that led to this full-scale simulation, sent wave after wave of patients with increasingly dire symptoms to test the tribal health clinic. Dr. Gary Pusateri and his staff were up to the task! The tribal health clinic masked and triaged patients, assessed their conditions, vaccinated the asymptomatic patients, treated the sick with antiviral medications, and sent the weakest patients to an adjacent Alternate Care Center (ACC) run by responders from Grand View Health System (Ironwood) and Baraga County Memorial Hospital (L'Anse).

The tribal health center has a total practice of 3,000 Native and non-Native residents from Watersmeet and surrounding areas in Michigan and Wisconsin. While the clinic is within the jurisdiction of the five-county Western U.P. District Health Department, it is located close to an hour's drive from the nearest hospitals in Ironwood (MI) and Iron River (WI), so they have taken a proactive approach to emergency planning.

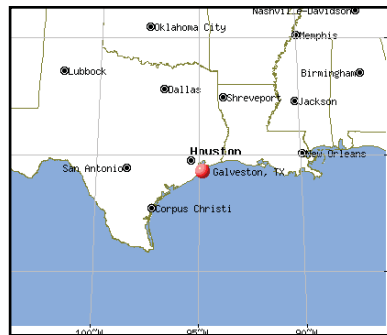
Ray Sharp, Emergency Preparedness Manager from the Western U.P. District Health Department, contacted other regional and state partners as part of this exercise. In an emergency, the Region 8 Medical Coordination Center would coordinate response by the region's sixteen hospitals and dozens of EMS agencies to support the local incident. In this scenario, crews from Baraga County Memorial Hospital and Grand View Health System transported

cots and supplies and set up a twenty-five-bed ACC, a makeshift hospital ward to provide supportive care. Mr. Sharp also contacted the state's Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) coordinator as part of this exercise to discuss the feasibility and timeline for delivering enough antivirals to treat the patients. As part of this scenario, it was decided that (if necessary) a small plane could arrive at the nearby Land O Lakes airfield within a few hours, an estimate based on the results of actual Civil Air Patrol flights organized by SNS staff on September 25 to six U.P. distribution nodes. Along with the need to improve patient tracking (with enough electronic triage tag systems prepositioned around the U.P. to respond quickly to mass casualties) participants also noted the need for more I.V. stands, tubing, oxygen and other supplies for the ACC, and the need for more responders from hospitals to ensure 24-hour coverage in an incident of this scale.

Other News

Galveston Residents Return to Disaster Area

Ten days after Hurricane Ike, [Galveston reopened](#) to residents Wednesday with stern warnings about what still lurks on the island (rotting cattle carcasses, snakes and swarms of mosquitoes) and what isn't there. City officials hoped most of the 45,000 residents who fled before the September 13 storm would stay away until more repairs could be made. The city has limited drinking water, few working sewers, limited electricity and minimal medical facilities. Officials extended the disaster declaration for ninety days.



Online Journal Seeks Reviewers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the CDC Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication Panel are actively seeking persons interested in serving as reviewers for 2009 for the new electronic publication *Public Affairs in Health* (PAH). PAH is a peer-reviewed electronic journal that provides a forum for public affairs professionals working in public health to share study results and practical experience. If you are interested in serving on the 2009 review panel and/or have questions about PAH contact Sharon KD Hoskins at shoskins@cdc.gov or by phone at (404) 639-7232.

Emergent BioSolutions Receives \$364 Million Contract

Emergent BioSolutions Inc. has secured a new contract for additional doses of anthrax (*Bacillus anthracis*) vaccine. The contract, worth at least \$364 million will provide an additional 14.5 million doses of the vaccine to the U.S. government. Emergent will likely begin delivering the vaccine in the



third quarter of 2009 after it's filled a previous \$448 million U.S. Department of Health & Human Services order for 18.75 million doses of the BioThrax® vaccine. The vaccine from both orders is being included into a stockpile of vaccines and medications that could be needed in the event of a biological terrorist attack.

Tainted Milk Goes Global

The industrial chemical melamine made its way into China's dairy supplies and it has been blamed for the deaths of four infants and the illnesses of 53,000 others in China. Health experts say ingesting a small amount of the chemical poses no danger, but melamine can cause kidney stones and lead to kidney failure. More than a dozen countries have [banned or recalled](#) Chinese dairy products.

FBI Launches Knowledge Wiki

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is testing a new collaborative internal website, or wiki, called "Bureaupedia" that officials say will enable users to create an encyclopedia of lessons learned, best practices and subject-matter expertise. Officials see Bureaupedia as a knowledge management tool that will let agents and analysts share their experiences to ensure that their accumulated insight remains after they retire. The FBI's new wiki uses the same open-source software as Wikipedia, and after the test period is complete, the agency will launch it on the FBI's secure intranet, FBIInet.

Training and Education

| Date/Time | Event Description | Location |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Oct. 14, 2008 8:30am | Emergency Services Media Relations Seminar 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. | Virginia Beach Resort Hotel - Virginia Beach, VA |
| Oct. 16, 2008 1-2:30pm | Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Engaging At-risk Populations The capacity to reach every person in the community is the goal of emergency preparedness planning. This will be especially important during a public health emergency that requires mass antibiotic dispensing to the entire population within the Cities Readiness Initiative goal of 48 hours. In this broadcast , experts in the process of defining, locating, and reaching at-risk populations as well as state and local public health professionals who have used this process will share their experiences. | OPHP Large Training Room (517) 335-8150 |
| Oct. 22, 2008 2:00pm | WMD Emergency Response Training Save the date! For more information, please contact Mr. Ed Kronholm by phone or email (dlnets@aol.com) | Webcast (877) 820-0305 |
| Oct. 21, 2008 | Health Disparities Conference The conference will focus on racial and ethnic health disparities and the role of public health policy in reducing, and eventually eliminating, health disparities. Discussion topics will include racial and ethnic disparities related to health status, to access to health care, and to health outcomes. We will explore how public policy can be strengthened to improve access to healthier environments, to effective health programs, and to comprehensive, culturally competent health care for racial and ethnic populations. For more information, including registration details, please visit the conference website . | Marriott Renaissance Center - Detroit, MI |

| Date/Time | Event Description | Location |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Oct. 27, 2008 | <p>Altered Standards of Care & Surge Capacity Conference</p> <p>This conference will bring together an influential gathering of medical and public health leaders to teach preparedness planners at the federal, state, regional, community, and health systems levels how to plan and support surge capacity in healthcare systems and develop altered standards of care to meet mass casualty needs during all-hazard and hazard-specific emergencies. At this conference, best practices for preparedness will be highlighted for disasters, acts of terrorism, and pandemic diseases.</p> | |
| Nov. 3, 2008 | <p>Risk and Crisis Communication in the 21st Century</p> <p>This forum will examine changes and progress in risk and crisis communications, looming opportunities and threats to watch for, and practical applications for policy and practice. Through expert perspectives and small group interaction, it will present insights, analysis, and forecasts and will address top trends, best practices, and "futures-framework".</p> | Washington, DC |
| Nov. 13, 2008 | <p>The NIOSH DREAM Workshop</p> <p>The workshop will convene subject matter experts, stakeholders and other interested parties to improve the prevention of disease and injury to people who work through supporting research, promotion of best practices, communication of effective policies, and engagement in productive partnerships. The broad aim of the breakout sessions is to seek stakeholder input in shaping a NIOSH research agenda for direct-reading methods as related to worker exposure in the workplace. The proceedings of the workshop will be published on the NIOSH Direct-Reading Methods website for comments.</p> | Hilton Crystal City - Washington, DC |
| Nov. 13, 2008 | <p>International Bird Flu Summit</p> <p>Top leaders and key decision-makers of major companies representing a broad range of industries will meet with distinguished scientists, public health officials, law enforcers, first responders, and other experts to discuss pandemic prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Breakout topics will include (but are not limited to): surveillance and data management, community strategies, businessbased planning, and school-based planning.</p> | Las Vegas, NV |
| Nov. 14, 2008 | <p>Budgeting and Cost Accounting</p> <p>This two-session course (November 14 and 21) will cover the development and use of budgets as planning and management tools for organizations. Considering the organization as a firm that must be managed within a set of financial constraints, participants will develop an understanding of those constraints, in terms of costs and revenues. Participants will learn how to use various measures of cost in making, planning, and operating decisions for their organizations. As part of the course work, participants will apply concepts in the course to situations faced by their organizations. Note, the fee for this course is \$135. To register and for more information, please visit the Michigan Public Health Training Center website or email mphtc@umich.edu.</p> | Taylor, MI (734) 615-9439 |

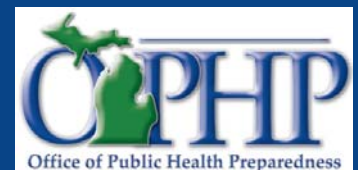
| Date/Time | Event Description | Location |
|------------------|--|---|
| Nov. 20-21, 2008 | <p>Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Trainer</p> <p>This <u>two-day course</u> will provide participants with the skills to teach the CERT program, while emphasizing the basic course along with the development of a program in their community. Previous experience providing and facilitating instruction for adults is desirable. Note: This is a course for CERT trainers and program managers-not for individuals desiring to become CERT team members.</p> | Auburn Hills, MI |
| Dec. 4, 2008 | <p>Developing Volunteer Resources</p> <p>This <u>one-day course</u> is designed to cover a broad range of issues in disaster volunteerism expanding on the concepts presented in the prerequisite FEMA Independent Study course, Managing and Developing Volunteers. Topics will include spontaneous volunteerism in disasters, liability issues, marketing, recruitment, and recognition of volunteers. There is no fee for this course. Visit the Michigan State Police website for further details and registration information.</p> | Lansing, MI |
| Feb. 3, 2009 | <p>Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs</p> <p>This workshop will examine existing and/or needed standards for emergency preparedness for persons with disabilities and special needs. This event will work to identify what standards currently exist and in what areas new standards need to be developed, followed by actionable recommendations for the timely development of standards in the identified needs areas. Please contact Matt Deane by email at mdeane@ansi.org for more information.</p> | Kellogg Conference Hotel - Washington, DC |



Photo by Kevin Clifford



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