



Preparedness and Planning

Including Poultry and Swine Workers in Preparedness Plans

Recent research has shown that poultry and swine workers, especially those with intense exposures, are at increased risk of zoonotic influenza virus infections. In multiple studies, U.S. poultry workers, poultry veterinarians and U.S. swine workers have evidence of previous infections with avian influenza virus. Mathematical modeling has demonstrated that such workers may accelerate the spread of pandemic viruses in their rural communities. Because these workers may serve as a bridging population in the cross-species sharing of influenza viruses, it seems prudent to include poultry and swine workers in influenza preparedness programs. Possible preventive and control interventions include special education programs to increase workers' use of personal protective equipment such as gloves, increased surveillance for influenza viruses among workers and their animals, recommendations that workers seek medical attention should they develop influenza-like illness, and workers' priority receipt of annual and pandemic influenza vaccines.

White House Merging Homeland and National Security

The White House recently announced their intention to merge the National Security Council (NSC) and the Homeland Security Council (HSC), which has the potential to generate major change in how the federal leadership looks at the full range of potential threats, and how best to prioritize and address them. On the face of it, the move has a lot of potential. Every level of government has struggled with the division between international and domestic threats, as well as the one between terrorism and other hazards. There appears to be a shift in policy toward better integration of the various federal preparedness and response agencies, and the merger is a tangible step beyond just good intentions.

Lightning Safety Week: June 21-27, 2009

Summer is the peak season for one of the nation's deadliest weather phenomena - lightning. In the U.S., an average of 62 people are killed each year by lightning; hundreds of others are injured. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has recently posted new resources partners can use to increase lightning safety awareness, such as a brochure titled 'Lightning Safety for You and Your Family' and a lightning safety quiz for kids with Leon the Lightning Lion. Visit the NOAA Lightning Safety webpage for more information.

Human Noses Too Cold for Avian Flu Virus to Thrive

Avian flu may not have become the threat to humans that some predicted because our noses are too cold for the virus to thrive, U.K. researchers say. An Imperial College-London re-creation of the nose's environment found that at 32 degrees Celsius, avian flu viruses lose function and cannot spread. It is likely that the viruses have adapted to suit the warmer

News

Current H1N1 Situation

The World Health Organization raised the alert level to Phase 6, indicating that the world is currently experiencing its first pandemic in over forty years. See page 3 for more information.

H1N1 Resources for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have made two videos -- handwashing, and H1N1 information -- in American Sign Language available via their website.

Vulnerable Populations Grant Funding Available

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's invites Senior Consultants from historically under-represented groups to submit proposals to evaluate specific programs funded by or connected to two RWJF programming areas: Human Capital and Vulnerable Populations. RWJF will award as many as eight Senior Consultant grants of up to \$75,000 for one year. See page 5 for full details.

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40 degree environments in the guts of birds. Moreover, a mutation would be needed before Avian flu becomes a human problem.

First Responder Critical Incident Guide

The “First Responder Critical Incident Guide” identifies key functions that are essential for first responders (Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement, Special Teams, Military, etc.) during the first 10–30 minutes of a critical incident. It addresses recognition, identification and response issues that first responders must deal with prior to the arrival of those with specialized training and equipment. The cost for [the guide](#) is between \$22-\$38.

The Radiation Injury Treatment Network

The [Radiation Injury Treatment Network](#) (RITN) provides comprehensive evaluation and treatment for victims of radiation exposure or other marrow toxic injuries. RITN develops treatment guidelines, educates health care professionals, works to expand the network, and coordinates situation response. RITN is a cooperative effort of the National Marrow Donor Program® and The American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation.

Capture Victims’ Vital Signs from a Distance

The first task of first responders arriving on a scene of a disaster is to quickly and accurately sort the living casualties by priority order for medical care. A [new device](#) assesses the medical condition of those injured in the disaster by using laser Doppler vibrometry and a camera to measure pulse, body temperature and muscle movements such as breathing. This technology is designed to capture a disaster victim’s vital signs from up to 40 feet away.

Stress Management

Providing public health services during emergencies can be overwhelming. Our challenge is to maintain our resilience so that we can keep doing the work with care, concern and energy. There are [steps](#) we all can take to maintain our physical and mental health, preserve our relationships at work and home, and serve the public during what can be a time of uncertainty and fear. The stress reaction results from an outpouring of adrenaline, a stimulant hormone, into the blood stream. This produces a number of changes in the body which are intended to be protective. The changes include an increase in heart rate and blood pressure, faster breathing, tensing of muscles, increased mental alertness and sensitivity of sense organs, increased blood flow to the brain, heart and muscles and less blood to the skin, digestive tract, kidneys and liver. The following are some categories that can be helpful in mastering stress:

- Decrease caffeine (coffee, tea, colas, chocolate).
- Well-balanced diet.
- Decrease consumption of junk food.
- Eat slowly.
- Regular exercise (at least 30 minutes, three times per week).
- Adequate sleep (figure out what you need, then get it).
- Leisure time (do something for yourself everyday).
- Relaxation exercises (e.g., meditation, self-hypnosis).

Halting Resuscitation in Prehospital Atraumatic Cardiac Arrest

Five semi-structured [focus groups](#) were conducted with 34 paramedics and 2 EMTs from emergency medical services (EMS) agencies within Los Angeles County (LAC), 6 months after a policy change that allowed paramedics to forgo or halt resuscitation in the field under certain circumstances. Participants had an overwhelmingly positive view of the policy; felt it empowered their decision-making abilities; and thought the benefits to patients, family, EMS, and the public outweighed the risks. Except under certain circumstances, such as when the body was in public view or when family members did not appear emotionally prepared to have the body left on scene, they felt the policy improved care.

H1N1 Resources for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have made two videos -- hand-washing, and H1N1 information -- in American Sign Language available via [their website](#). Please distribute to all interested parties.

Surveillance

H7 Influenza Infections in Humans

Among the myriad subtypes of influenza A that circulate in waterfowl, only a few strains have made the species jump to humans; those that have are limited to 4 hemagglutinin types: H5, H7, H9, and H10. Of the four, H5N1 receives the most attention because it causes fulminant illness. However, the pandemic potential of the H7 viruses cannot be overlooked. While they are not nearly as lethal as H5N1, a pandemic need not cause mass lethality to have a significant impact around the globe. A team from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently [published a review](#) of H7 infections in humans in the journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*.

H1N1 Virus Infection in Mexico: March through May 2009

On April 12, Mexico responded to a request for verification by the World Health Organization of an outbreak of acute respiratory illness in the small community of La Gloria, Veracruz. The Mexico Ministry of Health received informal notification of clusters of rapidly progressive severe pneumonia occurring mostly in Distrito Federal (metropolitan Mexico City) and San Luis Potosi. In response, on April 17, Mexico intensified national surveillance for acute respiratory illness and pneumonia. During April 22-24, novel influenza A (H1N1) virus infection, previously identified in two children in the United States, was confirmed in several patients. [This report](#) summarizes public health actions taken to date by Mexico to monitor and control the outbreak.

Origins of the Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus

In the journal *Eurosurveillance*, researchers traced the evolution of the H1N1 virus to find its origin. They used over 400 genetic samples to test the genetic evolution. [The research](#) showed that domestic North American pigs may have been vital in the evolution of the virus.

Pandemic Planning

WHO Declares Pandemic

In late April, WHO announced the emergence of a novel influenza A virus. This particular H1N1 strain has not circulated previously in humans. The virus is entirely new. The virus is contagious, spreading easily from one person to another, and from one country to another. As of June 11, nearly 30,000 confirmed cases have been reported in 74 countries. On the basis of available evidence, and these expert assessments of the evidence, the scientific criteria for an influenza pandemic have been met. The World Health Organization (WHO) therefore decided to raise the level of influenza pandemic alert from phase 5 to [phase 6](#).

Pandemic Flu: Lessons From the Frontlines

Trust for America's Health wrote a [report](#) critiquing the U.S. H1N1 early response. In their report they focus on 10 lessons learned, 10 core vulnerabilities of U.S. pandemic preparedness, and case studies from around the country

outlining major challenges. They found the U.S. improved in some areas, but were vulnerable in others.

Continued Focus on the Nation's Planning and Preparedness Efforts

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a statement from Director of Strategic Issue Bernice Steinhardt on improving pandemic preparedness in the U.S. She says that government agencies at all levels need to address the following: leadership roles and responsibilities, the improvement of disease surveillance and detection, pandemic planning, the capacity to recover from a pandemic, state border closures, and monitoring an accountability of pandemic planning. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a [statement](#) from Director of Strategic Issue Bernice Steinhardt on improving pandemic preparedness

Managing and Reducing Uncertainty in an Emerging Pandemic

The *New England Journal of Medicine* published [an article](#) concerning uncertainty during a pandemic of influenza. The authors address the issue of decision making during the uncertainty of a pandemic as well as addressing pandemic severity with uncertain information.

October Soonest for H1N1 Vaccine

H1N1 [influenza vaccine](#) could be available as early as October, but only if vaccine production and testing run smoothly this summer. Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said the agency began shipping virus samples to manufacturers. The government will have to review the safety and effectiveness of what's produced, and decide if a vaccination campaign is warranted. October is about the time seasonal flu vaccine campaigns generally get rolling.

Regional News

H1N1 Reveals Strapped Local Health Agencies

Facing Michigan's latest budget cuts, Kent County health director Cathy Raevsky sized up the local impact: no more nursing visits to new moms, fewer restaurant inspections and reduced communicable disease control. Already down more than one quarter of her staff, Raevsky managed the recent, limited swine flu outbreak by stretching her team. But a major, sustained outbreak would overwhelm the county, echoing the concern of many local health departments that are the community bulwarks against disease and health emergencies in the United States.

Region 2S TESA Deployment Drill

Region 2S -- in conjunction with NDMS, DMAT, and the Detroit Metropolitan Airport -- has scheduled a full-scale training exercise of the 100-bed Michigan Transportable Emergency Surge Assistance (MI-TESA) medical unit for July 30-August 2, 2009. The training deployment will be the first time the entire 100-bed asset has been deployed, transported, set up, and operated in its entirety. Activities during this exercise will include: setup of the hospital and hospital systems (HVAC, lighting, water purification system, trailer-based oxygen generation/distribution), DMAT members' training and exercising in mobile medical operations, disassembly, repackaging, transport back to secure housing location, and warehouse inventory and repacking. Those interested in participating in this exercise should contact the Region 2 South office.

Aside from testing the transportation plans, structure assembly, equipment and operational systems, the entire process will allow Region 2 South to evaluate the processes involved and identify lessons learned. In addition, the train-

ing will mark the formation of the official Technical Support and Mobile Field Medical Teams in Region 2 South, a state requirement for all regions in Michigan.

Hazard Vulnerability Assessments and Long Term Care

The Office of Public Health Preparedness recently released grants to Long Term Care facilities throughout the state as part of a pilot project. The grant focused on emergency operations planning, evacuation equipment, interoperability communications equipment and training related to emergency operations. The grant has been instrumental in the development of the Region 6 Long Term Care Planning Sub-Committee. The recipients within Region 6, as well as Long Term Care facilities that did not participate have asked that we continue to meet monthly to discuss plans, network and use the time for training. The first request that came from the Sub-Committee was training on how to conduct a hazard vulnerability assessment.

A quick background for those that may not be familiar with vulnerability assessments, the assessment serves as a tool to help identify the strengths and weaknesses in an identified hazard, based on information, current plans and past events. This serves as an effective tool to allow stakeholders to more effectively mobilize and allocate the limited resources available, to strengthen the ability of the subject to prevent and/or mitigate the effects of the hazard.

Hospitals are required to conduct an HVA annually, but after forming this committee it was discovered that this had never been done for any of the Long Term Care facilities within the region. On, May 27, 2009, the Region 6 Bio Terrorism Coordinator lead the Sub-Committee through the process on how to conduct an HVA for their locations, using the Kiaser Permanete model. The feedback from this meeting is helping the facilities in development of a comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan for their facilities.

Other News

Community Pollution Prevention Grant

On May 7, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality announced today that it will be accepting requests for funding for the 2009 Community Pollution Prevention (P2) Grants Program. A total of \$200,000 in funding is available. The DEQ will provide matching grants to hospitals, clinics, local health departments, municipalities, and regional planning agencies to fund P2 practices at healthcare facilities.

Vulnerable Populations Grant Funding

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's (RWJF) New Connections: Increasing Diversity of RWJF Programming is designed to expand the diversity of perspectives that informs RWJF programming, introduce new researchers and scholars to the Foundation, and help meet staff needs for data analysis that measures progress towards program objectives. New Connections invites Senior Consultants from historically under-represented groups to submit proposals to evaluate specific programs funded by or connected to two RWJF programming areas: Human Capital and Vulnerable Populations. RWJF will award as many as eight Senior Consultant grants of up to \$75,000 for one year.

Training & Education

Incident Action Planning

This online, four module, self paced, instructor supported course will provide you with hands on experience using the incident action planning process. This NIMS defined management tool provides a standardized framework that can be used to manage any incident in your community. The activities within this course will also help you define local strengths and weaknesses so you can modify your emergency operations plans to foster a collaborative and effective capacity to meet the challenges of a complex local disaster when it occurs. To register for this training, log on to the [TRAIN website](#) and search for course ID#1017453.

Mental Health Preparedness Training

This 3.5-hour training is designed to raise awareness of the immediate and short-term mental health consequences of disasters for anyone who may be part of the disaster response. It was originally developed for public health professionals responsible for responding to public health emergencies including natural disasters, disease outbreaks and terrorist events. It may also be useful for staff from other organizations as well as community members who volunteer to assist in responding to emergencies.

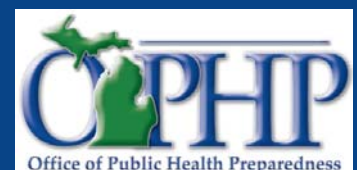
Date/Time	Event	Location
Jun. 17, 2009 2:00pm	Fatality Management during a Pandemic Program objectives are to present critical issues for planning consideration for mass fatalities caused by pandemic influenza and to promote local integrated, comprehensive mass fatality planning. For more information, please visit the Alabama Department of Public Health's web-site .	OPHP Large Training Room
Jun. 21, 2009	World Conference on Disaster Management (WCDM) The WCDM is the premier event for disaster management professionals. With the 2009 theme: "A Climate for Change - Communication, Collaboration and Cooperation" the conference will offer a unique educational experience that provides a platform for the exchange of ideas and networking opportunities in a climate that fosters change. Individuals will learn how to develop strong resiliency tactics that will sustain business operations and communities during critical times such as natural, technological or human induced events.	Toronto, CANADA
Jun. 24, 2009 10:00am	Communicate Better to Protect Your Community in a Crisis Communicating in a crisis is not business as usual! In an emergency, getting the right messages delivered at the right time by the right person will save lives. This training is intended to help emergency responders and public information professionals learn to use the best approaches and tools to exercise quality communication before, during and after an emergency. Visit the University of Albany website for further details.	OPHP Large Training Room

Date/Time	Event	Location
Jun. 25, 2009 8:30am	<p>Mass Fatality Conference: My Morgue Is Full!</p> <p>The goals for this mass fatality conference are: heighten awareness regarding Region 3 mass fatality capabilities and deficiencies, define roles and responsibilities of agencies that may be involved in mass fatality response, provide a foundation for future planning at the county and regional level, and provide a basic knowledge of state and federal mass fatality assets.</p>	Dow Center Saginaw, MI
Jun. 26, 2009 1:00pm	<p>Bearing Bad Tidings with Competence and Compassion</p> <p>This free webinar explores the essential elements of conducting death notifications and identifies some of the central questions business leaders ask when faced with the task of performing a death notification. The information provided in this link sets the tone and lays the groundwork for the upcoming webinar on this topic. A second showing of this webinar will occur at 3:00pm. To register for this Live Webinar, please simply email your full name and desired time to support@crisiscare.com with the title of this training in the subject line. Please note, there are limited seats available.</p>	Webinar
Jun. 26, 2009	<p>National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures</p> <p>The National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures is a collaborative initiative to identify and prioritize actions for strengthening the public health approach to chemical exposures. This day-long meeting will launch this exciting stakeholder and public involvement initiative. If you would like to receive additional information on this project and meeting, please send your contact information to: nationalconversation@cdc.gov</p>	Washington, DC
Jun. 29, 2009 8:00am	<p>Behavioral Health Conference</p> <p>Registration is now open for the Behavioral Health Conference, "Preparing for the Unthinkable: Designing a Behavioral Health Blueprint for Disaster Preparedness and Response". Attendees will learn about the long term effects of disasters on mental health, the purpose of the incident command system, the role of the family assistance center after a mass fatality, the impact of a trauma on a child's brain and what they need most, the effects of PTSD, and preparedness strategies for a pandemic influenza. The conference will conclude with an exciting pandemic influenza tabletop exercise where attendees can role-play and participate in response efforts. For more information, including registration details, visit the MCEP website.</p>	Sheraton Hotel Lansing, MI
Jul. 19, 2009	<p>Web Strategies for Health Communication</p> <p>Healthcare organizations are faced with an ever evolving choice of web technologies that make it challenging to create a coherent and justifiable web strategy. This course will teach you how to select, use, manage, and evaluate the effectiveness of Web technologies for health communication. Registration costs \$900 before June 19, or \$1000 after June 19. Use discount code NPHIC for \$100 off registration.</p>	Boston, MA

Date/Time	Event	Location
Jul. 22, 2009	Free GIS Workshop This day-long <u>workshop</u> will provide a general introduction to the use of GIS software for public health practice. Participants will learn the basics of practical mapping of data and information and will learn strategies of securing data, securing map images, and integrating maps and data to create single and multi-layered data maps. Scripted exercises applicable to public health will provide hands-on computer experience with some of the major Epi-Map features. Note: this free one-day course will be repeated August 19 in Ann Arbor, MI.	James Henry Center 3535 Forest Road Lansing, MI
Aug. 6, 2009 8:30am	Breastfeeding: A Vital Emergency Response This topic, also the theme of World Breastfeeding Week, is intended to draw attention to the vital role that breastfeeding plays in emergencies. <u>The broadcast</u> will stress the need for active protection and support of breastfeeding before and during emergencies. It will also give suggestions for mobilizing action and nurturing networking and collaboration between those with breastfeeding skills and those involved in emergency response.	webcast
Aug. 9, 2009	National Conference on Community Preparedness The conference is open to all who are interested in making their communities safer, stronger, and better prepared for all types of hazards. NCCP 2009 will bring together approximately 600 state and local elected officials, emergency management, fire and police services, public health and emergency medical services, non-governmental organizations, private business and industry, advocacy groups, and members of the public. Visit the <u>conference website</u> for further information, including registration details.	Arlington, VA
Aug. 12, 2009	National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing, and Media The Third Annual National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing and Media provides you the opportunity to interact and network with a broad spectrum of health communications and marketing leaders across public health, health care, academic and private sectors. Last year the conference attracted more than 1000 participants representing 290 organizations and provided a venue for over 100 presenters and exhibitors. <u>The conference</u> is an excellent opportunity to meet with colleagues and help you shape the future of health communication, marketing, and media practice. Scholarships are available.	Atlanta, GA



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This publication is supported by Cooperative Agreement Number 5U90/TP517018-09 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.