

## Preparedness and Planning

### States and Cities Receive \$1.8 Billion in Preparedness Grants

States and cities at risk of natural disasters and terrorism will receive nearly \$1.8 billion in [federal preparedness grants](#) to protect, prevent, respond, and recover from potential calamities this fiscal year, according to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). "These grants provide direct support for regional preparedness, urban security, and medical response efforts in communities across the country," said DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano. "The new grants management initiative launched this year will generate better value for every grant dollar while strengthening our nation's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all disasters."

### Report on Paid Sick Days

The National Partnership for Women & Families has released "A Health Impact Assessment of the Healthy Families Act of 2009". [The report](#) finds that passing the Healthy Families Act, which would let employees at firms with at least fifteen employees earn up to seven paid sick days a year, would have a profoundly positive effect on public and individual health.

### Fireworks Safety

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, [fireworks](#) were involved in an estimated 9,200 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2006. An estimated 6,400 injuries were treated in hospital emergency rooms during the one month period surrounding the Fourth of July. Fireworks and celebrations go together, especially during the Fourth of July, but there are precautions parents can take to prevent these injuries.

- Use fireworks outdoors only.
- Obey local laws. If fireworks are not legal where you live, do not use them.
- Always have water handy. (A hose or bucket).
- Only use fireworks as intended. Don't try to alter them or combine them.
- Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Use common sense. Spectators should keep a safe distance from the shooter and the shooter
- should wear safety glasses.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a "designated shooter."
- Only persons over the age of 21 should be allowed to handle sparklers of any type.



## News

### June Is National Emergency Preparedness for Animals Month

The Humane Society has declared the month of June [National Emergency Preparedness for Animals](#) month. Everyone who has a pet should realize that disasters can occur anywhere at any time. Everyone watched back in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina decimated New Orleans. Companion animals suffered greatly during that time, many were left behind to fend for themselves. Hundreds of animals died while hundreds more were permanently displaced.

### Swine Flu Started in Asia, Not Mexico?

Contrary to the popular assumption that the new swine flu pandemic arose on factory farms in Mexico, federal agriculture officials now believe that it most likely emerged in pigs in Asia, but then traveled to North America in a human. See [page 5](#) for more details.

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Read the Next *Guardian* Issue!  
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### **New Projects Posted on [CIDRAP'S Promising Practices Website](#)**

- The [School Respiratory Illness Surveillance Project](#) provides a Web-based portal to share surveillance data and flu prevention resources between public health and schools.
- [Community Action Partnership/Area Agency on Aging MOA](#) describes how a health department and community organizations can share responsibilities for identifying and caring for at-risk populations during an emergency.
- [Emergency Preparedness Toolkit for Community Health Centers and Community Practice Sites](#) provides streamlined information, tools, and templates to encourage continuity-of-operations planning for health centers.
- "[For Our Community: Explaining Pandemic Influenza](#)" Handbook applies a mix of information and activities to underscore the importance of personal pandemic preparedness.
- [FBO/CBO Outreach and Coordination](#) uses a campaign to integrate community-based and faith-based organizations into pandemic preparedness and conduct outreach to at-risk populations.
- The [Family Preparedness Guide for People with Disabilities](#) describes specific all-hazards planning considerations, while encouraging people to build relationships with services in their communities.

### **Interim CDC Influenza Guidance on Day and Residential Camps**

Camps for children, young adults, and families range from programs conducted for several hours in a day (not overnight) to programs that are residential and involve many weeks in group settings. At this time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [recommends](#) the primary means to reduce spread of influenza in camps is to focus on early identification of ill campers and staff, staying home (or away from others) when ill, good cough and hand hygiene etiquette, and environmental controls that encourage use of these hygiene practices.

### **New REMM Online Version Available**

The Radiation Event Medical Management (REMM) website has released their [new online version](#) of the tool in June 2009. REMM's most important new feature is a major update of the Dose Estimator for Exposure. This easy-to-use tool now employs algorithms for "vomiting" and "lymphocyte depletion kinetics" developed by the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute.

### **Heightened FDA Oversight of Food Safety Approved**

A House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health has approved a measure that would grant the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) greater



oversight of food manufacturing and processing facilities. Sponsored by John D. Dingell (D-Mich.), the bill would require that high-risk food facilities that manufacture products for U.S. consumers undergo safety and hygiene inspections every six to 18 months, low-risk facilities every 18 months to three years, and warehouses every three to four years. In addition, the measure would require food manufacturers and processors to maintain more detailed records that will ease tracking and isolation of tainted foods when necessary.

### **Preparedness Failing America's Children**

In the years since 9-11 and Katrina the United States has concentrated enormous resources and expertise to improving its capacity to respond to and mitigate disasters. While many areas, such as interoperable communications for public safety, have clearly improved, however, glaring gaps remain. A new report released by the Save the Children foundation titled "[The Disaster Decade: Lessons Unlearned for the United States](#)" highlights one such gap, the failure to adequately address the needs of children in disaster preparedness.

## Surveillance

### H1N1 Virus Infections among Healthcare Personnel

According to the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly*, healthcare workers used personal protective equipment sporadically when caring for patients infected with H1N1 novel influenza. According to [this study](#), there were 18 healthcare workers studied who had become infected with H1N1 novel influenza. One third had become infected from caring for a patient with H1N1 novel influenza. When surveyed about personal protective equipment most of the healthcare workers responded they had never used surgical masks, N95 respirators, eye protection, and gowns when treating infected patients.

### The Importance of Influenza Sentinel Sites

Did you know that the first two cases of novel influenza A (H1N1) virus were identified through the Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)? Did you know that the ILINet has been described as the “lifeline to influenza activity” throughout the progression of what is now the next influenza pandemic? The ILINet is comprised of front-line medical providers, influenza sentinels, who volunteer to report office visits due to influenza-like illness and collect clinical specimens from a subset of those patients for respiratory virus culture at the MDCH laboratory. As the current outbreak has progressed, influenza sentinels in Michigan have played an integral role in monitoring ILI activity throughout the state. Enhanced surveillance efforts including some sites submitting daily ILI activity reports and increased specimen submissions have contributed greatly to monitoring this new virus. New sentinels are always needed to help us understand and monitor influenza activity. Medical providers of any specialty (e.g., family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, infectious disease) in nearly any setting (e.g., private practice, public health clinic, urgent care center, emergency room, university student health center) can be sentinels. Contact Ms. Cristi Carlton at [CarltonC2@michigan.gov](mailto:CarltonC2@michigan.gov) for more information or to enroll now.



## Communications

### Emergency Alert Capabilities Via the Digital HD Radio

SpectraRep, iBiquity Digital & Sage Alerting Systems have teamed up to develop a [combined technology platform](#) that will enable broadcasters to offer emergency information to the general public, as well as to targeted populations, such as first responders, government agencies, or individuals with special needs or in specific geographic areas.

## Pandemic Planning

### Congress Approves \$7.65 Billion for PanFlu Response

Responding to lobbying by the Obama administration and public health advocates, Congress approved \$7.65 billion for [battling pandemic influenza](#), more than three times what the House and Senate had earlier proposed. The money was included in a \$106 billion supplemental appropriation bill dedicated mostly to funding the military campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Senate passed

the bill June 18, following House passage 2 days earlier. Most of the pandemic money is for activities by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but the bill includes \$350 million to boost state and local capacity for responding to the novel H1N1 flu pandemic.

### **Government Agencies Ill Prepared for Pandemic Outbreak**

A new Government Accountability Office (GAO) report suggests that the majority of U.S. government agencies are unprepared to protect their workforce in the event of a large-scale pandemic outbreak, Reuters reports. After surveying the 24 government agencies that employ the bulk of federal workers, [GAO found](#) that, although all agencies are currently engaged in pandemic outbreak planning, several agencies remain in the development phase and have yet to implement or test their plans. For example, several government agencies indicated that they plan to allow employees to work from home or have flexible work schedules should an outbreak occur, but only one agency had tested the plan's effectiveness. Moreover, the report notes that many government agencies have yet to identify essential work functions that cannot be performed remotely.

### **Implications of the Emergence of a Novel H1 Influenza Virus**

What does the [emergence of novel H1N1](#) influenza virus mean for us? According to the *New England Journal of Medicine*, there are several implications including vaccine production and distribution, surveillance, international politics, and antiviral production and distribution that we must take into consideration in our planning efforts.

### **Signature Features of Influenza Pandemics: Implications for Policy**

[This article](#) in the *New England Journal of Medicine* describes what the signature features of a pandemic are and how they can be used in pandemic planning. The researchers point out that the shift in virus subtype is the most planned for pandemic signature, however, higher death rate in younger people, pandemic waves, high transmissibility, and the differences of impact on different regions of the world are not.

### **Government Backs New Vaccine Production Technology**

On June 24, Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced that the department will pursue advanced development of new way to make influenza vaccine. The work will be done by Protein Sciences Corporation, Inc., of Meriden, Conn., under a new [\\$35 million contract](#). The contract could be extended up to five years at a total cost of approximately \$147 million. Using this method, vaccine candidates, clinical investigational lots, and commercial-scale vaccine production may be available faster than by using traditional vaccine production methods. Because the basic cells can be frozen and stored indefinitely, manufacturing large quantities of a vaccine is also faster using this recombinant technology

### **Optimal Therapy for Patients with H5N1 Influenza**

Four researchers in *PLoS* (Public Library of Science) *Medicine* [debate](#) on how best to treat patients with H5N1 influenza which has a 60% death rate. One view is to treat with high doses of antivirals. Another view is to treat with a multitude of drugs. The final view is on providing more data to physicians to better guide them on treatment options.

### **Neuraminidase Inhibitors in Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women**

The *Canadian Medical Association Journal* published [a review](#) on the safety of antiviral neuraminidase inhibitors in breastfeeding women. According to the researchers, oseltamivir (Tamilflu®) should be the first antiviral used for breastfeeding women because it has the most evidence in the scientific litera-

ture for efficacy. They also said that zanamivir (Relenza®) had less in the scientific literature published, but the current information point to it also being safe for breastfeeding women.

## Regional News

### DeVos Regional Poison Control Center Closes

Effective June 30, the DeVos Regional Poison Control Center in Grand Rapids will close. Calls from Michigan residents and healthcare providers will automatically be routed to the Children's Hospital of Michigan Regional Poison Control Center in Detroit via the existing nationwide number, (800) 222-1222. Healthcare providers will still have access to medical toxicologists for consultations. The Michigan Department of Community Health encourages the reporting of all poisonings to the Poison Center to enhance patient care and to improve surveillance.

### Region 1 Preparedness Initiatives

Region 1 has been active in exercising many components of the Emergency Preparedness initiative. In addition to coordinating the actual SNS distribution through the Regional Medical Coordination Center for the H1N1 influenza Pandemic throughout the Hospitals and Medical Control Authorities in Region 1, the exercise season will conclude this summer.

Region 1 will conduct the final 4 DIREPLAY, 4 Shelter-In Place (SIP) and Hospital Evacuation exercises in July and August at Allegiance Health in Jackson, and Memorial Healthcare in Owosso. This will conclude the eight SIP/ Evacuation exercises for District 1 Regional Medical response Coalition (D1RMRC) this past year. In addition the DIREPLAY 5 Mass Fatality Exercises will include a Functional Exercise aimed at the Medical Examiner coordinated response and Mental Health Table top exercise specifically targeted to the needs of this at-risk population during a disaster event. In addition we concluded the CHEMDOT 4 event at Michigan State University that exercises the regions Mobile Medical CBRNE Support Units (MMCSU).

The D1RMRC also hosted the initial meeting for the Regions Long Term Care facilities. This new partnership led to the new task force that will include the LTC centers in the region. We will follow this initiative with a fall meeting with the group and a workshop at the annual regional symposium in February.

The Region will host an ICS 300/400 series at both the D1RMRC training center and in Hillsdale County in addition to the ongoing Hospital Decontamination Training Program at Sparrow Hospital. D1RMRC would like to thank all of its members and partners for another very challenging and successful year.

## Other News

### Swine Flu Started in Asia, Not Mexico?

Contrary to the popular assumption that the new swine flu pandemic arose on factory farms in Mexico, federal [agriculture officials now believe](#) that it most likely emerged in pigs in Asia, but then traveled to North America in a human. But they emphasized that there was no way to prove their theory and only sketchy data underpinning it. There is no evidence that this new virus, which combines Eurasian and North American genes, has ever circulated in North American pigs, while there is tantalizing evidence that a

closely related "sister virus" has circulated in Asia.

### **Inmates Isolated as H1N1 Cases Rise at County Jail**

After seven inmates developed symptoms of the influenza A(H1N1) virus, Cumberland County, Maine jail officials debated how they would proceed if a symptomatic inmate was due to be released from custody. If that happened, the sheriff and the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention would likely petition a judge to keep the inmate in custody or to release him to a hospital. Jail officials had to release one federal detainee who tested positive for the virus, but health workers concluded that he was not likely to transmit it. The jail has taken precautions to limit the spread of the virus by moving symptomatic inmates to a temporary infirmary and issuing them respiratory masks. Health workers are checking the temperature of all inmates twice a day to quickly detect new cases. The jail has also taken steps to protect corrections officers. "The officers have been equipped with masks, and Tamiflu has been made available at no cost to the officers," said Will Russell, president of the officers' union. Health officials in the surrounding communities are also monitoring residents of the homeless shelter where many inmates go after being released from custody.

### **China's New Law on Food Safety Faces Delays**

China's new Food Safety Law, which was passed in the wake of the Sanlu milk powder scandal, tightens the government's control over food manufacturers. The law centralizes food safety under a single set of standards, creates a Food Safety Commission to enforce regulations, establishes a food recall system, and abolishes inspection exemptions. Although the law took effect on June 1, officials caution that it may be two years before all components are implemented. Wang Xixin, a law professor at Peking University, warned that the long implementation period could impede enforcement. Food safety experts and government officials said it would have been impossible to have all pieces of the legislation in place before the law came into effect.



### **Nestle Pre-Packaged Cookie Dough Voluntarily Recalled**

Nestle USA's Baking Division is initiating a voluntary recall of all Nestle Toll House refrigerated cookie dough products. Nestle is taking this action after reports of illness that may be related to the consumption of raw cookie dough. Nestle has been, and will continue to cooperate fully with the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control in this investigation. Consumers who have purchased cookie dough products should not consume them. Instead, officials are asking that consumers return these products to their local grocer for a full refund. Consumers can contact Nestle Consumer Services at (800) 559-5025.

### **Camps Canceled by Flu Fears**

Thousands of children with muscular dystrophy will not be going to summer camp this year because of the swine flu. The Muscular Dystrophy Association, based in Tucson, said it was canceled the remainder of its summer camps because swine flu had been reported in them. The association said children with muscular dystrophy were particularly at risk from the flu, although none of the children recently sickened after attending camp have died. About 1,800 children have attended this year, but another 2,500 set to go in 35 states will be affected by the cancellations.

## Training & Education

Date/Time	Event	Location
Jun. 29, 2009 8:00am	<b>Behavioral Health Conference</b> 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 <a href="#">MCEP website</a> .	Sheraton Hotel Lansing, MI
Jul. 14, 2009 1:30pm	<b>CERC Training on Radiological Incidents</b> The CDC Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication (CERC) course is a fastpaced, interactive course that gives participants essential knowledge and tools to navigate the harsh realities of communicating to the public, media, partners and stakeholders during an intense public health emergency. This course will briefly provide an overview of CERC and concentrate on applying CERC to the realities of a radiological incident. Taught with a live instructor at your computer during a 3- hour session. For more information, please contact Barbara Reynolds or Elvia Earley at <a href="mailto:CERCrequest@cdc.gov">CERCrequest@cdc.gov</a> .	Webcast
Jul. 19, 2009	<b>Web Strategies for Health Communication</b> Healthcare organizations are faced with an ever evolving choice of web technologies that make it challenging to create a coherent and justifiable web strategy. <a href="#">This course</a> 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.	Boston, MA
Jul. 22, 2009	<b>Free GIS Workshop</b> This day-long <a href="#">workshop</a> 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
Jul. 30, 2009 9:00am	<b>CDC Immunization Training Update</b> <a href="#">This program</a> will be broadcast in two formats, both as a satellite course and a webcast. Anticipated topics include influenza (including H1N1 influenza), rotavirus, vaccine safety and vaccine supply. So-called "alternative" vaccine schedules and other emerging vaccine issues will also be discussed. The 2.5-hour broadcast will be repeated at 12:00pm EST, as well.	Satellite Broadcast and Webcast

Date/Time	Event	Location
Aug. 6, 2009	<p><b>Strategic Response to Crisis</b></p> <p>Knowing what sequence of crisis intervention processes to use for which individuals or groups, at what times, and under what circumstances is crucial to all effective early intervention programs. <u>The course</u> will present essential information for the assessment of both crisis situations and the effects of critical incidents on people involved in those situations. Learn to create an effective plan of action to assist those in crisis and complete a series of exercises designed to sharpen assessment and crisis planning skills. Strategic planning and tactical decision making are emphasized, as are rationales for choosing one set of crisis intervention processes over another.</p>	Detroit, MI
Aug. 6, 2009 8:30am	<p><b>Breastfeeding: A Vital Emergency Response</b></p> <p>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.</p>	webcast
Aug. 7, 2009	<p><b>Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support</b></p> <p>Crisis Intervention is NOT psychotherapy; rather, it is a specialized acute emergency mental health intervention which requires specialized training. As physical first aid is to surgery, crisis intervention is to psychotherapy. Thus, crisis intervention is sometimes called "emotional first aid". <u>This program</u> is designed for teach participants the fundamentals of, and a specific protocol for, individual crisis intervention. This three-day course is designed for anyone who desires to increase their knowledge of individual (one-on-one) crisis intervention techniques in the fields of Business &amp; Industry, Crisis Intervention, Disaster Response, Education, Emergency Services, Employee Assistance, Healthcare, Homeland Security, Mental Health, Military, Spiritual Care, and Traumatic Stress.</p>	Detroit, MI
Aug. 7, 2009	<p><b>Group Crisis Intervention</b></p> <p>This <u>three-day training</u> is designed to present the core elements of a comprehensive, systematic and multi-component crisis intervention curriculum, the Group Crisis Intervention course will prepare participants to understand a wide range of crisis intervention services. Fundamentals of Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) will be outlined and participants will leave with the knowledge and tools to provide several group crisis interventions, specifically demobilizations, defusings and the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD). The need for appropriate follow-up services and referrals when necessary will also be discussed.</p>	Detroit, MI

Date/Time	Event	Location
Aug. 9, 2009	<p><b>National Conference on Community Preparedness</b></p> <p>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 <a href="#">conference website</a> for further information, including registration details.</p>	Arlington, VA
Aug. 12, 2009	<p><b>National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing, and Media</b></p> <p>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. <a href="#">The conference</a> is an excellent opportunity to meet with colleagues and help you shape the future of health communication, marketing, and media practice. Scholarships are available.</p>	Atlanta, GA
Aug. 17, 2009	<p><b>Michigan's Trauma System: Preparing for Implementation</b></p> <p><a href="#">This conference</a> will cover topics related to: trauma triage criteria; discussion of the "Guide to Implementation"; Regionalization Initiatives such as stemi, stroke, and peri-natal; the burn surge plan, and challenges in moving the trauma system forward.</p>	Sheraton Hotel Lansing, MI

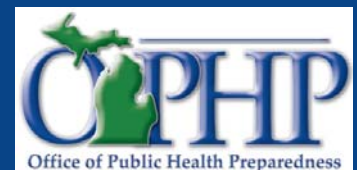


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