



# GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

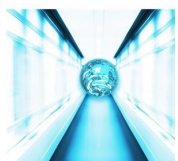
February 10, 2012

## **Michigan Food & Agriculture Protection and Defense Working Group**

On April 23rd the Michigan Food and Agriculture Protection and Defense Working Group there will be a tabletop exercise using a food contamination scenario. The exercise will trace a contaminant through detection, response, and recovery stages. This exercise will take place from 10am – 3pm (lunch provided) and will be held in Plymouth, Michigan at the Inn at St. John's conference facility. This event is occurring in conjunction with a meeting of the Great Lakes Border Health Initiative. Exercise planners are looking for a diverse group of attendees from the private and public sectors. Seating is limited, if you would like to attend, please contact Brad Deacon [deaconb9@michigan.gov](mailto:deaconb9@michigan.gov) 517-241-4085, by February 17, 2012.

## **Presidential Policy Directive on National Preparedness**

FEMA is seeking input from the private and non-profit sectors to inform development of the first drafts of the National Prevention, Protection, and Mitigation Frameworks, and the revision of the National Response Framework. PPD-8 asks the whole community—including individuals, businesses, community and faith-based organizations, schools, tribes and all levels of government—to work together to develop a national preparedness goal, a national preparedness system description, and a set of supporting frameworks, plans and guidance documents that will help the nation reach the national preparedness goal. For more information, visit [www.fema.gov/ppd8](http://www.fema.gov/ppd8).



## **Mobile app Brings Speed to Vaccination Clinics in Denver**

Meet HANDI, a pilot mobile app being used by Denver Public Health officials to bring speed and efficiency to their vaccination clinics. You can read about HANDI's many benefits and how it's being used in the latest post on the [Public Health Matters blog](#).

## **Use of Electronic Health Records for Flu Shot Reminders**

According to the U.S. Health and Human Services Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, electronic health records can help identify patients who have the greatest need for flu shots by automating flu shot reminders. Practices can set up their electronic health records to automatically send out letters or secure email to all patients to remind them to come in for flu shots. The full article in [HealthITBuzz](#) is available online and answers questions about the nation's transition to electronic health records.

## **Influenza Vaccination of Healthcare Workers in Acute-Care Hospitals: a Case-Control Study of its Effect on Hospital-Acquired Influenza Among Patients**

Researchers in BMC Infectious Diseases study how effective the vaccination of health care workers is in preventing hospital acquired influenza in

## **H5N1 Controversy...**

### **mBio Publishes New Articles From Experts on the H5N1 Research Controversy...**

Mammalian-Transmissible H5N1 Influenza: [the Dilemma of Dual-Use Research](#)

[Science Should Be in the Public Domain](#)

The [NSABB Recommendations: Rationale, Impact, and Implications](#)

The H5N1 [Manuscript Redaction Controversy](#)

### **Policy: Adaptations of avian flu virus are a cause for concern**

Members of the US National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB) explain their recommendations on why the controversial H5N1 transmissibility research should not be published. The full commentary is [available online](#).

### **Engineered H5N1: A Rare Time for Restraint in Science**

In the Annals of Internal Medicine, Thomas V. Inglesby of the UPMC Center for Biosecurity talks about why restraint should be shown when studying H5N1 and subsequently publishing the results. The full commentary is [available online](#).

patients. They performed a nested case-control study in a tertiary acute-care hospital with cases being laboratory confirmed influenza with the controls being those who were negative for influenza, but presented with possible influenza-like illness. The research showed, of the 55 cases total 11 had laboratory confirmed hospital acquired influenza. The health care worker influenza vaccination rate was 36%. The researchers concluded that the health care worker vaccination helped to prevent hospital acquired influenza in patients. They suggest that further study should be conducted to confirm their results. The full study is [available online](#).

**The Role of Facemasks and Hand Hygiene in the Prevention of Influenza Transmission in Households: Results from a Cluster Randomised Trial.**

Researchers in BMC Infectious Diseases study how well facemasks and hand hygiene measures prevent influenza transmission. They performed a cluster randomized trial in Germany with 84 households during the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic as well as the following influenza season. They separated their study groups into those wearing facemasks and performing hand hygiene, those only wearing facemasks, and those performing neither intervention.



The research showed that if the non-pharmaceutical intervention was implemented within 36 hours of symptom onset, secondary infection was significantly reduced. The authors suggest that if used early, facemasks and hand hygiene measures can prevent the spread of influenza. They also say not to include acceptability and tolerability as a reason not to implement these measures. The full article is [available online](#).

**Tools to Gear up for Public Health Week**

Sponsored by the American Public Health Association (APHA) since 2005, National Public Health Week falls on April 2nd through the 8th. This year's theme is "A Healthier America Begins Today: Join the Movement." A tool kit and a media kit have containing fact sheets, suggested community events, legislative information, sample tweets, op-ed pieces, and more have been developed and are [available online](#).

**Webinar: Tools to Help Emergency Managers Meet the Needs of Latino Communities**

**February 28, 2012, 2:00 PM (EST)**

[Register Online](#)

This [upcoming webinar](#) developed by the National Council of La Raza in collaboration with the Office of Minority Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Mosaica: The Center for Nonprofit Development and Pluralism, and the National Immigration Law Center will present on the recently released emergency management toolkit designed to improve responsiveness to Latinos in disaster planning, relief, and recovery efforts.

**CDC Releases Its First iPad "App"**

The CDC-developed [iPad application](#) has been designed as a way for users to access health information at their fingertips. It will feature important health articles, popular journals, timely updates and access to social media to coincide with important health concerns and events throughout the year. It gives an increasingly mobile public 24/7 access to important health information that people can use to protect their lives and loved ones.



### **Coping in Hard Times Factsheet**

Coping in Hard Times: [Fact Sheet](#) for Community Organizations and Leaders addresses how challenging financial circumstances affect communities' sense of safety, ability to calm, self-efficacy, connectedness, and hope. The fact sheets offer practical ways to help community members address problems, stay connected, network, and cope better during economic downturns.

### **Google Enters Public Alerting Arena**

Google has announced the release of [Google Public Alerts](#), a new emergency alerting platform developed by Google's Crisis Response division. It is designed to display alerts issued by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Weather Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Although current alerts are limited to the aforementioned agencies, Google is encouraging authorized local public safety officials to post alerts at no cost.

### **Vulnerable & At-Risk Population Resource Guide**

The North Carolina Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center has developed an online resource guide capable of providing a customized list of resources with accompanying jurisdictional maps to assist local health departments with preparedness planning for vulnerable and at-risk populations. [The guide](#) acts as a filter for the wide range of existing resources on the topic, and provides links to population-specific resources and tools. This resource was developed by researchers who conducted interviews and discussions with local and state stakeholders.

### **PERRC Develops Text Messaging Video Series**

Researchers at the Northwest Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center (NWPERRC) in Seattle, one of CDC's Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Centers have investigated the utility of using text messages to gather and disseminate emergency information. Researchers examined the use of text messaging among target population groups, and how those individuals view receiving text messages from public health departments. The technical and legal stipulations around the development and use of texting programs were also addressed. One result of this research project was a video series explaining some of the considerations for using text messaging to reach audiences in emergency situations. The series also provides insight on how to develop public health text messages that would be accepted by target audiences. The four-chapter video series is geared toward organizations interested in using text messaging to support public health initiatives. More information on the [research project](#) and the [video series](#) is available online:



### **New FDA Blog**

The FDA recently launched [FDA Voice](#); a new blog intended to give FDA employees the opportunity to explain in their own words some of the complex public health issues they are working on, and the issues' impact on consumers. Recent topics have covered Gulf Seafood Safety, PEPFAR and acetaminophen doses for infants. [Sign up online](#) to receive the latest blogs delivered to your email.

## US Response to the Global Threat of Tuberculosis

Congressional Research Service [released a report](#) on the U.S. response to the global threat of tuberculosis (TB). This report provides information on key components of the global TB epidemic and U.S. response efforts as the 112th Congress considers how the U.S. should continue to respond to the challenge of TB around the world.

### **Webinar: Planning for the Whole Community: Addressing Access and Functional Needs Before, During and After Disasters**

**February 14, 2012, 2:00 – 3:00 pm (EST)**

**Call Number: 888-790-6180, Passcode: 1281914**

#### Join the Webinar

More than 50% of Americans have some type of functional disability. Over 133 million have at least one chronic medical condition and 1 in 3 Americans take prescription drugs for a long-term illness. Emergency management should be inclusive of individuals with access and functional needs, and communities should understand and meet the true needs of the entire community affected by a disaster. During this webinar, subject matter experts will discuss how clinicians can work within their communities to integrate and coordinate emergency preparedness, response and recovery efforts for children and adults with disabilities and others with access and functional needs before, during and after a disaster. More information is [available online](#).



#### *Mailing Address:*

*Office of Public Health Preparedness*

*Capitol View Building - 201 Townsend Street - Lansing, MI 48913*

*(517) 335-8150 — <http://www.michigan.gov/ophp>*

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.

