



PHEPR News Update April 2, 2010

The News Update is provided by the Washington State Department of Health's Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Program to share current information about H1N1, public health emergency preparedness and pandemic influenza planning activities and resources.

The News Update is posted to the Washington State Department of Health's (DOH) Web site. Please share it with others who may be interested.

DOH is evaluating the focus and frequency of this news update. Please watch for a survey to provide us input to determine the future of this publication.

Washington State Communicable Disease Epidemiology Influenza Update Department of Health – March 27, 2010

Each week, the Department of Health's Communicable Disease Epidemiology Office publishes a summary of influenza activity. This is the summary for the week ending March 27, 2010.

To read the summary: www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphl/Epidemiology/CD/fluupdate.pdf

Emergency preparedness training opportunity

The Department of Health is once again hosting the Mass Fatalities Incident Response Planning Course, delivered by the National Mass Fatalities Institute, during the last week of April, 2010. The course will be offered on both sides of the state, at Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood on April 26-27 and Jamison's Event Center in Moses Lake on April 29-30.

Seats in the Eastern Washington class are still available for registration. The Western Washington class is full; however, we are collecting registrations on a wait-list basis. Due to the continuing high level of interest in this course, we will be offering another training opportunity in the next grant cycle (after July 1, 2010).

To register or be placed on a waiting list for one of these classes, please visit the registration site on-line at: www.nmfi.org/requestclassinfo.php

Contact Kim Butowicz at kim.butowicz@doh.wa.gov or 360.236.4090

DOH/PHEPR Alternate Care Facility (ACF) Standardization Committee

The first meeting of the PHEPR ACF Standardization Committee was held on Monday, March 22, 2010. The workgroup is comprised of representatives from public health, hospitals, Emergency Management Services, Washington State Hospital Association, and Department of Health. The purpose of this group is to bring together the regional ACF planning leads with an opportunity to share ideas and discuss planning logistics, equipment purchases, exercises, resources, staffing, and other related issues. This group will continue to meet on a quarterly basis.

Contact Anne Widney at anne.widney@doh.wa.gov or 360.236.4037

Seventh Annual Pacific NorthWest Cross Border Workshop

Sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Border Health Alliance
Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response
April 02, 2010

On May 4-6, 2010, the Washington State Department of Health in collaboration with the Canadian Ministries of Health will host the seventh annual bilateral infectious disease surveillance and response workshop.

The workshop provides a forum for public health partners to form vital relationships and discuss crucial cross-border preparedness and response policies. The overarching goal is to establish a seamless cross-jurisdictional public health response system that can quickly and efficiently track and respond to health threats across borders in the Pacific Northwest.

This year's theme, "**Global Challenges, Regional Response**" will continue the work of building and maintaining relationships between neighboring states and provinces. The workshop brings together public health partners to coordinate activities related to communicable disease epidemiology, disease surveillance and investigation, public health laboratory diagnostics, emergency management, emergency medical services and first response, risk communication, surge capacity, public health law and academia.

The participating jurisdictions include:

From the United States, federal, tribal, state and local representation from the following states have been invited: Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana and North Dakota.

From Canada, federal, provincial/territorial, regional and first nation representations from the following provinces and territories have been invited: British Columbia, Yukon, Alberta, and Saskatchewan.

The workshop is by invitation only and space is limited. If you are interested in attending, contact Gail Zimmerman, workshop coordinator at Washington State Department of Health, 360.236.4041 or gail.zimmerman@doh.wa.gov.

Georgia's rise in serious H1N1 cases worries CDC

CIDRAP News Headlines - March 29, 2010

Public health officials are so concerned by an uptick of serious cases of H1N1 flu in the southeastern United States that they called a short-notice press briefing today to urge Americans to be vaccinated against the pandemic strain

To read the full article:

www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/swineflu/news/mar2910georgia.html

County is ready to open vaccination clinics if outbreak hits

HeraldNet – March 22, 2010

If there's another disease outbreak like last year's swine flu epidemic, Snohomish County is ready to organize another round of mass vaccination clinics, health officials say. "Absolutely we would do it again," said Dr. Gary Goldbaum, health officer for the Snohomish Health District. "This community is well prepared to come together around a medical need like vaccinating a large proportion of the community quickly."

Read the full article here: is.gd/bbsys

WHO: Flu activity up in Central, South America

World Health Organization, Global Alert and Response – March 26, 2010

Pandemic activity may be increasing across Central America and in some parts of South America, the World Health Organization (WHO) said today. Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama, and parts of Brazil have reported increasing pandemic flu detections. Mexico is seeing more respiratory illnesses, though it's not clear if flu is the cause. Flu activity hasn't peaked in West Africa, though it is subsiding in Thailand. European countries are increasingly reporting influenza B.

To read the full article: www.who.int/csr/don/2010_03_26/en/index.html

1918 and 2009 pandemic influenza viruses lack a sugar topping

National Institute of Health NIH News – March 24, 2010

Although they emerged more than 90 years apart, the influenza viruses responsible for the pandemics of 1918 and 2009 share a structural detail that makes both susceptible to neutralization by the same antibodies.

To read the full article: www3.niaid.nih.gov/news/newsreleases/2010/pandemicflusugar.htm

United States flu activity steady

Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy – March 27, 2010

Pandemic flu stayed at the same level for last week, with no states reported widespread influenza activity. Three states reported regional influenza activity. Puerto Rico and eight states reported local influenza activity. The District of Columbia, Guam and 31 states reported sporadic influenza activity. Eight states reported no influenza activity, and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not report. One pediatric flu deaths was reported.

To read the full article: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/?date=022610

H1N1 Influenza vaccine expiration dates: questions and answers

March 30, 2010

Unlike seasonal flu vaccine, which typically expires on June 30th, H1N1 vaccine expiration dates range from February 2010 to early 2011. Sanofi Pasteur multi-dose vials (MDV), specifically, have expiration dates in 2011. H1N1 disease may continue through spring and summer of 2010 or early Fall 2010 before the 2010-11 seasonal flu vaccine is available. Although the 2010-11 seasonal flu vaccine will protect against H1N1, we do not know yet when it will be available.

To read the full article: www.doh.wa.gov/phepr/news/expiration-dates.pdf

CDC advises keeping unexpired H1N1 vaccine until fall

CIDRAP News Headlines - March 25, 2010

States and vaccination providers should hang on to unexpired supplies of pandemic H1N1 influenza vaccine until the 2010-11 seasonal flu vaccine is available, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says.

To read the full article:

www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/swineflu/news/mar2510vaccine-jw.html

Business experts share pandemic lessons learned

CIDRAP News Headlines - March 24, 2010

With pandemic flu activity declining over the past few months, businesses have a chance to retool some of their response plans, while many grapple with issues such as protective equipment shelf life and how to protect employees when pandemic or seasonal flu returns, corporate executives said today at a webinar.

To read the full article:

www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/biz-plan/news/mar2410lessons.html

Study: In life-years lost, H1N1 pandemic had sizable impact

CIDRAP News Headlines - March 23, 2010

A new study argues that because the H1N1 influenza pandemic cut many young lives short, its real public health impact has been substantially greater than is generally perceived.

To read the full article:

www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/swineflu/news/mar2310years.html

Risk of severe H1N1 highest in late pregnancy

British Medical Journal, March 18, 2010

A study of pregnant women treated in intensive care units for pandemic flu in Australia and New Zealand last summer suggests that the risk of critical illness was greater during later pregnancy, when it was about 13 times higher than in non-pregnant young women, according to a *British Medical Journal (BMJ)* report. Indigenous women and those with chronic conditions such as asthma were at greater risk than other pregnant women. Most of the 64 women in the study needed mechanical ventilation

To read the full article: is.gd/bbnnx

Massachusetts claims highest flu vaccination rates

Boston Globe - March 21, 2010

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health says the state had the nation's highest rates of vaccination against both H1N1 and seasonal flu, the *Boston Globe* reported yesterday. The immunization rates in Massachusetts were 36% for H1N1 and 57% for seasonal flu, versus 21% and 37% nationwide. Public Health Commissioner John Auerbach credited government agencies working with local health departments, school systems, doctors, and hospitals. The report was based on US CDC data.

To read the full article: is.gd/bbs2g

Researchers report peramivir-resistant H1N1 case

CIDRAP News Headlines - March 26, 2010

Researchers today sounded two warnings for clinicians who manage pandemic H1N1 patients: that even a short course of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) can lead to antiviral resistance and that patients can develop resistance to peramivir, an alternative to oseltamivir in emergency situations.

To read the full article:

www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/swineflu/news/mar2610resistance.html

H1N1 swine flu can develop resistance quickly

Reuters – March 26, 2010

Government researchers reported on the cases of two people with compromised immune systems who developed drug-resistant strains of virus after less than two weeks on therapy.

Bacteria quickly develop resistance to antibiotics, which must be used carefully. Viruses can do the same and doctors worried about resistance had recommended against using antivirals for flu except in patients who really needed them.

To read the full article: www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE62P53I20100326

WHO says H5N1 threat persists

CIDRAP News Headlines - March 25, 2010

Newly confirmed human cases of H5N1 avian influenza, along with several outbreaks in poultry, are a reminder that the virus still poses a global threat, the World Health Organization (WHO) said yesterday.

To read the full article:

www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/mar2510avian.html

Drug-resistant tuberculosis poses global risk, says WHO

Homeland Security Today – March 20, 2010

“The percentage of tuberculosis cases around the world resistant to two standard drugs remains low—about 4 percent—but is three to six times as high in the vast area that once encompassed the Soviet Union, according to a report released [last] week by the World Health Organization,” reports the Post. Multidrug and Extensively Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis: 2010 Global Report on Surveillance and Response “is based on information from 114 countries.” In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National TB Surveillance System report for 2009 “showed the greatest single-year decrease ever recorded,” reports Homeland Security Today, and “more effective overseas screening may have contributed to” the “dramatic decline.”

To read the full article: is.gd/bbniw

Advisory panel urges renewal of US bio-defense efforts

CIDRAP News Headlines - March 25, 2010

The National Bio-defense Science Board today capped a hurried review by recommending that the federal government launch a major effort to better focus its activities to develop medical countermeasures (MCMs) for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats, starting by choosing at least three new countermeasures for priority efforts.

To read the full article: www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/bioprep/news/mar2610nbsb.html

National planning scenarios are incomplete, says HSD Inspector General

Homeland Security Today - March 23, 2010

The Homeland Security Department “has made significant progress on strategic plans for only half of US National Planning Scenarios,” reports Homeland Security Today, citing a new report, “DHS’ Progress in Federal Incident Management Planning,” by the department’s Inspector General. “None of the eight National Planning Scenarios has a full set of plans for emergency response ... only five of the eight National Planning Scenarios have strategic guidance statements and only four of eight have strategic plans.”

To read the full article: www.hstoday.us/content/view/12616/128/

Washington State Department of Health H1N1 Web Page

The Washington State Department of Health regularly updates its H1N1 Web pages. The Web page provides resources including:

- H1N1 (Swine flu) facts sheets and FAQs – in as many as eight languages
- Vaccine locator—local health department Web sites and phone lines for finding vaccine in your community
- Information about hospitalizations and deaths
- A vaccine FAQ for the general public and information for vaccine providers
- DOH news releases
- Audio and video clips

Website: www.doh.wa.gov/h1n1/

H1N1 pandemic – WHO Update 93

World Health Organization – March 26, 2010

As of 21 March 2010, worldwide more than 213 countries and overseas territories or communities have reported laboratory confirmed cases of pandemic influenza H1N1 2009, including over 16,931 deaths.

WHO is actively monitoring the progress of the pandemic through frequent consultations with the WHO Regional Offices and member states and through monitoring of multiple sources of information.

To read the full update: www.who.int/csr/don/2010_03_26/en/index.html

International avian influenza situation – Update 10

World Health Organization – March 29, 2010

The Ministry of Health has reported a new confirmed case of human infection with the H5N1 avian influenza virus. This case was confirmed at Pasteur Institute, Ho Chi Minh City.

To read the full report: www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/index.html

WHO public health mapping and GIS map library

There are a variety of maps available at the World Health Organization (WHO) website showing affected areas with confirmed cases of H5N1 since 2003.

Website: gamapserver.who.int/mapLibrary/app/searchResults.aspx

Table of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A/(H5N1) Website:
www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2010_03_16/en/index.html

Contact Department of Health Pan Flu Coordinator with questions

Cindy Gleason, Department of Health Pan Flu (H1N1) Coordinator is available listen to your questions, concerns, or input about state planning and preparations for H1N1 events. She will direct your input to the appropriate subject matter area if needed. The department's PHEPR program continues to focus significant resources and energy to pan flu preparations.

For information please contact Cindy Gleason at 360.236.4541 or Cindy.Gleason@doh.wa.gov.

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