



## August 2009

### In this edition:

- [Trainings/Exercises](#)
- [Webcasts](#)
- [Research](#)
- [News/Resources](#)
- [Conference](#)

Welcome to the latest issue of Emergency Preparedness Monthly! [The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (formerly the Maine Bureau of Health), [the Regional Resource Centers](#), and [the Harvard School of Public Health Center for Public Health Preparedness](#) have partnered to bring you regular updates on emergency preparedness news and activities in Maine and beyond. This free monthly newsletter is designed to be a resource for a regional audience of public health, healthcare, public safety, and emergency response practitioners throughout Maine, as well as state and local leaders interested in protecting the public's health. It includes a digest of select news stories and commentaries, links to relevant resources, and a listing of upcoming preparedness-related trainings and events. The goal of this publication is to provide a central forum for disseminating useful, current, and succinct preparedness information to busy professionals.

Please submit your events by mid-August to the September edition of EP Monthly through the following [online form](#). We would love to share our resources and opportunities with the growing New England EP Monthly community.

### Trainings/Exercises:



#### [After Action Report Conference for the 16 County EOC Table Top Exercise](#)

**Date:** Wednesday, August 19, 2009

**Time:** 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**Location:** [MEMA Classroom, 45 Commerce Drive, Suite 2, Augusta, Maine](#)

**Contact:** Jeremy Damren ([jeremy.damren@maine.gov](mailto:jeremy.damren@maine.gov)), 207-624-4410

#### [Shelter Full Scale Exercise](#)

**Date:** Saturday, August 23, 2009

**Time:** 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Location:** [Oxford Hills High School, 256 Main Street, South Paris, Maine](#)

**Contact:** Scott Parker ([oxctyema@megalink.net](mailto:oxctyema@megalink.net)), 207-743-6336

#### [Van Buren Tabletop Exercise](#)

**Date:** Thursday, August 27, 2009

**Time:** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**Location:** [Robin's Restaurant, 52 Main St, Van Buren, Maine](#)

**Contact:** Vern Ouellette, 207-493-4328

### Houlton Full Scale Exercise

**Date:** Saturday, August 29, 2009

**Time:** 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Location:** [Houlton, ME](#)

**Overview:** Aroostook County EMA will host Full-Scale Exercises on 8/29/09 in Houlton. This exercise will test the response of police, fire, EMS, Hazmat, and hospital capabilities.

**Contact:** Vern Ouellette, 207-493-4328

### Maine's Elders and Emergencies: Working for the Future

**Overview:** "The Maine Center for Public Health, the Maine Office of Elder Services and the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Maine Emergency Management Agency and the Harvard School of Public Health, Center for Public Health Preparedness (HSPH-CPHP) are pleased to present an online course intended to improve emergency preparedness planning for and among the elderly population titled: "Maine's Elders and Emergencies: Working for the Future." This course is designed for city and state officials, representatives of community-based organizations and other service providers, adult caregivers, first responders, elder adults, and any individual who wants to participate in promoting emergency preparedness for elder community needs. This course will provide you with the tools and knowledge necessary to prepare and respond to elders in an emergency. It is professionally narrated and has non-graded quizzes that will allow one to test their responses as well as printable facts and other downloadable information. We encourage you to share this online course with anyone involved in emergency preparedness or other groups/individuals who may benefit from it."

**\* Become eligible for a \$50.00 gift certificate when you complete the course evaluation \***

Visit: <http://www.cphp.sph.harvard.edu/>

User name: Elder

Password: Elder

\*\*\*Please note, the above user name and password are case-sensitive\*\*\*

Certificates of completion will be sent via us mail 4-6 weeks from time of course completion.

**Contact:** Rubim Rwakabuba, 617-384-9696

---

### **Webcasts:**



#### Breastfeeding Grand Rounds 2009

**Date:** Thursday, August 6, 2009

**Time:** 8:30 - 10:30 AM (EDT)

**Overview:** "This topic, also the theme of World Breastfeeding Week, is intended to draw attention to the vital role that breastfeeding plays in emergencies. The broadcast 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."

Contact: Sue Brooks ([coned@albany.edu](mailto:coned@albany.edu)), 518-402-0330

#### Novel Influenza A H1N1: The Florida Response

**Date:** Thursday, August 6, 2009

**Time:** 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

**Overview:** "At the end of the broadcast, participants will be able to: Explain how the public health and clinical responses to the outbreak fit together; identify the need to plan for how to handle the outbreak situation until the vaccine is available; and describe the probable structure of the vaccine campaign in the fall of 2009. Moderator Julia Gill, PhD, MPH Chief, Bureau of Epidemiology, Division of Disease Control, Florida Department of Health Epidemiological Perspective, Richard S. Hopkins, MD, MSPH Medical Epidemiologist, Bureau of Epidemiology Florida Department of Health Community Mitigation Kevin Sherin,

MD Orange County Health Department Director Infection Control Considerations: Focus on PPE Lauren Ball, DO, MPH Senior Physician, Bureau of Epidemiology, Florida Department of Health Vaccine Campaign and Russell Eggert, MD, MPH Director, Division of Disease Control, Florida Department of Health."

---

## News/Resources:



### [CDC Launches New Environmental Public Health Tracking Network](#)

**Overview:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently announced the launch of the Web-based Environmental Public Health Tracking Network, a surveillance tool that scientists, health professionals, and - for the first time - members of the public can use to track environmental exposures and chronic health conditions.

**Contact:** CDC Division of Media Relations, 404-639-3286

### [American People Called on to Begin Planning & Preparing for Fall Flu Season & New H1N1 Virus](#)

**Overview:** The Obama Administration sent a strong message to the nation that it is time to start planning and preparing for the fall flu season and the ongoing H1N1 flu outbreak and that the federal government is prepared to commit resources, training, and new tools to help state and local governments and America's families get ready.

**Contact:** US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Press Office, 202-690-6343

---

## Research:



### [Public Health Systems Research in Emergency Preparedness a Review of the Literature](#)

**Elena Savoia, MD, MPH, Sarah B. Massin-Short, MPH, Angie Mae Rodday, MSC, Lisa A. Aaron, MSC, Melissa A. Higdon, BS, Michael A. Stoto, PhD**

*Am J Prev Med 2009; 37(2)*

**Overview:** Despite the acknowledged promise of developing a public health systems research (PHSR) agenda for emergency preparedness, there has been no systematic review of the literature in this area. The purpose of this study was to conduct a systematic literature review in order to identify and characterize the PHSR literature produced in the U.S. in the past 11 years in the field of public health emergency preparedness. **EVIDENCE ACQUISITION:** Articles were searched in MEDLINE and EMBASE, as well as in the gray literature. Two independent reviewers classified the articles according to study design and IOM public health emergency preparedness (PHEP) research goal areas. **EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS:** From January 1, 1997, through December 31, 2008, there were 547 articles that met the inclusion criteria that were published. It was possible to classify 314 (57%) articles into at least one of the four IOM PHEP research goal areas. Of these, 61 (11%) addressed Research Area 1 (usefulness of training); 39 (7%) addressed Research Area 2 (communications in preparedness and response); 193 (35%) addressed Research Area 3 (sustainable preparedness and response systems); and 39 (7%) addressed Research Area 4 (criteria and metrics to measure effectiveness and efficiency). Twenty-one studies (4%) could be classified into more than one category. The majority of the articles (81%), including commentaries/reviews and case studies, were based on qualitative analysis. Commentaries/review articles were the most common study types (62%). **CONCLUSIONS:** Since 2001, the PHSR literature on PHEP issues has grown at about 33% per year. However, most studies lack a rigorous design, raising questions about the validity of the results.

### [Real-Time Public Health Surveillance for Emergency Preparedness](#)

**Jean-Paul Chretien, MD, PhD, Nancy E. Tomich, BS, Joel C. Gaydos, MD, MPH, and Patrick W. Kelley, MD, DrPH**

*American Journal of Public Health, August 2009, Vol 99, No. 8*

**Overview:** "Public health agencies conduct surveillance to identify and prioritize health issues and evaluate interventions. Recently, natural and deliberate epidemics have motivated supplementary

approaches to traditional surveillance methods based on physician and laboratory reporting. Fueled initially by post-September 11, 2001, bioterrorism-related funding, and more recently used for detecting natural outbreaks, these systems, many of which are called "syndromic" systems because they focus on syndromes recorded before the diagnosis, capture real-time health data and scan for anomalies suggesting an outbreak. Although these systems as typically implemented have often proven unreliable for detecting natural and simulated epidemics, real-time health-related data hold promise for public health. If redesigned to reliably perform beyond outbreak detection, syndromic systems could demonstrate unprecedented capabilities in responding to public health emergencies."

---

## Conference:



### **International Swine Flu Conference**

**Dates:** Wednesday, August 19 - Thursday, August 20, 2009

**Workshop:** Friday, August 21, 2009

**Location:** [Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.](#) **Overview:** "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 at the 1st International Swine Flu Summit. At the summit, attendees will be able to draw on first-hand best practices to create the solid business continuity plans that their companies and organizations need in order to prepare for, respond to, and survive a pandemic. The summit draws on the success of the seven previous Bird Flu summits which featured as speakers several distinguished personalities such as Dr. David Nabarro, the United Nations Coordinator for Avian and Human Influenza, Alex Thiermann of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and Dr. Wenqing Zhang of the WHO Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response. Well-known emergency responders, heads of hospitals from around the world, and hog/swine industry leaders will speak in this summit."

---

You may notice in this version of EP Monthly, and going forward, that pdf documents of full articles are not available. However, links to access these articles are embedded. If you need assistance in accessing a referenced article, please do not hesitate to contact us by email at <https://apps.sph.harvard.edu/publisher/epmonthly@hsph.harvard.edu>.

\* \* \*

**Please submit your events by mid-August to the September edition of EP Monthly through the following [online form](#). We would love to share our resources and opportunities with the growing New England EP Monthly community.**