

June 2008

Welcome to the latest issue of Emergency Preparedness Monthly! [The Maine Training Committee for Medical, Behavioral and Public Health Emergency Preparedness](#), the [Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (formerly the Maine Bureau of Health), the [Maine Center for Public Health](#), 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.

Trainings/Exercises:

[Local Partnerships in Emergency Preparedness: A Tabletop Exercise for Sagadahoc County & Neighboring Communities](#)

Date: July 8, 2008, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Mt. Ararat High School, 73 Eagles Way, Topsham, Maine

Overview: "Weather-related emergencies and infectious disease disasters such as pandemic influenza will quickly overwhelm the resources of any size community. A coordinated, pre-planned response is critical to maximize your ability to preserve the health and safety of your citizens and responders. This program designed and led by the Harvard School of Public Health Center for Public Health Preparedness will help local agencies involved in emergency planning and response to assess and improve readiness for a public health emergency. This exercise is targeting the communities of Topsham, Bath, W. Bath, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Phippsburg, Woolwich, Georgetown, Arrowsic, Brunswick, Freeport and Harpswell."

Contact: Viki Wills, (vwills@mcph.org), 207-629-9272 x212

[Waldo County Tabletop Exercise](#)

Date: July 24, 2008

Location: Waldo County

Overview: "This is a tabletop exercise for first responders, involving an explosion and mass casualty incident."

Contact: Waldo County EMA Staff (emadirector@waldocountyme.gov), 207-388-3870

Webcasts:

PlanFirst Webcasts on Pandemic Influenza

When: July 8, 2008, 2:00 PM (ET)

Contact: (hhsstudio@hhs.gov)

Overview: “The Federal government will be releasing a report on July 7 that offers guidance and suggestions on addressing key elements of home health care preparedness and includes lists of existing tools, resources, and models. This Webcast will discuss key topics including the assumptions that need to be considered when assigning a care-giving role to home care agencies during a pandemic; operational, ethical and legal challenges pandemic planners will face; and the strategies home health care agencies can employ to overcome these challenges.”

Improving Disaster Communications: Connecting Poison Control with Public Health

Date: July 22, 2008, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Contact: Alabama Department of Public Health, (alphn@adph.state.al.us), 334-206-5618

Overview: “Even though poison centers assume a primary role in poisoning prevention and education, they additionally play a major role in disaster communication, surveillance and public health. Recent incidents such as the SARS outbreak and spinach contamination with E. coli highlight the potential role of poison centers in enhancing the public health response to mass events and disasters. Speakers for this program come from the Emergency Medicine Department at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the Georgia Poison Control Center. They will highlight the ways poison control has previously connected communities with vital public health information and the future possibilities of collaborations between public health and poison control.”

Avian Influenza Response Training for Emergency Responders: How Would You Handle An Emergency Epidemic

Date: July 23, 2008, 2:00 - 3:00 PM (ET)

Contact: Ed Kronholm (dlnets@aol.com), 877-820-0305

Overview: “Our July *LIVE RESPONSE* program takes an in-depth look at emergency epidemics. A special focus is given to a course called, Avian Influenza, offered by the AgTerror Preparedness Center of Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This classroom training covers the concerns and challenges response agencies would face when dealing with an avian influenza outbreak (AI) or other foreign animal disease. It’s designed to provide training throughout the responder community for an effective and rapid response. Areas covered include: An Introduction to Avian Influenza; Biosecurity; Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); Euthanasia and Disposal of Diseased Animals; along with Cleaning and Disinfection (C&D).”

Research:

Definitive Care for the Critically Ill During a Disaster: A Framework for

Allocation of Scarce Resources in Mass Critical Care: From a Task Force for Mass Critical Care Summit Meeting, January 26 –27, 2007 Chicago, IL.
Asha Devereaux, Michael D. Christian, Jeffrey R. Dichter, James A. Geiling and Lewis Rubinson

Chest 2008;133;1-7

“This supplement on the management of mass critical care for ill patients represents the consensus opinion of a multidisciplinary panel convened under the umbrella of the Critical Care Collaborative Initiative. Expert recommendations on this subject are needed. Most countries have insufficient critical care staff, medical equipment, and ICU space to provide timely, usual critical care to a surge of critically ill victims. If a mass casualty critical care event were to occur tomorrow, many people with clinical conditions that are survivable under usual health-care system conditions may have to forgo life-sustaining interventions owing to deficiencies in supply or staffing. As a result, US and Canadian authorities have called for the development of comprehensive plans for managing mass casualty events, particularly for the provision of critical care surge capacity, suggestions for minimum resources ICUs will need for mass critical care, and a suggested framework for allocation of scarce critical care resources when critical care surge capacity remains insufficient to meet need.”

Health Effects of Relocation Following Disaster: a Systematic Review of the Literature

Lori Uscher-Pines

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“This paper reviews the literature on the effects of post-disaster relocation on physical and mental health, and develops a conceptual framework to guide future research. Forty articles were selected for full-text review and incorporation into the conceptual framework. Twenty-four articles were reviewed for results and methodology. These overwhelmingly tracked mental health outcomes. Only four (16 per cent) focused on physical health. Eight of ten showed an association between relocation and psychological morbidity. Certain outcomes (such as mortality, injury and cardiovascular disease risk factors) revealed inconsistent results, but these were rarely studied. Despite the frequency of post-disaster relocation and evidence of its effect on psychological morbidity, there is a relative paucity of studies; the few examples in the literature reveal weak study designs, inconsistent results, and inattention to physical health impacts and the challenges facing vulnerable populations. Further research guided by theory is needed to inform emergency preparedness and recovery policy.”

Knowledge and Behaviors of Parents in Planning for and Dealing with Emergencies

Katrina Kubicek, Marizen Ramirez, Mary Ann Limbos, Ellen Iverson

J Community Health (2008) 33:158–168

“In recent years, a number of large-scale disasters have occurred both locally and internationally, heightening our awareness of potential dangers. If a

disaster were to occur at a school, there is the potential for a large number of children to be injured or affected in some way. The school community includes not only the staff and students who are on campus each day, but also students' parents and the surrounding neighborhood. How parents react during emergencies and disasters at schools is likely associated with their knowledge and perceptions of emergencies and disasters. Parents' preparedness levels and their planned response to a school-based emergency and how schools plan and manage for these reactions have not been explored. Utilizing a mixed methods design that included surveys, semi-structured interviews and focus groups with members of the communities in two South Los Angeles school districts, this study aims to provide an overview of parents' levels of emergency and disaster preparedness and the challenges they face in preparing for these events. Additionally, parents' planned responses to a school-based emergency or disaster are discussed as well as the challenges that schools may face as a result."

[Collaborative Emergency Management: Better Community Organizing, Better Public Preparedness and Response](#)

Naim Kapucu

Journal compilation © Overseas Development Institute, 2008

"Community coordination requires communication and planning of precautions to take when faced with a severe threat of disaster. The unique case of the four Florida hurricanes of 2004—Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne—is used here to assess community responses to repeated threats of hurricanes. The paper examines how effectiveness in coordinating community disaster response efforts affects future public preparedness. The findings suggest that pre-season planning, open communication between emergency managers and elected officials, and the use of technology all had a significant impact on community responses. The repeated threat scenario indicates that emergency managers must work vigilantly to keep residents informed of the seriousness of a situation. The study describes how emergency managers in Florida countered public complacency during four hurricanes in six weeks. The strategies identified as useful by public managers in the context of hurricanes are applicable to other natural and man-made disasters."

News/Resources:

[Are you Prepared for a Disaster? Red Cross and Partners Work to Increase Citizen and Community Preparedness](#)

"Over the past couple months; the United States has experienced a record-breaking number of tornadoes and other floods and storms. We enter hurricane season with several active disaster relief operations currently underway. And across the country, Red Cross chapters are responding to home fires in their communities on a nightly basis. Disasters can happen anytime and anywhere, yet the statistics are startling- only 7% of individuals have taken all of the steps

necessary to be prepared. The good news, however, is that the majority of individuals say they would get prepared if it were easier to do.”

New Consensus Statement Offers Nation’s First Blueprint for Disaster Preparedness in Minority Communities

“With the legacy of Hurricane Katrina and the prospect of a pandemic flu or terrorist event driving their conclusions, a broad-based panel representing virtually every affected constituency – including the U.S. government – today released the nation’s first detailed blueprint for public health disaster preparedness in minority communities across the country.”

Notice of Availability of Draft Guidances to Assist in Preparation for an Influenza Pandemic

“Influenza viruses have threatened the health of animal and human populations for centuries. A pandemic occurs when a novel strain of influenza virus emerges that has the ability to infect and be easily passed between humans. Because humans have little immunity to the new virus, many people may become ill and a worldwide epidemic, or pandemic, can ensue. Three human influenza pandemics occurred in the 20th century. In the United States (US) each pandemic led to illness in approximately 30 percent of the population and death in between 2 in 100 and 2 in 1000 of those infected. It is projected that based on this historical experience and given the current US population, a pandemic today, absent effective control measures, could result in the deaths of 200,000 to 2 million people in the US alone.

The US Government (USG) has developed a comprehensive strategy to prepare for and respond to an influenza pandemic, including developing and acquiring vaccine and antivirals to prevent and treat illness, planning for use of measures to reduce the spread of the disease by asking ill persons to stay home, voluntary quarantine of household members who live with an ill person, closure of child care facilities and dismissal of students from schools, decreasing the frequency and duration of close contact among people to slow transmission of infection (social distancing), recommending hygiene measures, and advising the use of personal protective equipment in certain situations. HHS has developed a number of guidances to assist government agencies, businesses, community organizations, and the public in their preparedness efforts, utilizing these strategies. The three guidance documents available for public comment are part of this series and should be reviewed as part of an overall approach to pandemic preparedness.

The USG is requesting comment from the public and interested stakeholders on three draft guidances: Interim Guidance on the Use and Purchase of Facemasks and Respirators by Individuals and Families for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness; Proposed Guidance on Antiviral Drug Use During an Influenza Pandemic; and Proposed Considerations for Antiviral Drug Stockpiling by Employers In Preparation for an Influenza Pandemic.”

[Proposed Considerations for Antiviral Drug Stockpiling by Employers in Preparation for an Influenza Pandemic](#)

[Government, Politics, and Law](#)

[Interim Guidance on the Use and Purchase of Facemasks and Respirators by Individuals and Families for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness](#)

[Proposed Guidance on Antiviral Drug Use during an Influenza Pandemic](#)

Conference:

[2008 Disaster Services Mini-Conference](#)

Date: July 22, 2008, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Overview: This event is open to any agency or volunteer organization providing a service related to the planning, response, recovery or mitigation of a health, weather or other type of emergency in Penobscot or Piscataquis Counties. Participants will receive training in the use of VolunteerMaine.org to recruit and manage volunteers and in VolunteerMaine's new Disaster Module. They will also participate in an activity to map current services and service gaps, and they will have the opportunity to network with other local stakeholders around future collaborations.

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