



# ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

July 2009

## ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

### **New Community Preparedness Toolkit Available on Serve.gov**

This summer, President Obama is calling on Americans to participate in our nation's recovery and renewal by volunteering in our local communities. To encourage individuals to volunteer and develop their own "do-it-yourself" projects that can help prepare communities for disasters, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Citizen Corps have teamed up with the Corporation for National and Community Service to provide a Community Preparedness Toolkit on Serve.gov. Research conducted by FEMA on disaster preparedness shows that many people who believe themselves "prepared" for disasters often aren't as prepared as they think. This new Community Preparedness Toolkit helps residents create a service project to prepare their family, friends, neighbors and colleagues for disasters in their local community. For more information and to download the toolkit, visit <http://www.serve.gov/toolkits/disaster>.



### **Quadrennial Homeland Security Review**

The Quadrennial Homeland Security Review (QHSR) is a congressionally mandated, top-to-bottom review of the Department's policies and priorities that will guide DHS and the nation for the next four years. The review is conducted by the Secretary of Homeland Security with key assistance from a set of study groups within DHS, each charged with reviewing a different aspect of the department's mission and operations. And Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano is inviting you to participate. The Secretary is seeking participation in three week-long, web-based dialogues. Each dialogue will build on the previous one, allowing participants to view and comment directly on proposed elements of the review before they are made final. Participation will directly inform the work of the DHS study groups conducting the QHSR—and

ultimately, our Homeland Security policies and priorities over the next four years. The final report is due to Congress on December 31, 2009. For more information, see <http://www.dhs.gov/qhsr>.

### **Obama Administration Calls on Nation to Begin Planning and Preparing for Fall Flu Season and H1N1 Virus Administration Leaders Say that Flu Preparedness is a "Shared Responsibility"**

The Obama Administration sent a strong message to the nation earlier this month 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. White House Homeland Security Advisor John Brennan, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan joined with delegations from 54 states, tribes and territories today at the H1N1 Influenza Preparedness Summit at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., to kick-off the government's nation-wide fall flu preparedness efforts. "Over the course of coming weeks and months, we will move aggressively to prepare the nation for the possibility of a more severe outbreak of the H1N1 virus," said HHS Secretary Sebelius. "We ask the American people to become actively engaged with their own preparation and prevention. It's a responsibility we all share."

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/07/20090709a.html>

\* More H1N1 news in the Pandemic Flu / H1N1 Influenza section below

## **FEMA Offers E-mail Updates**

FEMA has announced a free e-mail subscription service that delivers news updates and disaster-related information, such as:

- When a major disaster is declared
- Where local recovery centers are located
- What kind of financial aid is available
- How to obtain disaster-related assistance
- What to do after a disaster has passed

Sign up at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/getupdates.shtm>.

*Reprinted from the July 1, 2009, edition of EM Update, produced by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. Subscribe at <http://www.vaemergency.com/subscribe/index.cfm>.*

## **Homeland Security Advisory System**

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano on July 14 announced the formation of a task force to conduct a 60-day review of the Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS). The mission of the task force is to assess the effectiveness of the system in informing the public about terrorist threats and communicating protective measures within government and throughout the private sector. Secretary Napolitano appointed Fran Townsend, former Assistant to President George W. Bush for Homeland Security, and Judge William Webster, former director of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), to co-chair the task force and lead the review. Following the 60-day review period, the task force will present its findings to Secretary Napolitano, who will, in turn, discuss the findings with other Cabinet officials before making a recommendation about the future of the system to the White House. The task force will consult with the Department of Justice—under which HSAS was originally created—and provide opportunities for public input. In addition, DHS will take public comment directly via email at [hsasreview@dhs.gov](mailto:hsasreview@dhs.gov).

[http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr\\_1247586668272.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1247586668272.shtm)

## **All-Hazards Disaster Behavioral Health: Optimizing Psychological Health and Resiliency in Difficult Economic Times Conference**

In the latest issue of “The Dialogue,” the information presented and discussed at the All-Hazards Disaster Behavioral Health: Optimizing Psychological Health and Resiliency in Difficult Economic Times conference is summarized. This 3-day conference, held March 30 to April 1, 2009, brought together disaster mental health and substance abuse coordinators, researchers and other professionals from across the country to discuss how to maximize resources, build resilience and manage stress in difficult economic times. The conference succeeded in providing a collaborative environment in which attendees exchanged valuable information to inform future efforts for making the promotion of resilience and psychological health a priority.

[http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/dtac/dialogue/Issue4\\_09.asp](http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/dtac/dialogue/Issue4_09.asp)

PDF: [http://download.ncadi.samhsa.gov/ken/pdf/dtac/DialogueIssue4\\_09.pdf](http://download.ncadi.samhsa.gov/ken/pdf/dtac/DialogueIssue4_09.pdf)



## **DHS Launches YouTube Channel and Redesigns DHS.gov**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has launched the DHS YouTube Channel and announced the redesign of DHS.gov—steps to enhance the Department’s web presence, increase transparency and provide accurate, up-to-date information to the public. “Social media plays an increasingly large role in our engagement with the public, especially in the event of an incident or disaster,” said DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano. “These new tools will facilitate an open dialogue about the Department’s security efforts across the nation and around the world.”

The YouTube Channel, found at [www.youtube.com/ushomelandsecurity](http://www.youtube.com/ushomelandsecurity), will allow DHS to use video to highlight events, speeches, public service announcements and other related content. DHS’s emphasis on web 2.0 tools such as YouTube allows the Department to provide greater transparency and access to the public and our state, local, territorial, tribal, private sector, and international partners.

[http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr\\_1248296963736.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1248296963736.shtm)

## Americans' Assessment of Likelihood of Serious Outbreak of Influenza A (H1N1) in Fall/Winter

% saying it is *very/somewhat likely* there will be an outbreak in the fall/winter with many people getting very sick



% saying it is *not very/not at all likely* there will be an outbreak in the fall/winter with many people getting very sick



Harvard Opinion Research Program, Harvard School of Public Health, June 22-28, 2009.

## National Survey Finds Six in Ten Americans Believe Serious Outbreak of H1N1 Likely in Fall/Winter

As part of a series about Americans' response to the H1N1 flu outbreak, the Harvard Opinion Research Program at the Harvard School of Public Health is releasing a national poll that focuses on Americans' views and concerns about the potential for a more severe outbreak of Influenza A (H1N1) in the fall or winter. The polling was done June 22-28, 2009. Approximately six in ten Americans (59 percent) believe it is very or somewhat likely that there will be widespread cases of Influenza A (H1N1) with people getting very sick this coming fall or winter. Parents are more likely than people without children to believe this will occur, with roughly two thirds of parents (65 percent) saying it is very or somewhat

likely compared to 56 percent of people without children.

<http://tinyurl.com/nvp96b>

Complete Survey: [http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/files/Swine\\_Flu\\_Topline\\_7.15.09.pdf](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/files/Swine_Flu_Topline_7.15.09.pdf)

## NFPA 1600 Now Available Through iPhone Application

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has announced the availability of an iPhone application for the latest edition of NFPA 1600, Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs, which has been adopted by the Department of Homeland Security. Through the iPhone application, NFPA 1600 is fully searchable and is equipped with active links, as well as phone numbers for NFPA and other agencies involved with emergency management programs, risk mitigation, and response.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news04675.html>

## Jakarta Bombings: Twitter User First on the Scene

In a turn of events that will surprise no one at this stage, it appears news of the deadly Jakarta bombings early Friday, July 17, broke first on Twitter. A report on Australia's ABCNews (<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/07/17/2628983.htm?section=justin>) claims that the Twitter image below was the first Tweet to come out of the blasts at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel and the J.W. Marriott Hotel, posted by Twitter user Daniel Tumiwa. His series of Tweets read:

- "Bom @ marriot and ritz Carlton kuningan jakarta.
- 2 boms go off at marriot hotel ad ritz carlton jakarta.
- 2 boms go off inside Ritz Carlton and Marriott coffee shops! Not kidding. Am here.
- Left location. Shocked. Lots of blood. Breakfast meetings at coffee shops while bombs went off.
- "Thanks for all the concern. Back home. Safe. Shocked. Blood...smoke...glass...everywhere...prayers to the victims...."

Meanwhile, Twitpic became a key source of imagery from the event, with Galuh Riyadi posting pics from the scene. And the Marriott Hotel group is using its Twitter account to communicate its sympathies for those affected.

<http://mashable.com/2009/07/16/jakarta-bombings-twitter/>

twitter

Bom @ marriot and ritz Carlton kuningan jakarta

about 4 hours ago from Ping.fm



DanielTumiwa  
Daniel Tumiwa

## PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

### Current Threat Level

The United States government's national threat level is Elevated, or Yellow.

- The U.S. threat level is High, or Orange, for all domestic and international flights. Only small amounts of liquids, aerosols and gels are allowed in carry-on baggage. See the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Web site (<http://www.tsa.gov>) for up-to-date information on items permitted and prohibited on airlines.
- Virginia Threat Level: 



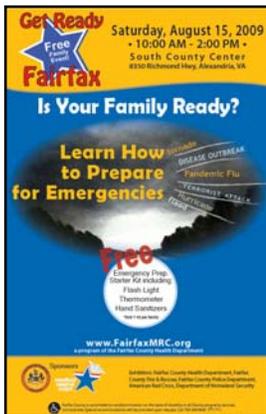
Under an elevated threat level, businesses should:

- Continue all precautions from lower Threat Conditions.
- Announce Threat Condition ELEVATED to employees.
- Review vulnerability and threat assessments and revise as needed.
- Identify and monitor governmental information sharing sources for warnings and alerts.
- Update and test call down list for emergency response teams and key employees.
- Review and coordinate and update mutual aid agreements with other critical facilities and government agencies.
- Establish and monitor active and passive security measures.
- Review employee training on security precautions (bomb threat procedures, reporting suspicious packages, activities and people).
- Conduct communications checks to ensure radio contact can be established.

At this time there is no credible information warning of an imminent, specific threat to the homeland. All Americans should continue to be vigilant, take notice of their surroundings, and report suspicious items or activities to local authorities immediately. Everyone should establish an emergency preparedness kit and an emergency plan for themselves and their family, and stay informed about what to do during an emergency.

[http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/programs/Copy\\_of\\_press\\_release\\_0046.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/programs/Copy_of_press_release_0046.shtm)

<http://vaemergency.com/>



### Get Ready Fairfax

Is your family ready in case of an emergency? If there's any doubt, then plan on attending a free preparedness event on Saturday, Aug. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the South County Government Center, 8250 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. A program of the Fairfax County Health Department, the event is sponsored by the Fairfax County Medical Reserve Corps. Those in attendance will also receive a free emergency preparedness starter kit, including a flash light, thermometer and hand sanitizer (limit one kit per family).

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/mrc/getready.htm>

### AT&T Publishes Results from Eighth Annual U.S. Business Continuity Study

The dramatic rise in social networking and mobility trends is presenting new challenges and considerations to companies' network security, disaster planning and business continuity programs. The good news: businesses are stepping up their technology

investment and efforts to meet these challenges despite the economy; and mobile devices are increasingly part of business continuity plans. These are some of the findings to emerge from AT&T's annual study on business continuity and disaster recovery preparedness for U.S. businesses in the private sector. For the eighth consecutive year, AT&T surveyed IT executives from companies throughout the United States that have at least \$25 million in annual revenue to get their views on disaster planning and business continuity trends. Sixty-eight percent of the companies surveyed this year have locations outside of the U.S. 2009 AT&T Business Continuity Study key findings:

- Two-thirds (65 percent) of all executives indicate that their companies will be investing in new technologies for 2009. Investment tends to focus on new equipment and a variety of software, storage and security upgrades.

- Forty percent of executives surveyed indicated that their IT budgets are expected to be lower this year than in the previous two years, while nearly one-fourth (24 percent) indicated that budgets will be higher. Interestingly, companies with business continuity plans in place are significantly more likely than those without plans to anticipate budget increases (32 percent compared to 11 percent).
- 67 percent of executives indicate that wireless network capabilities are part of their business continuity plan. Furthermore, nearly half (46 percent) stated that mobile devices play a major role in their plan's considerations.

For more information on the AT&T 2009 Business Continuity Study including the complete research results, visit [www.att.com/businesscontinuity-news](http://www.att.com/businesscontinuity-news).

### **2009 Hurricane Season Forecast Updated**

Colorado State University is calling for below-average activity in its 2009 Atlantic Seasonal Hurricane Forecast June update. CSU is now calling for 11 named storms for the season, five hurricanes and two major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5). The tropical meteorology research group from CSU's Department of Atmospheric Science will update its forecast in August, September and October. Read the full text of CSU's forecast:

<http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts>

### **Citizen Corps Surveys Gauge Public Preparedness**

Citizen Corps has published the results from two recent surveys that evaluate the nation's progress on personal preparedness and measure the public's knowledge, attitudes and behaviors relative to preparing for a range of hazards. FEMA's Community Preparedness Division and Citizen Corps conducted the national survey in 2007. "Personal Preparedness in America: Findings from the Citizen Corps National Survey" reports information collected from 2,400 households:

- 53 percent have supplies set aside at home.
- 42 percent have a household disaster plan.
- 60 percent were unfamiliar about their local evacuation routes.
- 71 percent expect to rely heavily on household members and 57 percent expect to rely on fire, police or emergency personnel in the first 72 hours following a disaster.
- 37 percent reported that a primary reason for not preparing is that they believe emergency responders will help them.
- 78 percent believe preparation, planning and emergency supplies will help them handle a natural disaster. However, almost 4 in 10 felt preparations would not make a difference.

The second report conducted in 2007, "Personal Preparedness in America: Findings from the Citizen Corps Survey of Four Urban Areas," reports information collected from 2,000 households in the Houston, Indianapolis, New York and San Francisco. Full reports and summary sheets are available at

[http://www.citizencorps.gov/news/press/2009/personal\\_preparedness\\_research\\_jun09.shtm](http://www.citizencorps.gov/news/press/2009/personal_preparedness_research_jun09.shtm).

Reprinted from the July 1, 2009, edition of *EM Update*, produced by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. Subscribe at <http://www.vaemergency.com/subscribe/index.cfm>.

### **Helping Kids Overcome Their Disaster Fears**

When kids see news about a storm or flood or other kind of disaster it can make them feel helpless, experts say. Or they may hear their friends or relatives talking about what happened to them during a storm or flood; the kids' eyes widen and their ears perk up. They wonder if they could be hurt in a disaster. Help your children overcome their fears by being involved in planning a family emergency supply kit. Together you can make a list of the things you need to have in your kit. If you find there are items that should be included and you do not have them in the house, go shopping together for them. Make disaster preparedness a project you do together. Here are some things you may want to talk about and plan for:

- What kinds of supplies will be on your list for your emergency supply kit.
- How you are preparing the family home for a disaster.
- How you will evacuate if necessary and where you will go (to friends or relatives or a shelter).
- Where you will meet if you're not at home when the disaster strikes.
- Who you will call to "check in" if you become separated during the disaster.

The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is designed to provide information about Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) along with news articles and informational updates relating to Homeland Security and emergency management to ESF 15 partners. Inclusion of any resource, information or Web link is not an endorsement of the product, service or organization. The ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update is produced by Fairfax County's Office of Public Affairs – the lead agency for ESF 15.

A good project for youngsters to do in advance is assemble a “kids activity kit” that may include:

- Favorite books.
- Crayons, coloring books, pencils and paper.
- Favorite toys or stuffed animals.
- One or two board games.
- A deck of cards.
- A favorite blanket or pillow.

Kids who take an active role in disaster preparedness are less fearful and can also be a big help if a disaster happens.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=48938>

### **NEMA and Partners Release White Paper on Effective Mitigation**

The National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the assistance of numerous other organizations, earlier this month released a white paper titled “Recommendations for an Effective National Mitigation Effort,” outlining the importance of mitigation efforts aimed at building disaster resiliency across the nation. Mitigation can be considered as any sustainable action that prevents or minimizes injury or harm to people, prevents or minimizes damage to property, and ensures continuity of critical societal functions. Although the benefits of mitigation are clearly proven and supported by research and experience, more effective communication and articulation of these values is necessary to convince policy makers and the public that mitigation efforts are worth the investment. The paper originated from a meeting held in January that brought together partner organizations from many different sectors concerned with the issues surrounding mitigation benefits and challenges. The project was funded through a cooperative agreement established between NEMA and FEMA in the hope of facilitating mitigation dialogue and establishing relationships between those in the mitigation community.

<http://www.nemaweb.org/default.aspx?3176>

Report: <http://www.nemaweb.org/default.aspx?3177>

### **DHS Announces Sites for Multi-Band Radio Pilot**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate today announced the 14 lead organizations for the upcoming pilot phase of testing and evaluation (T&E) for the Multi-Band Radio project. The pilots comprise the final phase of a three-part T&E process that includes laboratory testing, short-term demonstrations, and pilot projects. The Washington Metro Area Transit Authority Transit Police (District of Columbia) is one of the 14 lead agencies. The pilot phase provides a unique opportunity for agencies to access the latest technology and implement it in their daily operations. Feedback from local, state, and federal participants during the first two phases was incorporated into a production-ready multi-band radio to be used for this pilot. In 2008, the DHS Science and Technology Directorate awarded a contract to demonstrate a multi-band radio that enables emergency responders—police, firefighters, emergency medical personnel and others—to communicate with partner agencies, regardless of the radio band on which they operate. Currently, radios only operate within a specific frequency band; subsequently, responders are often unable to communicate with other agencies and support units that operate in different radio frequencies. Comparable in size and weight to existing portable radios with similar features, multi-band radio would provide users with much-improved incident communications capabilities. Each agency will conduct a minimum 30-day pilot in fall 2009. The pilots are designed to focus on the capabilities and effectiveness of the technology, with users primarily in a command-and-control role or involved in special operations with multiple entities. The agencies and sites were chosen to represent a broad range of communication environments. Factors such as operating bands, partner agencies and disciplines, interoperable conditions, and geographic landscapes were considered when selecting pilot sites.

[http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr\\_1246478388904.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1246478388904.shtm)

### **FDA Approves Vaccine for 2009-2010 Seasonal Influenza**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced (on July 29) that it had approved a vaccine for 2009-2010 seasonal influenza in the United States. The seasonal influenza vaccine will not protect against the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus that resulted in the declaration of a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on June 11, 2009. The FDA continues to work with manufacturers, international partners and other government agencies to

facilitate the availability of a safe and effective vaccine against the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus. Although this year's seasonal vaccine is directed against other strains of influenza expected to be circulating and will not provide protection against the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, it is still important for those Americans for whom it is recommended to receive the seasonal influenza vaccine. No vaccine is 100 percent effective against preventing disease, but vaccination is the best protection against influenza and can prevent many illnesses and deaths. According to the CDC, between 5 percent and 20 percent of the U.S. population develops influenza each year. More than 200,000 are hospitalized from its complications and about 36,000 people die. Older people, young children, and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk for influenza-related complications. Vaccination of these groups is critical. Additionally, influenza immunization of health care personnel is important in protecting them and others from influenza.

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm172772.htm>

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web Page with Key Fact About Seasonal Flu Vaccine:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm>

### **New and Improved Virginia Hurricane Guide Now Available**

The Virginia Department of Transportation, the Hampton Roads Emergency Management Committee and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management have redesigned the Virginia Hurricane Guide. As part of the Ready Virginia public information campaign, the guide contains essential hurricane season information, such as evacuation routes, traffic reversal plans along Interstate 64, bridge/tunnel/ferry closure plans in the Hampton Roads area and family preparedness. New sections of the guide explain staying in place vs. evacuation, the importance of storm surge, and how public shelters are designed to help evacuees. The revised evacuation route section clarifies that I-64 is only one of many evacuation routes, and the guide gives detailed instruction about how to make a family emergency plan, get an emergency supply kit and stay informed during emergencies. For the 2009 hurricane season, 250,000 copies of the guide were printed; most will be distributed by state and local agencies, private businesses and nonprofit organizations. Any organization interested in distributing the guides should contact the VDEM Public Affairs Office at 866-782-3470. An interactive, Web-based version is also available at [www.ReadyVirginia.gov](http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov). A federal homeland security grant paid for the printing costs.

[http://www.vdem.virginia.gov/newsroom/releases/2009/misc/hurricane\\_guides.cfm](http://www.vdem.virginia.gov/newsroom/releases/2009/misc/hurricane_guides.cfm)

## **MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

### **GAO report: Federal Buildings' Security Lax**

A new GAO report revealed that undercover investigators easily snuck bombs and detonators past security guards and into federal buildings occupied by the Homeland Security, Justice and State departments on 10 separate occasions. Investigators for Congress' Government Accountability Office said they succeeded on each of 10 attempts in April and May to enter federal office buildings with a hidden liquid explosive and detonator. Inside the buildings, investigators assembled the bombs, carried them in a briefcase and "walked freely around several floors," according to a statement the GAO made at a Senate hearing early this month. A copy of the statement was provided to USA TODAY. The GAO focused on the 15,000 armed guards who work for private security companies that the Federal Protective Service (FPS) hires and oversees with a team of 1,200 federal workers. Prospective guards are required to receive 128 hours of training, including eight hours on operating X-ray machines and metal detectors. However, the 1,500 guards working in one region have received no X-ray or metal-detector training since 2004, the GAO found. At one federal building in a major city, an infant in a carrier was sent through an X-ray machine "due to a guard's negligence," the GAO found. That is dangerous because of the potential radiation exposure. The GAO also reviewed background material of 663 guards and found that 62 percent of them had at least one expired certification that the FPS requires for them to work.

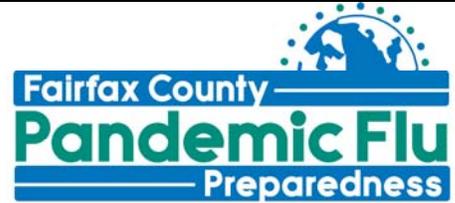
<http://www.homeland1.com/industry-news/articles/507465-GAO-report-Federal-buildings-security-lax/>

## PANDEMIC FLU / H1N1 INFLUENZA

### Fairfax County Pandemic Flu Preparedness

Be sure to visit the county's pandemic flu Web page for information on upcoming events and other preparedness news.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/pandemicflu/>



### H1N1 Virus More Dangerous than Suspected

A new study says that, in contrast with run-of-the-mill seasonal flu viruses, the H1N1 virus exhibits an ability to infect cells deep in the lungs, where it can cause pneumonia and, in severe cases, death. Writing in a fast-tracked report published July 13, in the journal "Nature," an international team of researchers led by University of Wisconsin-Madison virologist Yoshihiro Kawaoka provides a detailed portrait of the pandemic virus and its pathogenic qualities. In contrast with run-of-the-mill seasonal flu viruses, the H1N1 virus exhibits an ability to infect cells deep in the lungs, where it can cause pneumonia and, in severe cases, death. Seasonal viruses typically infect only cells in the upper respiratory system.

<http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/single.php?id=8340>

### HHS Purchases Additional H1N1 Vaccine Ingredients

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced this month that the department will commit \$884 million to purchase additional supplies of two key ingredients for potential H1N1 vaccine to further prepare the nation for a potential resurgence of the 2009 H1N1 virus. The funds will be used to place additional orders for bulk H1N1 antigen and adjuvant on existing contracts with Sanofi Pasteur, MedImmune, GlaxoSmithKline and Novartis. The vaccine ingredients will become a part of the pandemic stockpile, for use if a vaccination campaign is necessary. Antigen is the active ingredient in a vaccine that causes the human body's immune system to develop antibodies that help fight an invading virus. Depending on the results of clinical studies, adjuvant could be added to a vaccine to boost the immune system's response and potentially reduce the amount of antigen necessary for the body to recognize and fight a virus. In May, Secretary Sebelius directed approximately \$1 billion to be used for the development of a vaccine and for clinical studies to determine dose level and assess the safety and effectiveness of potential vaccines.

<https://www.medicalcountermeasures.gov/BARDA/MCM/panflu/factsheet.aspx>

For the latest on the 2009 Influenza A H1N1 virus, see [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov). To learn more about the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza visit <http://www.flu.gov/plan/federal/pandemic-influenza.pdf>.

### WHO: Swine Flu "Unstoppable"

The World Health Organization (WHO) says the swine flu pandemic has grown "unstoppable" and all nations will need access to vaccines; while most cases have been considered mild, a study released this month said the virus causes more lung damage than ordinary seasonal flu strains. As the death toll increases, a World Health Organization official said a swine flu vaccine should be available as early as September and all countries would need to be able to protect themselves. AFP reports that a group of vaccination experts concluded after a recent meeting that "the H1N1 pandemic is unstoppable and therefore all countries would need to have access to vaccines," said Marie-Paul Kieny, WHO director on vaccine research. Health workers should be at the top of the list for vaccination since they will be in high demand as people continue to fall sick, she added.

<http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/single.php?id=8317>

### WHO Recommendations on Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Vaccines

On July 7, the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization held an extraordinary meeting in Geneva to discuss issues and make recommendations related to vaccine for the pandemic (H1N1) 2009. SAGE reviewed the current pandemic situation, the current status of seasonal vaccine production and potential vaccine production capacity, and considered potential options for vaccine use. The experts identified three different objectives that countries could adopt as part of their pandemic vaccination strategy:

- Protect the integrity of the health-care system and the country's critical infrastructure.
- Reduce morbidity and mortality.

- Reduce transmission of the pandemic virus within communities.

Countries could use a variety of vaccine deployment strategies to reach these objectives but any strategy should reflect the country's epidemiological situation, resources and ability to access vaccine, to implement vaccination campaigns in the targeted groups, and to use other non-vaccine mitigation measures. Although the severity of the pandemic is currently considered to be moderate with most patients experiencing uncomplicated, self-limited illness, some groups such as pregnant women and persons with asthma and other chronic conditions such as morbid obesity appear to be at increased risk for severe disease and death from infection. Since the spread of the pandemic virus is considered unstoppable, vaccine will be needed in all countries. SAGE emphasized the importance of striving to achieve equity among countries to access vaccines developed in response to the pandemic (H1N1) 2009.

[http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/notes/h1n1\\_vaccine\\_20090713/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/notes/h1n1_vaccine_20090713/en/index.html)

### **Actions for H1N1 Influenza Planning and Response for Medical Offices and Outpatient Facilities**

It is critical to assure that medical offices and other outpatient facilities (e.g., outpatient/ambulatory clinics, outpatient surgery centers, urgent care centers, physical therapy/rehabilitation offices or clinics) that provide routine, episodic, and/or chronic healthcare services can manage an increased demand for services in the midst of a novel H1N1 influenza outbreak. Ensuring a sustainable community healthcare response will be important for a likely recurrence of novel H1N1 flu in the fall. See CDC's H1N1 Web site for up-to-date information.

- Develop a Business Continuity Plan.
- Inform employees about your plan for coping with additional surge during pandemic.
- Plan to operate your facility if there is significant staff absenteeism.
- Protect your workplace by asking sick employees to stay home.
- Plan for a surge of patients and increased demands for your services.
- Care for patients with novel H1N1 flu in your facility.
- Take steps to protect the health of your workforce during an outbreak of H1N1.
- Provide immunization against seasonal flu at no cost to your staff.
- Make sure you know about the pandemic planning and response activities of the hospitals, outpatient facilities and local public health in your community.
- Plan now so you will know where to turn to for reliable, up-to-date information in your local community.

Be prepared for a range of situations. The true impact of novel H1N1 flu outbreaks in the coming months will not be known until it happens. Be prepared for a possibility that your facility will have significant increased demand for services and the possibility that the fall outbreak may have greater impact than the outbreak in the spring, 2009.

For more information see the Medical Offices and Clinics Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist.

(<http://pandemicflu.gov/plan/healthcare/medical.html>). Also sign up to receive regular updates about novel H1N1 influenza, emerging infectious diseases, and other emergency preparedness and response information by going to [www.emergency.cdc.gov/clinregistry](http://www.emergency.cdc.gov/clinregistry).

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/10steps.htm>

### **Disaster Preparedness Education for Business Owners & Managers**

The declaration of a pandemic by the World Health Organization in response to ongoing outbreaks of illness due to the new H1N1 Influenza A virus highlights the importance of having an emergency plan and being prepared. The Fairfax County Health Department conducted a series of free Business Survival Seminars beginning in June 2009. The goal is to educate business owners about how disasters, such as a hurricane, a flu pandemic, or a terrorist attack, could impact their businesses and how to prepare for them. Disasters have the potential of disrupting our daily lives and can prevent businesses from operating, resulting in financial losses. Small to medium sized businesses (SMB) are especially vulnerable because they have few resources to assess disaster risks and develop comprehensive mitigation and recovery. SMBs that aren't able to resume operations within ten days of a disaster are not likely to survive. It is estimated that 25 percent of SMBs do not re-open following a major disaster. Therefore



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small businesses need emergency plans not only to survive disasters, but also to recover quickly.

[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/ep/pdf/smb\\_presentation\\_2009.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/ep/pdf/smb_presentation_2009.pdf)

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/ep/business-survival.htm>

### **Survey: 16 Percent Of Public Health Workers Would Not Report To Work During Pandemic Flu Emergency**

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore have found that 16 percent of public health care workers say they would not report to work during a pandemic flu emergency regardless of its severity, according to a survey. That number, however, is an improvement over the 40 percent of public health care workers who in a 2005 survey, by the same researchers, said they would be too afraid to report to work during a pandemic emergency. Findings of the survey were published in the July 24 edition of the journal "PLoS ONE."

<http://www.vitabeat.com/survey-finds-16-of-public-health-workers-would-not-report-to-work-during-pandemic-flu-emergency/v/10675/>

### **Scientists Unveil New Weapon in Swine Flu Fight**

Taiwanese scientists said they had developed an organic compound which could help control the global swine flu epidemic as the worldwide death toll from the disease passed 700. The compound, which the researchers call NTU-VirusBom, can destroy viruses such as A (H1N1) swine flu and avian influenza and stop the spread of bacteria including those responsible for staph infections. It could be used widely in hygiene products, detergents and air filters, as well as face-masks and protective gear, the researchers from National Taiwan University said. Researchers said the invention was of special significance amid signs that swine flu had started to develop resistance to Tamiflu, the world's major anti-viral flu drug. The team had started research on developing the anti-viral compound back in 2006 in response to the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu. The technology has been transferred to a local company to mass produce products incorporating it. Lin said the first products using the compound could hit the market in September. The virus first emerged in Mexico in April and the vast majority of deaths from it have been recorded in the Americas. WHO has said the virus is moving around the globe at "unprecedented speed."

<http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/single.php?id=8377>

### **NIAID Set to Launch Clinical Trials to Test 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine Candidates**

Scientists in a network of medical research institutions across the United States are set to begin a series of clinical trials to gather critical data about influenza vaccines, including two candidate H1N1 flu vaccines. The research will be under the direction of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health. "With the emergence of the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, we have undertaken a collaborative and efficient process of vaccine development that is proceeding in stepwise fashion," says NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, M.D. After the isolation and characterization of the virus, the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention generated and distributed a 2009 H1N1 seed virus to vaccine manufacturers for the development of vaccine pilot lots for testing in clinical trials. The trials are being conducted in a compressed timeframe in a race against the possible autumn resurgence of 2009 H1N1 flu infections that may occur at the same time as seasonal influenza virus strains begin to circulate widely in the Northern Hemisphere.

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/jul2009/niaid-22.htm>

### **FDA Authorizes Emergency Use of Another Test for 2009 H1N1 Influenza Virus**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (on July 27) announced it had issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for another diagnostic test for the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, whose spread has caused the virus to be characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization. The EUA for the Focus Diagnostics Influenza H1N1 (2009) Real-Time Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) diagnostic test is the third diagnostic test authorized under an EUA by the FDA since the public health emergency involving the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus was declared on April 26, 2009. The EUA allows Focus Diagnostics to distribute the test to laboratories certified under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) to perform high complexity tests. This test is not typically utilized in a doctor's office—it is a complex laboratory test performed in an environment that has the necessary equipment. These tests are intended for use in the detection of the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus in patients with symptoms of respiratory infection.

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm173543.htm>

## TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

### **National Capital Region Homeland Security Events**

[http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events\\_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE\\_ID=134](http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=134)

### **Virginia Emergency Management Courses**

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

### **FEMA Independent Study Courses**

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>

### **American Red Cross Disaster Services Training**

[http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster\\_registration.php](http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster_registration.php)

### **2009 National Conference on Community Preparedness**

Aug. 9-13; Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, Va.

The 2009 National Conference on Community Preparedness: "The Power of Citizen Corps," is being hosted by FEMA's Community Preparedness Division. The conference is intended to help communities become safer, stronger, and better prepared for all types of hazards. NCCP will bring together approximately 750 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 public.

<http://www.iaem.com/NCCP2009.htm>

### **2009 Governor's Campus Preparedness Conference**

Aug. 3; Virginia Commonwealth University

The conference will consist of morning general sessions and afternoon breakout sessions. Workshops will include:

- Special briefing on the H1N1 flu for higher education
- Social Media: A How-To for Universities
- Campus Threat Assessment Teams: Practical Insight to Operationalize Teams in Higher Education
- Gangs on College Campuses
- Engaging Faculty in Preparedness Initiatives: Crisis Intervention Teams on Campus
- All Hazards Approach to Campus Safety and Security
- College and University Communications
- All Hazard Consortium: Involving Youth in Preparedness

Online conference registration is available through July 21 at

<http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/trainingevents/gpolicy/GovCampusPrepare2009.cfm>.

### **International Swine Flu Conference**

Conference: August 19-20; Workshop: August 21, 2009; Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill

Some of the breakout session topics: Mass Fatality Management Planning; Continuity of Operations (COOP) and Continuity of Government Planning; Hospital and Emergency Medical Services; Airlines, Travel, Air port, Quarantine and Border Health Services; and School/University Pandemic Planning.

<http://new-fields.com/isfc/registration.pdf>

### **Cultural Learning Available Online**

The U. S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health has launched a free cultural competency e-learning program, "The Cultural Competency Curriculum for Disaster Preparedness and Crisis Response." The program helps first responders, social workers and disaster mental health workers provide culturally and linguistically competent care and services during disasters. For more information, please visit

[www.thinkculturalhealth.org](http://www.thinkculturalhealth.org).

## LINKS

### Fairfax County Blogs and Web Resources

- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - <http://www.fairfaxcountycitizencorps.org/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>
- Virginia Citizen Corps - <http://www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm>

### DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology Directorate has a free newsletter, "S&T Snapshots," featuring stories about current research projects and opportunities with laboratories, universities, government agencies, and the private sector. The newsletter is produced monthly by the DHS Science and Technology Directorate in partnership with the Homeland Security Institute, a Studies and Analysis Federally Funded Research and Development Center.

<http://www.homelandsecurity.org/snapshots/>

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based "Daily OSIR," which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title "Current Report." This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays. Simply click on the title "DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report." This will launch the current days report in PDF format. You can continue to submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-5389 or by e-mail at [NICCRports@dhs.gov](mailto:NICCRports@dhs.gov). You can access the Daily OSIR at: [http://www.dhs.gov/xinfo/share/programs/editorial\\_0542.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xinfo/share/programs/editorial_0542.shtm).

### Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Web Page

The county's emergency information page features easy navigation and a clean look so that residents can easily find emergency information.

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/)

### Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm)



### Emergency Management Magazine

<http://www.govtech.com/em/toc.php>

### FEMA Private Sector

<http://www.fema.gov/privatesector/>

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In accordance with NIMS – the National Incident Management System – the Fairfax County Emergency Operations Plan states that Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) is led by the Office of Public Affairs. This ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update is part of the county's outreach efforts for our business and nonprofit partners as a way to provide information about the county's ESF 15, Homeland Security and emergency management. Please feel free to forward this ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update to other contacts you have inside or outside your organization. If you have any suggestions on how to improve this update or other communications between Fairfax County and the business/nonprofit community, please contact Merni Fitzgerald, Director of the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, or by e-mail at [merni.fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:merni.fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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