



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

September 2009

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Commonwealth Receives \$2.8 million Federal Reimbursement for Inauguration

Governor Timothy M. Kaine announced on Sept. 3 that Virginia will receive more than \$2.8 million in federal grants to reimburse local and state agencies for extraordinary expenses accrued by law enforcement, security and public safety agencies during the Presidential Inauguration and transition period. Virginia incurred expenses of \$5.7 million for costs associated with the Inauguration. The application for reimbursement was made on behalf of 13 applicants representing 51 state or local agencies, including the counties of Arlington and Fairfax, the cities of Alexandria and Manassas and George Mason University.

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/MediaRelations/NewsReleases/viewRelease.cfm?id=1056>

Virginia Receives More Than \$7 Million in Anti-Terrorism Grants

Nine Virginia localities will share more than \$7 million in federal grants to fund bomb squad equipment and training to improve local capabilities in deterring and responding to terrorist and criminal acts. The recipient localities each maintain a regional bomb squad certified by the FBI:

Arlington County	\$258,700
Bristol City	\$197,000
Fairfax County	\$446,000
Henrico County	\$1,266,100
Loudoun County	\$1,481,960
Newport News City	\$628,797
Norfolk City	\$689,993
Richmond City	\$1,176,300
Virginia Beach City	\$1,200,400
Total	\$7,345,250

These grants come from DHS' State Homeland Security Program. The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services will administer the grants. For more information, visit www.dcjs.virginia.gov/grants.

Reprinted from the EM Update, Sept. 23, 2009 issue published by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

Napolitano Announces More Than \$380 Million in Preparedness Grants Funded by the Recovery Act

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano recently announced more than \$380 million in grants—funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)—to pay for fire station construction and port and transit security initiatives nationwide while creating jobs and stimulating local economies. The ARRA grants announced today will protect critical infrastructure facilities and transit systems and strengthen community response efforts by supporting new fire station construction and upgrades.

- The Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) is awarding \$150 million in ARRA funding to protect critical port infrastructure from terrorism; enhance maritime domain awareness and risk management capabilities; and support the implementation of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)—a tamper-resistant biometric credential issued to workers who require unescorted access to secure areas of ports and vessels.
- The Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) is awarding \$72 million in ARRA funding for capital projects, such as improvements to high-density tunnels, stations and bridges. Secretary Napolitano announced nearly \$78 million in ARRA TSGP funding for approximately 240 new law enforcement officers at 15 transit

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systems across the country to enhance the nation's ability to guard against acts of terrorism in July—for a total of \$150 million in ARRA funding for TSGP.

- The Fire Station Construction Grant Program (SCG) is awarding \$166 million for fire departments to build new or modify existing fire stations to enhance response capabilities and protect communities from fire-related hazards. These grants will replace unsafe or uninhabitable structures and expand fire protection coverage in compliance with National Fire Protection Association standards.

ARRA, signed into law by President Obama on Feb. 19, committed more than \$3 billion for homeland security projects through DHS and the General Services Administration (GSA)—including \$610 million to FEMA for grants to local communities across the country.

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1253638502878.shtm

Beckham Appointed Director of FEMA's Office of National Capital Region Coordination (NCRC)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate has announced the appointment of Steward D. Beckham as director of FEMA's Office of National Capital Region Coordination (NCRC). Beckham's 26-year career includes various leadership positions in Maryland and the District of Columbia prior to entering private law practice. The NCRC provides leadership in integrating homeland security efforts with federal, state and local partners in the National Capital Region (NCR). The NCR is home to more than 230 federal departments and agencies and includes the District of Columbia and surrounding jurisdictions in Maryland and Virginia.

<http://www.fema.gov/about/offices/ncr/index.shtm>

National Capital Region Leaders Meet to Discuss Emergency Preparedness

Gov. Tim Kaine met with Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, Washington, D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty and Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley on Sept. 1 to discuss coordination on emergency preparedness and response efforts in the National Capital Region. The meeting was held on the first day of National Preparedness Month and focused on situations that require a coordinated response, including natural disasters, acts of terrorism and public health crises, including the potential impact of H1N1 flu during this fall's flu season. Every year, the principal leaders of the NCR meet to discuss collaboration on preventing, preparing for and responding to incidents in the area. Since 2003, the NCR has received \$335 million in DHS Urban Area Security Initiative grants for evacuation; shelter and decontamination; medical surge and mass care; exercise and training; information sharing; communications; and critical infrastructure protection.

Reprinted from the EM Update, Sept. 9, 2009, published by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

Quadrennial Homeland Security Review

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is conducting the first Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, a congressionally mandated, comprehensive review of homeland security that will guide DHS security policies, programs and missions for the next four years. Secretary Napolitano will provide her conclusions from the review to Congress in a final report by Dec. 31. As part of the review, DHS is conducting a series of online dialogues. State and local governments, first responders, business leaders, academics, other policy experts and the public are invited to register, log on and participate. The third dialogue is underway (Sept. 28 through Oct. 4) and seeks participants' final review of the mission goals, objectives, key strategic outcomes and final proposed enhancements to the two key processes. State and local governments, first responders, business leaders, academics, other policy experts and the public are invited to register, log on and participate at www.homelandsecuritydialogue.org.

DHS Sponsors Preparedness Training for Public Assembly Places

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has awarded a \$250,000 grant to the International Association of Assembly Managers (IAAM) Foundation to increase emergency preparedness in venues. Through the grant, IAAM will deliver intensive training in safety and security protocols for emergency preparedness, crises communication, and introduction to a free risk self assessment and benchmarking tool that promote readiness for a broad range of hazard scenarios. Training will be offered regionally, with open invitations extended to facility managers, public safety personnel and industry professionals. Subject matter experts in risk management and emergency response affiliated with the IAAM Academy for Venue Safety and Security will serve as faculty for the training program.

https://www.iaam.org/Industry_News/New_Media/PR_IAAM_Foundation_Award.htm

DHS Announces New Information-Sharing Tool to Help Fusion Centers Combat Terrorism

The Departments of Homeland Security (DHS) and Defense (DoD) earlier this month announced an initiative to grant select state and major urban area fusion center personnel access to classified terrorism-related information residing in DoD's classified network. Under this initiative, select fusion center personnel with a federal security clearance will be able to access specific terrorism-related information resident on the DoD Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNet)—a secure network used to send classified data. This classified data will be accessed via DHS' Homeland Security Data Network (HSDN). DHS will be responsible for ensuring that proper security procedures are followed. This joint initiative will promote collaboration between DHS, DoD and other federal departments and agencies, enabling the trusted and secure exchange of terrorism-related information in order to detect, deter, prevent and respond to homeland security threats.

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1252955298184.shtm

Harris Poll Says Americans Still Patriotic

With the eighth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Americans are still as proud to be American citizens now as they were just months after the attacks when waves of patriotism were sweeping the nation, that according to a new Harris Poll. In May 2002, 97 percent of American citizens said they were proud to be an American citizen while currently 95 percent say they are proud. What has lessened a little is the number of Americans who are very proud – in 2002, 84 percent were very proud while currently 78 percent say they are very proud. Thinking of the “Star Spangled Banner,” when Americans hear the national anthem being played, 87 percent say they usually feel proud to be an American. In 2002, nine in ten Americans (90 percent) said they felt proud when they heard the national anthem. There is an age difference, however. Among those aged 65 and older, 99 percent say they feel proud to be an American when they hear the national anthem as do 91 percent of those aged 50-64, 88 percent of those aged 40-49 and 86 percent of those aged 30-39. Among younger Americans this feeling is not as strong as 73 percent of those aged 18-24 and 72 percent of those aged 25-29 say they feel proud when they hear the “Star Spangled Banner.”

http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris_poll/pubs/Harris_Poll_2009_09_10.pdf

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/xinfo/share/programs/Copy_of_press_release_0046.shtm

<http://vaemergency.com/>

Private Sector Preparedness Tip of the Week

To help your organization become better prepared for and more resilient in the face of emergencies of all kinds, look for FEMA's "Private Sector Preparedness Tip of the Week":

- Tip of the Week (Sept. 15): Learn ways to protect people, business property, and building structures and prevent business loss from a natural disaster. Find training and resources at www.fema.gov/privatesector/training.shtm
- Tip of the Week (Sept. 8): Understand when to evacuate or shelter in place, and establish a system for communicating instructions to your employees and customers. Make sure to plan how you will communicate with people who are deaf and hard of hearing, or who do not speak English. Visit www.Ready.gov/business for tips on how to develop your plans.
- Tip for the Week (Aug. 31): Keep a current copy of your critical business files on an easily portable external storage device, such as a thumb drive or CD-ROM that you can take with you in an evacuation. Also consider using a remote server to minimize interruptions if your facilities are impacted by flood, fire, power outage or other hazard.

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

Three Federal Agencies Join with Sesame Workshop to Launch National PSA Campaign Stressing Healthy Habits to Prevent H1N1 Flu Infection

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Education (ED) and Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization behind Sesame Street, have teamed up to launch a new, national public service advertising campaign designed to encourage American children and families to practice healthy habits and to take steps to prevent the spread of the 2009 H1N1 flu virus. The PSAs featured in this campaign can be viewed on www.flu.gov. During the spring, the Sesame Workshop produced four different versions of a television PSAs featuring Sesame Street's Elmo and Gordon explaining the importance of practicing healthy habits such as washing your hands, sneezing into the bend of your arm, and avoiding contact with your eyes, nose and mouth. They have now been reformatted to promote www.flu.gov, the federal government's one-stop Web site for all the latest information on the new H1N1 virus and the seasonal flu. The PSAs will be distributed nationwide and will be supported in airtime donated by television stations. The PSAs are part of an initiative to provide practical steps recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help prevent the spread of the flu virus and other infectious disease, including:



- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Keep your distance from others if you are sick.
- When possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick, and don't send your children to childcare or school if they are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing and sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

For more information on how to take steps to prevent the flu, visit www.flu.gov.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/09/20090901a.html>

DHS and Girl Scouts of the USA Announce New Preparedness Patch

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano and Girl Scouts of the USA CEO Kathy Cloninger earlier this month unveiled a Girl Scout preparedness patch—designed to engage Girl Scouts and their families in personal preparedness for all emergencies—and announced a new affiliation between DHS Citizen Corps and the Girl Scouts to advance community preparedness nationwide. The preparedness patch program, developed by

the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), provides critical emergency preparedness information and activities for all levels of Girl Scouts. The steps and activities required to receive the patch include identifying and preparing for potential emergencies; learning about local alerts and warning systems; and engaging in community service. In addition to collaborating on the new patch, Secretary Napolitano and Cloninger also signed an agreement formalizing an affiliation between Citizen Corps and the Girl Scouts that creates a partnership to motivate young women to become community leaders in emergency management and response fields and raises public awareness about personal preparedness, training and community service opportunities. The announcements came as part of September's National Preparedness Month, during which Secretary Napolitano is encouraging citizens around the country to focus on becoming better prepared for and more resilient in the face of emergencies of all kinds.

<http://www.citizencorps.gov/news/press/2009/girlscoutsannounce.shtm>

Twitter, Texting Useful for Disaster Communication

Text messaging, Twitter and social networking Web sites could help families stay in touch in the wake of a disaster, a national safety group working with the government. The Safe America Foundation this month announced a national campaign to train families about alternate ways of staying in touch if traditional communication methods are not working. More than 200,000 people are expected to participate in drills of alternative emergency communication tools starting on Sept. 11 and lasting through mid-October.

<http://www.homeland1.com/homeland-security-products/emergency-wireless-communications/articles/587657-twitter-texting-useful-for-disaster-communication/>

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5j0ngcZ1EhqXUSY_qMUtJQoSt4sVgD9AELMKO2

Safe America Foundation: <http://www.safeamericaprepared.org>

Colorado State University Changes Forecast Format

Colorado State University's tropical meteorology research group will issue 15-day forecasts approximately every two weeks until Oct. 19. These new 15-day forecasts have replaced the monthly forecasts that CSU has been issuing in recent years. The Sept. 4 forecast called for below-average activity for the next 15 days, a period that coincides with the climatological peak of the Atlantic hurricane season. Additional 15-day forecasts are scheduled for Oct. 4 for the Oct. 5-19 period; the final 15-day forecast for the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season will be issued on Oct. 19 for the Oct. 20-Nov. 3 period. The forecasts will be available online at <http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts>.

Reprinted from the EM Update, Sept. 9, 2009 issue published by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Virginia Officials Unveil H1N1 Flu Plans

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine joined the state's health commissioner on Sept. 2 in announcing Virginia's plan to prepare for an upswing in H1N1 flu cases this fall. The state has registered more than 2,000 doctors, clinics, pharmacies, retail stores and other providers to participate in the state's voluntary vaccination program to ward against the H1N1 virus, or swine flu. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended that pregnant women, children and young adults through age 24, people with underlying health conditions, health-care workers and emergency medical service providers be given priority for the vaccine. Phillip Giaramita, spokesman for the Virginia Department of Health, said the state will get about 800,000 to a million doses of the H1N1 vaccine in October. He said just about anyone who wants the vaccine should be able to get one. Health officials also are encouraging people to get vaccinated for the regular flu as soon as possible because that vaccine is already available.

<http://hamptonroads.com/2009/09/virginia-officials-unveil-swine-flu-plans>

Coast Guard Exercise on Potomac River Raises Concerns

The U.S. Coast Guard sent gunboats to the Potomac River in Washington as part of a training exercise on the eighth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, prompting the FBI and other law enforcement agencies that hadn't received

advance notice to race to the scene. The exercise was conducted about the time President Barack Obama was at a Sept. 11 ceremony at the Pentagon, which required his motorcade to cross the river on a nearby bridge. The exercise spurred media reports of a possible incident on the river, including a report on CNN that shots were fired at another boat. There was no gunfire, though weapons were mounted on the front of several of the Coast Guard boats, said Petty Officer Second Class Nathan Henise. A top Coast Guard official defended the exercise at a news conference outside the Coast Guard's Washington headquarters. What took place was a "low-profile training exercise that goes on every day," Vice Admiral John Currier said. There was "no reason for specific notification" to other agencies, he said. Currier and White House press secretary Robert Gibbs faulted the news media for rushing out with reports based on partial information picked up over Coast Guard radio frequencies.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=aJhsmBulbkNE>

New York Times story: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/12/us/12potomac.html?em>

Teach Your Kids Disaster Planning

In your next round of supertime banter with your kids, Underwriters Laboratories want you to bring up the subject of what to do if there's a fire, a bad storm or even a tornado. A press release from UL, an independent product safety organization, encourages parents to "sharpen their family's skills" in disaster planning. A national survey released by UL says when asked what to do in a fire, for example, only 47 percent of children chose the safest option – to get out of the building immediately – even though 90 percent thought they knew the right answer. UL offers a series of useful tips to help families have productive discussions about emergencies, such as making sure children can spell their name, parents' names and know their home addresses and phone numbers.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS147717+01-Sep-2009+PRN20090901>

Pentagon Keeps Wary Watch as Troops Blog

There are two sides to the military's foray into the freewheeling world of the interactive Web. At the highest echelons of the Pentagon, civilian officials and four-star generals are newly hailing the power of social networking to make members of the American military more empathetic, entice recruits and shape public opinion on the war. The Web, however, is a big place. And the many thousands of troops who use blogs, Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites to communicate with the outside world are not always in tune with the Pentagon's official voice. Policing their daily flood of posts, videos and photographs is virtually impossible – but that has not stopped some in the military from trying.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/09/us/09milblogs.html>

Harvard study: Most Companies Not Ready for H1N1 Flu

A Harvard University study has found that many American businesses are unprepared to deal with widespread employee absenteeism during a swine flu outbreak. The Harvard School of Public Health study, released on Sept. 9, found that two-thirds of the more than 1,000 businesses surveyed nationwide said they could not maintain normal operations if half their workers were out for two weeks. Four out of every five expect severe problems if half their workers are out for a month. The survey also found that while 74 percent of businesses offer paid sick leave for employees, only 35 percent of businesses offer paid leave that would allow employees to take care of sick family members, and even fewer would allow paid time off to care for children if schools/daycares were closed (21 percent).

http://l.pr/a43t0/Harvard_Study

Complete Survey: http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/files/H1N1_Topline_9.9.09_Final.doc

FCC Assesses Its Emergency Preparedness

The Federal Communications Commission has released a report on its ability to respond in natural disasters, terrorist attacks, public health emergencies, and other events," reports Radio Ink. The report, while concluding that the FCC is prepared to keep essential communications open in an emergency, found that the commission could improve its planning and response in the areas of education and training, outreach and collaborations, emergency operations and alerts, and network analysis.

http://www.radioink.com/Article.asp?id=1491238&spid=24698#Scene_1

View the report: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-293332A1.pdf

Social Media Give Emergency Managers Insight About Public Perceptions

“Social media can be an information source about the public,” writes Jeannette Sutton in Government Technology, drawing “from research on three cases: the Virginia Tech shooting, the Southern California wildfires of 2007, and the 2008 Democratic National Convention.” Social media have “provided one of the first opportunities to observe how people interpret information from authorities.... Even information that’s perceived to be chatter, misinformation or rumor can lead to a greater awareness of what’s happening on the ground because it gives emergency managers insight into people’s interpretations of warnings and other risk messages. Risk communicators now have the opportunity to craft messages based on how people respond to them. They can observe the public communicating about shared information, and new information can be pushed out to correct inaccuracies.

http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/718535?id=718535&full=1&story_pg=1

9/11 Museum Seeks Stories and Images

The National Sept. 11 Memorial & Museum launched its Web site earlier this month

(<http://makehistory.national911memorial.org/>) with its collection of citizen journalism of the tragedy and is appealing for more 9/11 stories from all over the world, reports the Associated Press. The site has photographs, video and audio recollections by professional photographers, fleeing trade center workers and witnesses who recorded what they saw with cell phone and digital cameras. Some of the submissions already are on display at the 9/11 Memorial Preview Site, opened last month near ground zero as a temporary exhibit. The memorial is expected to open on the 10th anniversary of the attacks in 2011, and the museum a year later.

http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/09/10/us/AP-US-Sept-11-Video.html?_r=3&scp=2&sq=9/11%20museum&st=cse

Facebook Helps Government Agencies Set Up Outreach Sites

The popular social-networking service Facebook has introduced a page designed to help agencies set up and best use their own Facebook outreach pages, reports Federal Computer Week. The site offers a list of agency pages, best practices guides, links to more information and updates of what is going on with government Facebook pages. So far, 23 federal agencies have set up Facebook sites.

<http://few.com/articles/2009/09/09/facebook-government-page.aspx>

View Facebook Government page: <http://www.facebook.com/government>

9-1-1 vs. Facebook

Firefighters in Adelaide, Australia are not pleased. They had no way of knowing that two girls, aged 10 and 12, were trapped in a storm drain until someone called, hours later. The girls had a cell phone but rather than dial triple zero (Australia’s equivalent to 911), they sent a distress message through their Facebook profiles. In an article on www.cnet.com, Don Reisinger says the girls were successfully rescued after dark, but Australia’s Metropolitan Fire Service is urging the Australian public to always call Triple Zero, the only way to ensure a timely emergency response.

http://news.cnet.com/8301-17939_109-10347498-2.html

H1N1 / PANDEMIC FLU

Fairfax County H1N1 Flu Web Page

Be sure to visit the county’s H1N1 flu Web page for information on H1N1 and Fairfax County efforts regarding the influenza virus.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu>

H1N1 Influenza

What Are the Symptoms of Seasonal Influenza or 2009 H1N1 Influenza?

The symptoms of seasonal and 2009 H1N1 influenza include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people may also have vomiting and diarrhea. Some people may be infected with the flu, including 2009 H1N1, and have respiratory symptoms without a fever.



Know What to Do About the Flu

Representative Gerald Connolly's video on simple ways to protect yourself from the flu can be seen at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3DvGA5nzNM>. Go to <http://www.flu.gov> for more information on how to prevent getting and spreading the flu.

Antiviral Drugs Should Be Used Cautiously to Fight Flu

Most people won't need medicines like Tamiflu or Relenza, according to CDC

Antiviral medications such as Tamiflu and Relenza, which are effective in treating the H1N1 swine flu, should be taken only by people hospitalized with the flu or those at high risk for complications from the disease, U.S. health officials said on Sept. 8. Those at risk include people with underlying health conditions, such as asthma or diabetes, as well as the very young, the elderly, and pregnant women, officials said. Because the H1N1 swine flu remains mild for the vast majority of people who get it, most people won't need these medications at all, according to new guidelines for antiviral drug use issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The new guidelines also recommend that, when high-risk people have been in contact with someone who has the H1N1 swine flu, doctors should wait to see if flu symptoms develop before starting treatment with antivirals. The first 45 million doses of the vaccine are expected by mid-October.

SOURCE: Sept. 8, 2009, teleconference with Anne Schuchat, M.D., director, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_89111.html

Early Results: In Children, 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine Works Like Seasonal Flu Vaccine

Early results from a trial testing a 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine in children look promising, according to the trial sponsor, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health. Preliminary analysis of blood samples from a small group of trial participants shows that a single 15-microgram dose of a non-adjuvanted 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine — the same dose that is in the seasonal flu vaccine — generates an immune response that is expected to be protective against 2009 H1N1 influenza virus in the majority of 10- to 17-year-olds eight to 10 days following vaccination. These results are similar to those recently reported in clinical trials of healthy adults. Younger children generally had a less robust early response to the vaccine. "This is very encouraging news," says NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, M.D. "The 2009 H1N1 influenza virus is causing widespread infections among children, so these are welcome results." The ongoing NIAID-sponsored trial began in mid-August at five sites nationwide. The trial is assessing the safety and immune responses to one and two doses of either 15 micrograms or 30 micrograms of vaccine. Data from the trial is being compared for three age groups: children 6 months to 35 months old; 3 to 9 years old; and 10 to 17 years old.

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/sep2009/niaid-21.htm>

Army Expects H1N1 Vaccine in October

Soldiers and families can expect to get two flu shots this year. In addition to the conventional flu shot administered each fall, the H1N1 or "Swine Flu" vaccine should be available by mid-October, said Col. Deborah Knickerbocker, chief of Emergency Preparedness and Response, the Office of the Surgeon General and Army Medical Command. Knickerbocker spoke during the Army Emergency Management Conference, Sept. 1, at the Pentagon. The conference coincided with the start of National Preparedness Month. Getting flu shots, in addition to taking measures to prevent exposure to the virus or spreading the virus is part of preparedness, Knickerbocker said. And it is important to maintaining mission readiness. Knickerbocker said the H1N1 vaccine will be distributed to soldiers, families and other beneficiaries mostly through primary care providers.

<http://luishipolito.wordpress.com/2009/09/04/army-expects-h1n1-vaccine-in-october/>

NIAID Launches 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine Trial in Pregnant Women

The first trial testing a candidate 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine in pregnant women launched this month, the National

Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, announced on Sept. 9. Up to 120 women 18 to 39 years of age who are in their second or third trimester (14 to 34 weeks) of pregnancy will be enrolled into this initial trial. Volunteers will receive 15 micrograms or 30 micrograms of a candidate 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur. All women will receive an initial injection and a second injection 21 days later. The trial is taking place at six medical centers across the country. Detailed information about this study can be found on the ClinicalTrials.gov Web site: <http://clinicaltrials.gov/>. Visit www.flu.gov for one-stop access to U.S. government information on avian and pandemic influenza. A Flu.gov Webcast on H1N1 and pregnant women featuring NIAID Director Dr. Anthony S. Fauci is available at <http://www.flu.gov/news/knowwhattodo.html#082709>. NIAID's flu Web portal: <http://www3.niaid.nih.gov/topics/Flu/>
<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/sep2009/niaid-09.htm>

H1N1 Flu Mobile Texting Pilot

Sign up now to have important CDC information about H1N1 flu and other topics delivered directly to your mobile phone! In September 2009, CDC launched a three-month text messaging campaign pilot to share important, timely health information directly to users. Your feedback is very important to us and we look forward to receiving your input during this pilot. To subscribe to the pilot, text HEALTH to 87000. Once you sign up for this pilot, you will be asked a few questions and begin receiving short health tips from CDC. Subscribers can expect to receive about three health messages a week during the three-month pilot. Standard text messaging rates will apply. You can opt out at any time by simply replying HEALTH QUIT. For more information about the pilot, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/mobile>.

2009 Flu Prevention PSA Contest

On July 9, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced a video PSA contest on flu prevention. Americans were called to create a 15, 30, or 60 second video promoting good hygienic practices and submit this video over YouTube. This video was to inform people about the flu and motivate them to take steps that help prevent the spread of the flu.

Congratulations to Dr. John Clarke of Baldwin, New York, for his video entitled H1N1 Rap by Dr. Clarke, who will receive \$2,500 in cash and will be featured on national television. Over 240 videos were submitted by the August deadline, after which a panel of experts narrowed the field to 10 finalists. Over the last two weeks, Americans weighed in to vote for their favorite PSA on YouTube. In the winning video, Clarke performed an original rap on how to prevent the spread of the flu. He is the medical director for the Long Island Railroad and his PSA was videotaped at Columbia University's campus in Manhattan.

<http://www.flu.gov/psa/contest/2009/index.html>

The video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwUdmPI0bU>



Flu.gov has a New Face and so Much More

It is the "one stop" for flu information featuring critical, current information on seasonal and H1N1 flu.

Some new Flu.gov features include:

- Ask the Expert: People are invited to submit their flu-related questions to be answered by the experts at CDC. A new, timely question and answer is selected for posting each day.
- Mapping: We have created a robust, interactive map in partnership with Harvard Children's Hospital which gives people access to location-specific information including:
 - State Resources (mirrors content on state pages)
 - State Hotline (where available)
 - Flu Clinic Locators (where available)
 - Resources for individuals, families and professionals
 - Links to state pages on flu.gov
- State News Monitor – Aggregation of Web News on H1H1 and seasonal flu compiled by HealthMap

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- State News (RSS) – RSS feed from any state’s Public Health Dept. that has a feed and then filtered for flu information w link to subscribe.
- Twitter – RSS feed from any state’s Public Health Dept. that has a Twitter feed. Filtered for flu information and link to subscribe.
- YouTube – YouTube from any state’s Public Health Dept. that has a YouTube channel.
- CDC Monitoring Data Section
- State Level Data - Influenza Activity
- Regional Level Data - Influenza-like Illness Visits, Influenza Lab Tests, and H1N1 Lab Tests

The Map also has a Help page: <http://www.flu.gov/wherewouldlive/healthmap/help.html>. And a flu blog area on the homepage will carry special emphasis topics on flu information while the Video library brings together in one place news briefings, informational videos, Webinar and public service announcements.

<http://www.flu.gov>

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

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.redcrossna.org/Online/disaster_registration.php

Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR) Learning Series Fall 2009 Offerings

The Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR) Learning Series continues in the fall of 2009 with a fresh lineup of one-hour Web-based seminars providing expert presentations on the tools, trends, issues, and best practices for infrastructure protection and resilience. Series offerings are available free of charge and designed for CIKR owners and operators and officials with responsibility for risk, security and emergency management functions.

To view and register for upcoming Webinars, visit: http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1231165582452.shtm.

For more information on infrastructure protection education, please contact IP_Education@HQ.dhs.gov.

Emergency Planning for Congregate Care Facilities

Oct. 27; Fairfax County Human Services Training Center, Chantilly, Va.

Representatives from assisted living, adult residential, child daycare, children’s residential and correctional facilities and other group care environments are invited to participate in a series of emergency planning workshops. Topics will include discussion of common communicable disease threats (influenza, norovirus, etc.) in congregate care settings and methods of prevention; the planning process – what to include in the plan, identifying threats and examining continuity of operations during a crisis; effective communications with clients, staff and families during a time of crisis; and a hands-on exercise using a planning template to write an emergency response plan. Online registration and details are available at <https://va.train.org>, course ID# 1018941. Contact Eileen Tarr at 804-897-6500, ext. 6529 or eileen.tarr@vdem.virginia.gov with questions. The Virginia departments of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Corrections, Emergency Management, Health, and Social Services, and the Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy are sponsoring the workshop.

Annual Control System Cyber Security Conference

Oct. 19-22; Bethesda, Md.

The Conference is focused on control systems. Control system policies, procedures, technologies, and cyber

vulnerabilities apply to electric power, water, oil/gas, chemicals, manufacturing, etc. Focusing on any one industry diminishes the value of information sharing. Consequently, there will be presentations from multiple industries. Because of the sensitivity of the discussions, the presentations will only be available to Conference attendees.

www.realtimeacs.com



Virginia Hazardous Materials Conference

Oct. 19-23; Hampton, Va.

This year's theme is "HazMat Synergy: Working Smarter During Tough Times"—hazardous materials incidents are not slowed by the faltering economy, and emergency services are stressed during tough economic times, dealing with budget shortfalls. Workshop content can be applied to the annual training hours required of hazardous materials response personnel. Individual scholarships are available.

<http://www.virginiahazmat.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=85>

EPA Emergency Preparedness and Prevention & Hazmat Spills Conference

Nov. 15-18; Baltimore, Md.

This conference sponsored by Environmental Protection Agency Region III offers training programs, off-site tours, workshops, general sessions, lectures, and an exhibit hall.

<http://www.2009conference.org/>

Anti-Terrorism Training For First Responders

Dec. 10; Chesterfield, Va.

This class consists of two sessions, which will prepare emergency responders for bombing events. During the first session, students will become familiar with improvised explosive devices and explosive materials and train on critical response actions during pre-and post-detonation operations. The second session will provide training on suicide bombing threats. Students will become familiar with the types of devices used and techniques and tactics specific to a suicide bombing. Both sessions will cover actions that emergency responders can take to prevent and/or deter bombing attacks against targets in their communities. Students must attend both sessions to receive credit. Online registration closes Nov. 13, 2009. For detailed course and registration information, visit

http://www.vaemergency.com/train/antiterrorism_for_firstResponders.cfm.

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. You can access the Daily OSIR at: http://www.dhs.gov/xinfoshare/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/

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

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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Emergency Information: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency

To Unsubscribe:

E-mail publicaffairs@fairfaxcounty.gov with “Remove from ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update” in the subject line and you will be immediately removed from the distribution list.

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. Should someone you know like to be added to our distribution list, have them send an e-mail to jim.person@fairfaxcounty.gov and ask to be subscribed to the ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update.

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.

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