



Ohio's Emergency Management News



Athens County, May 2004

Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director ★ Henry Guzmán, ODPS Director
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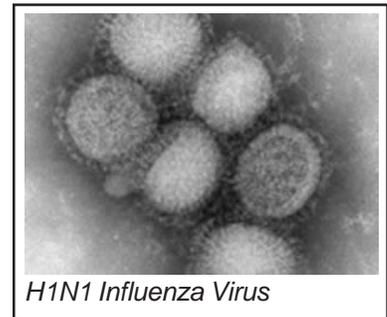
Ohio Department of Health Confirms 13 Ohio Cases of H1N1 Influenza

(From Ohio EMA's Spot Report and ODH and CDC Web Sites)

The Ohio Department of Health confirmed that Ohio has 13 cumulative cases of the H1N1 influenza virus. Currently, the confirmed cases are as follows:

Butler County - 1; Cuyahoga County - 2; Franklin County - 5; Fulton County - 1; Hamilton County - 1; Holmes County - 1; Lorain County - 1; and Portage County - 1.

Ohio has 1 probable case of H1N1 influenza and 28 suspected cases.



H1N1 Influenza Virus

Also, as of May 15, the World Health Organization reports that a total of 34 countries have reported 7,520 cases of the H1N1 infection. The United States reports 4,298 confirmed and probable cases in 47 states, with now four H1N1-related deaths.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the novel influenza A (H1N1) is a new flu virus of swine origin that was first detected in people in April 2009. The virus is spreading from person-to-person, much in the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread. An increasing number of cases continue to be reported internationally, as well.

It is uncertain at this time how severe this novel H1N1 outbreak will be in terms of illness and death compared with other flu viruses. Because this is a new virus, most people will not have immunity to it, and illness may be more severe and widespread as a result. There currently is no vaccine to protect against the H1N1 virus. CDC anticipates that there will be more cases, more hospitalizations and more deaths associated with this new virus in the coming days and weeks.

H1N1 virus symptoms are similar to those of the season flu in humans and include: fever above 100 degrees; sore throat; cough; stuffy nose; chills; headache and body ache; and fatigue. Some patients have reported diarrhea and vomiting. People with symptoms should see their doctors and stay home from work or school.

The Ohio Department of Health has a toll-free information line to answer questions about the H1N1 virus at **1-866-800-1404**. Hours of operation are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Novel influenza A (H1N1) activity is being detected through CDC's routine influenza surveillance systems and reported weekly in FluView. Additional information is available on the ODH and CDC Web sites at www.odh.ohio.gov and www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu.

Local Darke County School and Students Participate in Realistic School Shooting Exercise

(From Ohio EMA monthly report, Darke County Office of HS & EM and local paper)

On April 7, the Darke County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, local law enforcements from Darke County, OH and Randolph County, IN, and local fire departments, rescue services and other organizations teamed together to conduct its first full-scale, school shooting exercise.

Mississinawa Valley Schools in Union City hosted the exercise and provided high school students to act as hostages and victims. Ohio EMA's Field Operations, Training & Exercise branch facilitated.

Schools are not mandated to conduct terrorism exercises, but because school and office shootings are becoming too common, the Mississinawa Valley Schools chose to participate to better prepare for such an event.

The scenario involved a gunman entered the school and took numerous students hostage. Members of the Darke County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team (SRT) took part in the exercise, putting the building in lockdown and searched every classroom, looking for the gunman and hostages. Communications between law enforcement and the assailant were also set up and tested.

According to Darke County HS & EM Director June Mong, this was the largest exercise of this kind ever conducted in the area. The exercise included the evacuation and early dismissal of the entire school campus.

The SRT was able to convince the gunman to release a few hostages; fire and rescue workers treated victims outside of the school.



The Darke County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team search classrooms looking for the gunman and student hostages during a school shooting exercise at Mississinawa Valley Schools.



Darke County SRT comprehend the gunman as students line up against the lockers during the school shooting/terrorism drill. (Photos provided by Darke County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.)

Federal Medicare Regulation: Dialysis Center Facilities May Contact Local EMA for MOU

From: Columbus Public Health, Center for Assessment and Preparedness

Because of a change in federal Medicare regulations governing the operations of dialysis facilities (Part 494 of Federal Regulations, "Conditions for Coverage for Suppliers of End Stage Renal Disease [ESRD] Services"), it is now a requirement for Medicare certified dialysis facilities to establish initial and ongoing annual communication with their local emergency operations centers.

This means ESRD facilities may need to contact their local EMA directors to have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed. The regulation states that ESRD facilities are to include in the MOU what their needs would be during a disaster, and submit those needs to the county EMA annually. ESRD facilities are responsible for developing their disaster recovery plan.

Medicare Regulations and additional information are available at www.cms.hhs.gov/center/esrd.asp.



Practice Healthy Habits

to help prevent the spread of germs and influenza

Wash your hands properly and often.

- Wet hands with warm, running water
- Apply soap - any kind of soap is OK
- Scrub hands and wrists for at least 20 seconds
- Rinse with warm, running water
- Dry hands with a paper towel
- Turn off the faucet with the paper towel
- Throw paper towel away

No soap and water? Use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Cover your coughs and sneezes.

- Use a tissue. If you don't have a tissue, use your upper sleeve (not your hands)
- Throw the tissue away
- Wash your hands
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth. This is an easy way to spread germs

Stay at least 6 feet away from others if you are coughing and sneezing --or if they are.

Stay home when you're sick.

Ohio EMA's Training Courses May Soon Be Available for College Credit



The Ohio EMA training staff of the Field Operations, Training & Exercise Branch have been meeting with a few Ohio colleges, developing a partnership that will allow Ohio colleges and universities to deliver Ohio EMA courses that carry college credit.

The training staff recently met with Clark State Community College representatives in Springfield on the development of a homeland security/emergency management associate degree.

The Ohio EMA training staff has also met with Cincinnati State Technical & Community College (CSTCC), regarding credentials and the deliverance of joint EMA and CSTCC courses. Ohio EMA and CSTCC plan to run a pilot joint delivery course of the G290 Basic Public Information Officers course in March 2010. Owens Community College (Toledo/Findlay) is also looking to offer the joint Basic PIO course.

EMA Updates

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA	Water TAC Ohio EMA		
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27-29 Type III Communications Unit Leader Course Akron, OH			30
31	June 1	2	3	4 Ohio Citizen Corps Reg. Conf. (HS 4 & 6) Lebanon, OH	5	6
7	8	9-10 G272 Warning Coordination Ohio EMA		11	12	13

Register for Ohio EMA courses by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training>

* TAC - Technical Advisory Committee