



Ohio's Emergency Management News



Yellowood, Ohio / January 2005

Ted Strickland, Governor ★ Nancy Dragani, Ohio EMA Executive Director ★ Cathy Collins-Taylor, ODPS Director
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Department of Health, Governor, Public Health and Safety Officials Hold H1N1 News Briefing (From Ohio Department of Health Web site: www.odh.ohio.gov)

Columbus, OH - Ohio Department of Health Director Alvin Jackson, M.D., Governor Ted Strickland and Hamilton County Health Commissioner Tim Ingram discussed the state's readiness plans for H1N1 during a news conference Wednesday, October 7.

Gov. Ted Strickland said, "The state government has been working on a prevention plan ... but it's also an individual's responsibility to protect him or herself from the flu."

The governor announced Wednesday, that he signed an emergency proclamation to allow emergency medical technicians to administer the H1N1 influenza vaccine to Ohioans. The proclamation also allows registered Ohio Citizen Corps/Ohio Medical Reserve Corps volunteers to assist with the receipt, distribution, accounting for and administration of the H1N1 influenza vaccine.



Gov. Ted Strickland and ODH Director Dr. Alvin Jackson show Ohio's poster that demonstrates how to best ward off the flu: Wash Your Hands (Oct. 9 2009 ODH, Governor's press briefing)

The Ohio Department of Health ordered an initial order of 61,500 doses of H1N1 FluMist vaccine on October 2. The initial doses are for health care workers and emergency medical services personnel. The nasal vaccine is not recommended for pregnant women or people with chronic illnesses, such as asthma. The injection vaccine is not yet available. The governor urges Ohioans to be patient, yet diligent while seeking their vaccine. While waiting for the H1N1 vaccine, officials encourages everyone to receive the seasonal influenza vaccine.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends certain priority groups receive the H1N1 vaccine as soon as it is available.

Priority Groups

Pregnant women because they are at higher risk of complications and can potentially provide protection to infants and newborns too young to be vaccinated.

Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than six months of age because infants younger than six months are at higher risk of influenza-related complications and cannot be vaccinated. Vaccination of those in close contact with infants will lessen the chances they will pass H1N1 onto the infants.

Health care and emergency medical services personnel to prevent the spread of infection to vulnerable patients and to reduce absenteeism among health care professionals.

Children 6 months - 18 years of age because of the close contact in schools and daycare.

Young adults 19 - 24 years of age because they often live, study and work in close proximity.

People aged 25-64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

Homeland Security Threat Level: **ELEVATED**  Significant Risk of Terrorist Attack

HIGH or Orange for Aviation Sector



Northwest Ohio Homeland Security Exercise - Addressing Citizens with Special Needs
(From Sept. 27, 2009 - The Toledo Blade advertisement)

During disasters, the American Red Cross (ARC) is counted on to provide shelter, food and other resources to people who must evacuate their homes. In some cases, people with special needs come to emergency shelters, requiring assistance from community resources and volunteers. Emergency managers and responders are required to meet the needs of all populations - including citizens with special needs.



Photo courtesy - Ready.gov

On September 19, approximately 75 American Red Cross and community volunteers from Auglaize, Hancock, Henry, Lucas, Sandusky and Wood counties participated in a training exercise to help northwest Ohio communities address the medical and daily care needs of people with special needs who must take refuge in a mass care emergency shelter.

During the exercise, the ARC Greater Toledo Chapter set up more than 40 cots at one of its designated shelter sites, with spacing to accommodate people in wheelchairs or individuals with service animals. Adult and student volunteers from the Medical Reserve Corps, Citizen Corps, the area office on Aging, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, and Citizen Emergency Response Team participated as shelter residents.

Volunteers also staffed case management teams that conducted personal interviews and screenings for persons with special needs; an urgent care clinic team to assess pressing medical needs; a triage team to rapidly assess people arriving in large numbers to ensure that pressing needs of shelter residents were identified, prioritized and addressed in a timely manner; and the Volunteer Reception Center.

TARTA provided two buses and a mass transit vehicle for use during the exercise, to simulate the arrival of a large number of people from an incident site to a shelter. A local veterinarian represented the Northwest Ohio Disaster Animal Response Team; the Lucas County Sheriff's Office and the Buckeye Sheriff Association tested the county's shelter security plan.

ARC volunteer performed their usual shelter duties, including registration, mental health and nursing services. Consumer advocates added a sense of realism to the exercise. Evaluators recorded their observations, which will be used in the after action report and improvement plan for the many agencies that regularly participate in the NW Ohio Special Needs Planning Committee.

This marks the third year the committee has conducted this type of exercise. The NW Ohio planning model has received recognition from the state and national levels.

Ohio EMA Updates (from October 6th monthly report)

FEMA Public Assistance Program - As of September 25, the FEMA Public Assistance Program disbursed more than \$100 million (federal and state funds) for DR-1580, December 2004-January 2005 winter storm and flood event. This is a record-setting event for the state of Ohio. The next largest event within the last 20 years is DR-1805, September 2008 wind event (Hurricane Ike), which currently has disbursements of more than \$37 million. Over the past 20 years, the PA program has disbursed more than \$377 million in federal and state dollars, which averages more than \$18 million per year.



National Emergency Management Association

NEMA 2009 Annual Conference

October 9-13, 2009

Hyatt Regency Columbus
Nancy Dragani, 2008-2009 NEMA President

This year, the NEMA annual conference is hosted in Columbus, Ohio, home of the 2008-09 NEMA President Nancy Dragani.

The conference theme is **Serious Business for Serious Times**. Agenda highlights are as follows:

- Disaster Declaration Workshop (NEMA/FEMA)
- Lessons Learned from Recent Disasters (workshop)
- Social Networks (workshop)
- Climate Change (workshop)
- Pandemic Influenza - Current Challenges (workshop)
- Model Practices for State Housing Task Forces (workshop)
- NEMA 35th Anniversary presentation
- The Future of Emergency Management (roundtable discussion)

Honored guests include: Governor Ted Strickland; FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate; Deputy Administrator for National Preparedness Tim Manning; Director and Homeland Security Advisor David Maxwell, Arkansas Department of Emergency Management; Asst. Secretary for Homeland Defense and U.S. Security Affairs Dr. Paul Stockton; and Academic Programs Director, Center for Homeland Defense & Security Dr. Christopher Bellavita.

EMA Updates

June Mong, Director
Darke County Emergency Management
Resigned September 11
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Ronald Walker, Director
Williams County Emergency Management
Retiring October 8, after 40 years of dedicated service with the county; five years with Williams County EMA

Gallia County Emergency Management
Charles (Mike) Null, Director
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 11	12 	13	14 Developing and Maintaining Local EOPs <i>Guernsey County EOC</i>	15	16	17
18	19	20 Resource Management <i>Ohio EMA</i>	21 Basic OpsCenter <i>Ohio EMA</i>	22	23	24 ICS-300 <i>Shelby County EMA</i>
25 ICS-300 <i>Shelby County EMA</i>	26	27 HazMat TAC <i>Ohio EMA</i>	28	29 Water TAC <i>Ohio EMA</i>	30	31

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

* TAC - Technical Advisory Committee