



MSAR NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

DPH Welcomes Lindsay Tallon

Lindsay Tallon is the new Health Volunteer Program Manager at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Lindsay will work closely with the MSAR and MRC programs to support coordination of volunteers through creation of consistent policies and procedures and development of a centralized, voluntary database system that will integrate information on local, regional, and statewide volunteer programs.

Previously, Lindsay was a Research and Training Manager at the Harvard School of Public Health Center for Public Health Preparedness. In her role there she assisted with development and implementation of a nationwide Medical Reserve Corps toolkit to evaluate the effectiveness of volunteers in assisting local health departments. She also developed and led the Student Reserve Corps, a health volunteer service group at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Prior to her work at Harvard, Lindsay worked as a Research Associate at the NC Center for Public Health Preparedness at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she received her MSPH.

Responding to H1N1 Influenza: Lessons Learned Conference Summary

This conference provided an opportunity to review lessons learned and highlight best practices from the 2009-2010 H1N1 flu season. Presenters from a variety of fields shared their experiences on patient education, vaccine distribution, non-traditional partnerships and other important issues. Public Health Heroes from the following agencies were awarded for their efforts during the H1N1 season: MA School Nurse Organization, MA Association of School Superintendents, MA League of Community Health Centers, MA Association of Health Plans/MassPro, MA Hospital Association, MA Medical Society, MA Chapter of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Northeastern University School Health Institute, Commonwealth Medicine Office for Health Care Financing, Local/Regional EP Coalitions, Medical Reserve Corps Units, Emergency Preparedness Regions of MA, and the Coalition of Local Public Health including the MA Association of Public Health Nurses, MA Health Officer's Association, MA Association of Health Boards, MA Public Health Association, and the MA Environmental Health Association.

A complete video of the summit and break out sessions can be accessed by clicking on the following link:

<http://video.webcasts.com/events/mdof001/33934>

Legislative Update

Prospects are uncertain for the passage of *An Act Relative to Pandemic and Disaster Preparation in the Commonwealth* currently in a House/Senate conference committee. DPH is looking at the possibility of advancing important, but less controversial, components of the bill such as extending liability protection, in the event that the overall legislation does not pass.

Crisis Standards of Care

The Altered Standards of Care Advisory Committee (ASCAC) has completed its work and is making final edits to its report to DPH. The report uses the term “Crisis Standards of Care” (CSC), following the lead of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in its 2009 report. According to the IOM, “crisis standards of care” is defined as “a substantial change in usual healthcare operations and the level of care it is possible to deliver, which is made necessary by a pervasive (e.g., pandemic influenza) or catastrophic (e.g., earthquake, hurricane) disaster.”

DPH has now launched a statewide public engagement process. Through this process, DPH will reach out to diverse groups of stakeholders to 1) educate the broader community about the possible need to alter the way medical care is delivered during a crisis, and 2) provide opportunities for meaningful consultation and input on community needs, preferences, and perceptions of fairness about CSC. DPH will use this information to finalize CSC Guidelines for Massachusetts.

The public engagement process will include:

- **A Healthcare Provider Forum.** A large interactive forum—in partnership with the Massachusetts Medical Society—for healthcare providers and first responders to comment on the clinical aspects of the draft CSC Guidelines
- **Vulnerable Populations Meetings.** A series of meetings with advocacy organizations and community members with special needs and interests (e.g., the disabilities community, cultural and linguistic minorities, elders, children)
- **Community Forums.** Regional sessions for members of the general public
- **Webcasting and Interactive Website.** Webcasting of the healthcare provider forum and one of the community forums, and a website that allows those who cannot attend in person to obtain information and provide input online

The CSC public engagement process is being conducted in partnership with the Harvard School of Public Health Center for

Health Care Preparedness and the Massachusetts Medical Society.

EDUCATION & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Speaker Series: Harvard School of Public Health – Center for Public Health Preparedness

May 3, 2010

12:30 - 1:30 PM

Post-Disaster Gender-Based Violence in Haiti

Dr. Linda Marc Clérismé, ScD, MPH

Research Scientist/Social Epidemiologist

Center for Multicultural Mental Health Research

Cambridge Health Alliance & Harvard Medical School

Program details and registration information:

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hcphp/>

15th Annual Adult Immunization Conference

May 11, 2010

DCU Center

Worcester, MA

An Immunization Odyssey: To Reach All Adults

Keynote speaker: Carol Friedman, Associate Director of Adult Immunizations, at the CDC. Workshops include: Innovations in Community Immunization Programs, Epidemiology of a Pandemic – What Have We Learned?, Immunizations in Special Populations, Healthcare Worker Immunizations, and Innovative Immunization in Private Practice Settings.

For more information or to register visit [Masspro](#).

2010 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit

May 12 – 16, 2010

Nashville, TN

The 2010 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This training summit brings together HHS partners including the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC), the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP), and the Office of Force Readiness and Deployment (OFRD). The Integrated Training Summit is co-sponsored by the Chesapeake Health Education Program, Inc.

For program information and registration details please visit

www.hhstrainingsummit.org.

The 2010 William A. Hinton Lecture

May 13, 2010

3:00 - 5:00 PM

William A. Hinton State Laboratory Institute

Jamaica Plain, MA

*Massachusetts Health Care Reform in Communities of Color:
Lessons Learned*

Keynote Speaker: Michele David, MD, MBA, MPH, FACP
Associate Professor, Boston University School of Medicine
Keynote Address: Health Disparities: A Physician's Journey from
Haiti to Advocacy

Dr. David will address the following:

- Why she began to focus on disparities in health care in the early 1980s;
- The creation of HAPHI (Haitian-American Public Health Initiatives);
- Her work with HCFA (Health Care for All) as a Soros Fellow, and;
- Her global health work with Haitians, specifically the recent earthquake and the direct short- and long-term impact within Haitian communities of Massachusetts.

Registration is required for this event and can be completed online.

For more information or to register for this event please visit:

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/academics/public-health-practice/william-a-hinton-award-lecture/>

A Generation Without Smallpox

May 17, 2010

2:00 - 5:00 PM

The Old Chapel, Tewksbury Hospital

Tewksbury, MA

The eradication of smallpox was a milestone in human history, perhaps the most significant single public health victory of the 20th Century. Participants will learn about the current status of disease eradication efforts and collaborations forged between governments, nongovernmental agencies and philanthropic organizations. This conference coincides with a new smallpox exhibit, Smallpox: A Disease of the Past at the Public Health Museum. For more information contact: Marilyn DelValle at

marilyn.delvalle@state.ma.us

2010 National Influenza Vaccine Summit Meeting (AMA)

May 17 -19, 2010

Scottsdale, AZ

The National Influenza Vaccine Summit is co-sponsored by the American Medical Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The summit is an action-oriented entity with over 400 members who represent over 100 public and private organizations with an interest in addressing and resolving influenza and influenza vaccine issues. Summit participants include healthcare professionals, public health professionals, vaccine manufacturers and distributors, consumers, and others interested in preventing vaccine-preventable diseases.

<http://www.preventinfluenza.org/nivs.asp>

Avoiding a Disaster during a Disaster: Improving Medical Volunteer Response

May 19, 2010
4:30 - 8:30 PM
Massachusetts Medical Society Headquarters
Waltham, MA

The program will provide attendees with an overview of preparedness challenges, including lessons learned from the Haitian earthquake response; an outline of state and federal emergency management systems and volunteer options; and a discussion of the differences between disaster and humanitarian response and the importance of collaborating with community agencies. In addition, participants will learn about the pitfalls of self-deployment and the importance of becoming associated with a group or organization when volunteering.

Current MSAR and MRC members may attend this activity at no cost

To register for the program visit [Massachusetts Medical Society | Avoiding a Disaster During a Disaster](#) or call (800) 843-6356.

VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

Haiti Earthquake and Similar Disasters are Focus of New GAO

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has launched a new webpage highlighting its work on U.S. domestic and international disaster relief. The webpage <http://www.gao.gov/haiti/> will make it easier to find GAO reports and testimonies that can help Congress and the Administration make informed decisions on U.S. aid to Haiti following the recent earthquake and develop strategies to address other natural disasters in the future.

“Our goal is to provide valuable insights and lessons learned that can be applied not only to the delivery of assistance to the people of Haiti but to future events here at home and abroad,” said Gene L. Dodaro, Acting Comptroller General of the United States.

“We believe policymakers may find GAO’s findings and recommendations useful in prioritizing assistance efforts, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of relief operations, and ensuring that aid reaches intended recipients,” Dodaro said.

The new webpage features five key GAO reports that examine international disaster assistance in the wake of the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean, recent tropical storms and hurricanes in the Caribbean, and the 2001 earthquake in El Salvador, and Hurricane Mitch, which impacted several Central American nations. The work also covers the domestic response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Links are provided to each report in its entirety. Users can click on tabs to access more extensive lists of GAO studies on disaster assistance in general and foreign assistance to Haiti specifically.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Floods Topic Page

During a flood and its aftermath, know how protect your personal health and safety. In winter and early spring, it is especially important to understand the health threats associated with exposure to cold weather and cold water. This website provides information on how protect personal health and safety during and in the aftermath of a flood. Also available in Spanish, French and Vietnamese.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/>

PREPAREDNESS IN THE NEWS

Secretary Napolitano Announces Preparedness Task Force

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano announced the formation of the local, state, tribal, and federal Preparedness Task Force - a council of experts charged with assessing the state of the nation's disaster preparedness and making recommendations to Secretary Napolitano about ways to build resiliency in communities across America.

"Enhancing preparedness across our nation requires close collaboration between all levels of government," said Secretary Napolitano. "The recommendations of this Task Force comprised of emergency management and homeland security experts from states, cities and tribes across the country, will help guide our ongoing efforts to ensure the resilience of communities throughout the nation."

The Task Force is comprised of 35 members of local, state and tribal governments, many of whom have also served within federal government, offering a diverse cross-section of experience in homeland security and emergency management missions. The Task Force will also engage Congressional partners, as well as the private sector and non-governmental and development organizations through a variety of outreach activities. For further information on the taskforce and its members, please visit:

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1270649859370.shtm.

Prevention: More Health Care Workers Got Flu Shots This Season

Flu shots are recommended for all health care providers, but fewer than half get vaccinated in a typical flu season. This season was different: by mid-January, 62 percent of health care workers had received a seasonal flu shot, though only 37 percent had been vaccinated against the H1N1 swine flu, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are reporting. To read the entire article [click here](#).

CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommends Universal Annual Influenza Vaccination

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, which advises CDC on vaccine issues, voted to expand the recommendation for annual influenza vaccination to include all people aged 6 months

and older. The expanded recommendation is to take effect in the 2010 – 2011 influenza season. The new recommendation seeks to remove barriers to influenza immunization and signals the importance of preventing influenza across the entire population. The CDC press release may be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2010/r100224.htm>

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BE THE RESPONSE

This e-mail newsletter was produced by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in collaboration with the Massachusetts Medical Society.



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