

EPRNews

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

February 2014

Announcements and Updates

In this edition

This month we are sharing announcements and updates, the Colorado Hospital Association update and training announcements. If you received this email, but do NOT wish to receive the newsletter, email sarah.werner@state.co.us to be removed from the list.

OEPR to be a part of CDPHE reorganization

The Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response will be moving to the Community Relations Division within CDPHE. OEPR had previously been a part of the Public Health Programs Section. This move was made due to OEPR's cross-divisional work with both public health and environmental issues and its relationship to local public health partners and sister agencies. This move will not affect any of our current programs and the OEPR organizational chart remains the same.

According to OEPR Director Lyle Moore, "This is a very good move for OEPR and will facilitate more visibility and a smoother working relationship with all CDPHE divisions."

Staff update

Lori Hodges has left the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response to join Larimer County as the Director of Emergency Management and Recovery. The Systems Team will report to Yonette Hintzen-Schmidt until a new Systems Program Manager is hired. Lori can be contacted at 303-656-3214 or lrhodges@larimer.org. The OEPR organizational chart is available [here](#).

CCP update

Crisis Counseling Program staff are still working in communities impacted by the September flood. Through January 22, they interacted with 14,360 survivors and provided information to an additional 80,199 survivors statewide. Some activities undertaken this month include helping survivors in Jefferson County to obtain dumpsters for cleanup, planning a "Winter Warmer" event for Jefferson and Boulder County survivors, and providing information.

Colorado adds acupuncturist MRC unit

On January 7, 2014 Colorado received approval from the Division of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps office, for Colorado's 25th Medical Reserve Corps unit called the Colorado Acupuncturist MRC.

The mission of this unit is to provide treatment to evacuees, first responders and others by licensed acupuncturists using the five needle ear protocol (NADA protocol) during events and to educate communities on the benefits of the NADA protocol.

CDC releases 2013-2014 National Snapshot of Public Health Preparedness

The CDC released the 2013-2014 National Snapshot of Public Health Preparedness on January 29. This sixth annual report is designed to demonstrate how federal investments enhance the nation's ability to respond to public health threats and emergencies. The report is based on activities that occurred during 2012 and 2013 in the framework of CDC's three

overarching priorities:

1. Improving health security at home and around the world
2. Better preventing the leading causes of illness, injury, disability, and death
3. Strengthening public health through collaboration with healthcare

To view the report, go to www.cdc.gov.

Register now for the 2014 Colorado Integrated Emergency Management Conference

Registration is now open for the 2014 Colorado Integrated Emergency Management Conference being held February 25-27 in Loveland. This three-day conference will feature speakers from across the state on a range of topics including health and medical, emergency management, emergency medical response, law enforcement and fire. The conference is designed to empower all emergency support functions to become better integrated risk managers in coordination with our preparedness partners. Please visit cemacolorado.com to find out more information and register for the conference.

Boulder County flood response featured in *Emergency Management* magazine

Boulder County's response to the September 2013 floods is featured in the January-February 2014 edition of *Emergency Management* magazine. The article talks about how lessons from previous disasters assisted in response. Check out the article on [page 16](#) (PDF download).

HHS ASPR announces Communities of Interest site

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) developed a Communities of Interest (COI) SharePoint site (i.e., a clearinghouse) to better disseminate information and manage documents; share promising practices and ideas and provide a workspace where users from inside and outside HHS/ASPR can come together to share documents and ideas regarding the crisis standards of care (CSC) and allocation of scarce resources (ASR). HHS/ASPR uses the term "communities of interest" to describe and include all of the interested parties involved in CSC and ASR planning. Learn more about the HHS/ASPR [Communities of Interest](#).

Colorado Hospital Association Update

For more information, contact deborah.french@cha.com



CMS releases emergency preparedness conditions of participation

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on December 20 released a proposed rule that would establish emergency preparedness conditions of participation and conditions for coverage that hospitals, critical access hospitals and 15 other provider and supplier types would have to meet to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

CMS consulted with experts in emergency response and health care facilities and identified four areas that the agency believes are central to an effective emergency preparedness system. The proposed rule would require participating providers and suppliers to meet these four standards, although the specific proposed requirements are adjusted to reflect the characteristics of each type of provider and supplier:

- **Emergency plan:** Based on a risk assessment, develop an emergency plan using an all-hazards approach focusing on capacities and capabilities.
- **Policies and procedures:** Develop and implement policies and procedures based on the plan and risk assessment.
- **Communication plan:** Develop and maintain a communication plan that complies with both federal and state law. Patient care must be well-coordinated within the facility, across health care providers and with state and local public health departments and emergency systems.
- **Training and testing program:** Develop and maintain training and testing programs, including initial and annual trainings, conducting drills and exercises or participating in an actual incident that tests the plan.

The proposed [rule](#) was published in the Dec. 27 *Federal Register* and comments are due by February 25, 2014.

Epidemiology update

Surveillance data indicates flu season peaked in early January

Surveillance data collected by the CDPHE Communicable Disease Epidemiology Section indicates that the influenza season peaked during the week ending January 4, 2014. A similar peak was seen during the last influenza season (2012-2013 season). Historically, the influenza season typically peaks in mid-February (with the exception of the 2009 pandemic). There is no clear explanation as to why the past two seasons have had early peaks of illness.

For the week ending January 18, 2014, influenza activity remained elevated but has started its seasonal decline. A cumulative total of 1190 influenza hospitalizations in patients from 52 Colorado counties have been reported thus far during the 2013-2014 season. The table below shows the number of influenza hospitalizations reported from the 2004-2005 through the 2012-2013 seasons.

Season	Hospitalizations
2004-2005	980
2005-2006	848
2006-2007	364
2007-2008	1004
2008-2009	547
2009-2010	2041*
2010-2011	1027
2011-2012	543
2012-2013	1530

*2009 H1N1 Pandemic

CDPHE Laboratory Services Division virologic surveillance conducted during this influenza season shows that virtually all influenza viruses circulating in Colorado were the 2009 H1N1 virus (the pandemic strain). Fortunately, no influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported thus far this season. For more information on influenza or to view the most recent "Colorado Flu Report" weekly summary please go to:

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-DCEED/CBON/1251607766255>.

Training Announcements

Systems training available

There have been changes made to EMResource, there will be changes coming to EMTrack as well as to HICS (name being changed to eICS beginning in February), so now is a great time to consider receiving an initial or refresher training on these systems. Our EMSystem/Intermedix trainer is available to provide these trainings throughout the state. To set one up, contact Kim Richardson at kim.richardson@intermedix.com or 501-425-9055.

Upcoming trainings

Access the CO.TRAIN calendar at <https://www.co.train.org/DesktopShell.aspx?tabId=143>.

Training name	Date(s)	Time(s)	Location	Contact
Long Term Care Tabletop Exercise Webinar	February 5	8 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Webinar	Kristine Sanger

G775 - EOC Management and Operations	February 6	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Walsenburg	Michael Bean
MCICS 200	February 7-8	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Fort Collins	John Putt
G290 - Basic Public Information Officer	February 11-12	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Lamar	Michael Bean
MCICS 400	February 14-15	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Eads	John Putt
Social Media for Disaster Response and Recovery	February 19	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Centennial	Melissa Arnett
2014 Colorado Integrated Emergency Management Conference	February 25-27	All day	Loveland	Nicole Cantrell
MGT341 - Disaster Preparedness for Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations Within the Community Infrastructure	February 27-28	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Delta	Nanci Quintana
MCICS 200	March 7-8	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Cortez	John Putt
CSEPP 101 - Integrated Performance Evaluator Training Course	March 11-12	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Pueblo	Cindy VonFeldt
G775 - EOC Management and Operations	March 11-12	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Westcliffe	Cindy VonFeldt
G775 - EOC Management and Operations	March 13-14	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Springfield	Michael Bean
MCICS 400	March 14-15	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Gunnison	John Putt
MCICS 100	March 21-22	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Black Hawk	John Putt
G775 - EOC Management and Operations	April 3-4	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Pueblo	Michael Bean
Long Term and Residential Care Disaster Preparedness conference	April 15 April 16	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Omaha, Neb.	Kristine Sanger

MCICS 400	April 18-19	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Denver	John Putt
MCICS 100	April 24-25	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Alamosa	John Putt
MCICS 200	May 2-3	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Alamosa	John Putt
MCICS 100	June 6-7	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Pueblo	John Putt
MCICS 200	June 13-14	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Pueblo	John Putt
HICS webinar	Second Monday Third Tuesday	1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Webinar	Aubrey Kukral
EMTrack webinar	Third Wednesday	1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Webinar	Aubrey Kukral
EMResource webinar	Fourth Wednesday	1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Webinar	Aubrey Kukral
AWR-307-W: Evacuation and shelter-In-place needs of people with medical dependencies during a disaster (awareness level)	Anytime	Anytime	Webinar	Bill Halstead
PER-302-W: Evacuation and shelter-In-place needs of people with medical dependencies during a disaster (performance level)	Anytime	Anytime	Webinar	Bill Halstead
Preparedness in Colorado: Environmental Health Aspects of Natural Disasters	Anytime	Anytime	Webinar	Nicole Roland
Preparedness in Colorado: Vulnerable Populations	Anytime	Anytime	Webinar	Nicole Roland
IS930 - Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance (ERHMS) System: Leadership Training	Anytime	Anytime	Webinar	Renée Funk
WB2254 - Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance (ERHMS)	Anytime	Anytime	Webinar	Renée Funk

Something fun

Trying to recruit new fans



Matt Newman (Contract Monitor) and Noah Symington (Behavioral Health Intern) showed up on a Broncos "United in Orange" day in matching shirts. Wendy Chavez (Program Assistant) wasn't going to let these two non-Bronco fans get away without a little orange in their day.

Contact Us

Do you have information for this newsletter?

If you have information, questions or comments/suggestions, contact Sarah Werner at sarah.werner@state.co.us, 303-692-6359 or 720-387-5185. **Deadline for submission of articles for the March edition is Friday, February 21, at 5 p.m.**

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