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Updates & News

To IHA Hospital Preparedness Contacts:

Below are links to updates and news relating to Haiti earthquake response, H1N1 and other topics of interest:

HHS Updates and Response Information: Haiti Earthquake Response
<http://www.hhs.gov/disasters/emergency/naturaldisasters/earthquake/haiti/index.html>

CDC Updates and Response Information: Haiti Earthquake Response
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/earthquakes/>

Experts press for better H1N1 vaccine uptake in risk groups
[CIDRAP] Nicole Lurie, MD, HHS assistant secretary for preparedness and response, told webinar participants that though vaccine uptake in children who have underlying conditions is growing, uptake for adults with chronic conditions is lagging. She also warned that the pandemic virus has caused more deaths in these adults than any other group.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/swineflu/news/jan1210chronic-br.html>

High-Level Panel Calls for Biosecurity Improvements
[Global Security Newswire] The U.S. government should divide its list of deadly disease-causing pathogens and toxins into separate categories so that research facilities can implement security measures that correspond to the risk posed by those materials, according to the findings of a high-level panel of experts.

http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20100112_4809.php

FDA offers guidance on drug production in emergencies

[FDA] In an effort to maintain the nation's supply of drugs and other medical products in the event of a pandemic or other emergency, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently issued draft guidance to help pharmaceutical companies plan for high absenteeism rates. It focuses on "medically necessary products" such as antivirals and details what the FDA could do to help protect the supply. The guidance is also aimed at companies that make the raw materials and components used in the products.

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM196497.pdf>

Early lessons from the H1N1 pandemic: Critical illness in children unpredictable but survivable

[Science Daily] Lessons learned from the first 13 children at Johns Hopkins Children's Center to become critically ill from the H1N1 virus show that although all patients survived, serious complications developed quickly, unpredictably, with great variations from patient to patient and with serious need for vigilant monitoring and quick treatment adjustments.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/01/100107114733.htm>

Mapping an Emergency

[DHS Science & Technology Snapshots] Making communications among first responders interoperable. Natural disasters rarely color inside the lines. Like a toddler with his first box of crayons, they leave a mess all over the map—spilling across federal, state, and local lines. To clean up, different agencies and jurisdictions must come together and share what they know. But far too often, critical information goes unseen by those who need it most: our emergency responders

http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1214511688798.shtm

The Difference Between Lessons Observed and Lessons Learned

[Emergency Management] We learn from others by reading case studies, after-action reports, results of audits and investigations, and from personal experience. In the personal experience category, I favor learning by participating in disaster exercises. Though successful exercises are good, it's many times the failures that provide the real learning opportunities.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/training/Lessons-Observed-and-Lessons-Learned.html?elq=e77f497509974db2aaf7eb53ea22151a>

California recalls N95s issued to healthcare workers

[California OSHA] Problems with securing proper fit-testing has forced California to recall N95 respirators that it has been issuing to healthcare workers exposed to H1N1 influenza.

http://www.dir.ca.gov/DOSH/CalOSHA_3M.pdf

Drive-through Emergency Service Effective Response to Pandemic

[HealthNewsDigest.com] ... or for other emerging infectious disease events,” said Weiss, who is also medical director for disaster planning at Stanford Hospital & Clinics...

http://www.healthnewsdigest.com/news/Patient_230/Drive-through_Emergency_Service_Effective_Response_to_Pandemic.shtml

AMA launches resources Web site on Haiti earthquake

[American Medical News] There also is a link to the journal Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness and the Assn. of Haitian Physicians Abroad. The death toll could rise...

<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2010/01/11/prsf0114.htm>