



COCA Special Notice

Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA)
CDC Emergency Communication System

In response to 2010 Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill, we would like to provide you with the following information. If you have any questions on these or other clinical issues, write to us at coca@cdc.gov.

[Health Surveillance](#)

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Health Surveillance

The Gulf Coast Oil Spill has the potential to affect human health in addition to the effects already seen on animal and marine life. CDC, along with the affected Gulf Coast states, has developed a plan to track the potential short-term health effects related to the oil spill in the affected communities.

CDC, with state and local health departments, is conducting surveillance across the five Gulf States for health effects possibly related to the oil spill using national and state-based surveillance systems. Those systems include the following:

National Poison Data System (NPDS)

CDC has an agreement with the American Association of Poison Control Center's NPDS to track calls related to the oil spill—including information calls and potential exposures—for 60 Poison Centers (PCs) in all 50 states. CDC requested that Poison Centers in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi, assign a temporary code to any calls related to the oil spill. This enables CDC to track the number of Poison Center calls and potential health effects. The data are also being provided to the states so that they can follow up as needed. For more information on the American Association of Poison Control Centers: <http://www.aapcc.org/DNN/>

Biosense

BioSense is a national program that conducts quick surveillance of health information, and enables public health officials to track changes in a population's health status through access to existing data from healthcare organizations across the country. Biosense includes 86 coastal healthcare facilities in the five Gulf states (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas) and staff are watching for specific syndromes (groupings of signs and symptoms) that could be related to the oil spill.

For more information on Biosense: <http://www.cdc.gov/biosense/>

State Surveillance

Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi are using state-based surveillance systems to track oil spill-related health effects that might be related to occupational or non-occupational exposure. The states and CDC are collecting data from sources such as emergency departments, urgent care facilities, and poison centers for evaluation. States and CDC are regularly sharing data and summaries with each other.

For More Information on Health Surveillance including the most recent findings visit:
http://emergency.cdc.gov/gulfoilspill2010/2010gulfoilspill/health_surveillance.asp

Additional Oil Spill Resources

These are just a few resources that can keep everyone informed about the ongoing response. You'll find information for coastal residents, clinicians, clean up workers, and others at CDC's Oil Spill Web site.

Update: On-Demand Resources Available

The transcript, audio and additional resources from the **Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill COCA Conference Call** (June 3, 2010) are now available online!
http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/confcall_archive.asp

CDC Gulf Oil Spill Webpage

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/gulfoilspill2010/>

Information for Health Care Professionals

- Oil Spill Dispersant (COREXIT ®EC9500A and EC9527A) Information for Health Professionals
http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/oil_spill/dispersants_hcp_info.htm
- Case Studies in Environmental Medicine (CSEM) - Exposure History
http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/csem/exp/history/ehcover_page.html
- Light Crude Oil Information for Health Professionals
http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/oil_spill/light_crude_health_professionals.htm

Information for Coastal Residents

- Dispersants and Your Health
http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/oil_spill/dispersants_and_your_health.htm
- Light Crude Oil and Your Health
http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/oil_spill/light_crude_residents.htm
- What to Expect from the Oil Spill and How to Protect Your Health
http://emergency.cdc.gov/gulfoilspill2010/what_to_expect.asp

Information for Clean-up Workers

- Reducing Occupational Exposures while Working with Dispersants During the Gulf Oil Spill Response
http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/oil_spill/dispersants_and_your_safety.htm
- NIOSH Fast Facts: Protecting Yourself from Heat Stress
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2010-114/pdfs/2010-114.pdf>
- NIOSH Fast Facts: Protecting Yourself from Sun Exposure
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2010-116/pdfs/2010-116.pdf>

COCA Announcements

New: Upcoming COCA Call - Electronic Health Records (EHR)

Title: Leveraging the Electronic Health Record for Public Health Alerting

Date: Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Time: 1:00PM – 2:00 PM (Eastern Time)

Call Number: 1-888-790-6180

Passcode: 1281914

Please join us for this informative COCA conference call where a CDC subject matter expert will discuss strategies to increase compliance with public health recommendations and guidelines, and discuss the role of EHR systems in improving dissemination of public health information at point-of-care. **More Information to Come!**

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Please send us your feedback or comments:
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/coca/feedback.htm>.

Our Clinician Communication Team is committed to excellence in reporting our weekly updates. Please e-mail coca@cdc.gov should you note any written errors or discrepancies.

If you need further information or technical help, please send an e-mail message to: coca@cdc.gov.



Communicating With Clinicians

CDC currently employs several mechanisms to communicate with clinicians on topics of urgent concern and interest.

[Download this flyer to find out more](#)

