

January 2009

# Update

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## Report on Public Health Emergency Preparedness in Oregon



*Clackamas County Community Health Division recently teamed up with the City of Canby and other partners to hold Oregon's first large-scale drive-through flu vaccination clinic.*

### Drive-through Point of Dispensing Exercise

- Clackamas County Community Health Division and the City of Canby recently held Oregon's first large-scale drive-through flu vaccination Point of Dispensing (POD) exercise.
- The exercise included a walk-in POD for families with young children and people with a history of fainting.
- A total of 1,125 people were vaccinated against the flu in four hours. This is the second year that the county has partnered with a city to stand up PODs.
- *"It was a very impressive operation with great cooperation and coordination between fire, police, emergency management, public health, lay and medical volunteers,"* says Oregon Strategic National Stockpile Program Coordinator Kathy Scott. *"In time, I hope this will serve as a model for the rest of the state."*

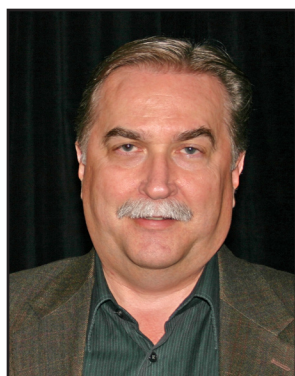


### Project Homeless Connect '08

- Crook and Deschutes county health departments recently teamed up to provide vaccination services to some of the counties' most vulnerable citizens.
- On Oct. 11, the two health departments provided immunizations against influenza and hepatitis at the Deschutes County Expo Center.
- *"By participating in Project Homeless Connect '08, Public Health in Central Oregon was able to provide vaccine protection against key diseases that are a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in persons disadvantaged by living in poverty and/or homelessness,"* says Crook County Communicable Disease/Preparedness Coordinator Karen Yeagain.
- *"Our thanks to the Homeless Leadership Council and all involved in putting together this much-needed event!"*

### Contract Specialist Honored

- On Oct. 22, Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Contract Specialist Reilly Jones was presented with a 2008 Partners in Public Procurement Oregon Excellence Award for his work in developing a procurement process to allow Oregon critical infrastructure partners to purchase pandemic influenza antivirals through a federally subsidized contract with the state.
- The award was presented in the Public Purchasing Innovation category. It appears that Oregon is the first state to identify a procurement pathway for state partners to purchase from the federal contract under abbreviated time frames.
- Jones was acknowledged for his "commitment to providing and promoting innovative public procurement practices, which demonstrate cost effective values that benefit all Oregonians."



### Public Health Division Programs Collaborate on New Computer Training Center

- The Public Health Division Women, Infants and Children (WIC); Immunization and Public Health Emergency Preparedness programs recently teamed up to build a new 18-station computer training center at the State Office Building in Portland.
- In addition to the 18 computer stations and two wall visual displays, there is room for an additional four workstations.
- The room will be used to teach web applications and computer software used by each program, including the Immunization Registry, TWIST, Health Alert Network (HAN), Hospital Capacity Web Site (HOSCAP), Virtual Joint Information Center and the Health Care Volunteer Registry systems.
- The new lab also will double as a Joint Information Center (JIC) to house public information and risk communication specialists in the event of a public health emergency or exercise.

### Oregon Tribal Collaboration Meeting

- Acting Oregon Public Health Director Mel Kohn, Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Director Mike Harryman and PHEP Policy Advisor/Cooperative Agreement Principal Investigator Barbara Progulske attended a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Region 10 tribal partners meeting on Nov. 20 in Portland.
- The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board played host to the meeting, which focused on emergency preparedness cooperation and coordination between the tribes, the federal government and the state. The meeting included updates from DHHS, PHEP, Indian Health Services and Oregon tribes.
- Five out of the nine Federally recognized tribes in Oregon were represented at the meeting, which also included representatives from Oregon Emergency Management, and several DHHS offices.

### Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program Assumes Statewide Coordination of Medical Reserve Corps

- The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEP) has assumed responsibility for statewide coordination of Oregon's 11 Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units.
- This decision was made in consultation with U.S. Health and Human Services Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corp Region 10 Coordinator Jesús Reyna, and Oregon Emergency Management (OEM). OEM coordinates Oregon activities of Citizen Corps, a partner program with the Medical Reserve Corps.
- The MRC program was founded in 2002 and is sponsored by the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General. Nationally, there are 791 MRC units.
- The Oregon Health Care Volunteer program currently operates an electronic registry of volunteer health care professionals, which is required under two major federal grants.
- *"The Oregon MRC units have been involved in this project since its inception, so the official designation for state public health is a natural fit that will create synergy at the state and local level,"* says Kevin Cradock, Oregon Health Alert Network manager.
- This project supports a major undertaking at the national level known as the Emergency System for the Advanced Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP).
- *"The national exposure that the state of Oregon will have as the official state MRC coordination center will be of great benefit to the registry, the program and the local MRC units,"* says Akiko Berkman, the new state MRC coordinator.
- Recently, PHEP staff held a computer-based training session on how to use the volunteer registry for MRC coordinators and program staff. The plan is to have all MRC Coordinators trained over the next six months, as well as to start a user group for registry administrators.



*Public information officers (PIOs) work on draft media releases during a recent Basic PIO class in Central Oregon.*

### Basic PIO Class Held in Crook County

- Approximately 35 public information officers (PIOs) from throughout Central Oregon participated in a one-day *Basic PIO* class in Prineville on Nov. 4.
- The class was co-sponsored by the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program, Oregon Emergency Management and Crook County Public Health.
- Instructors for the class included PHEP Public Information Planner Christie Holmgren, FEMA Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program PIO Cheryl Seigal Layman, Oregon State Police PIO Lt. Gregg Hastings, and Oregon Emergency Management PIO Jennifer Bailey.
- Participants included PIOs from public health, hospitals, fire, police, emergency management and other emergency response partner organizations.

### Strategic National Stockpile Public Information and Communication Training

- A Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) *Mass Dispensing Public Information and Communication* training was held in Prineville on Nov. 5.
- Laura Ross and Blanche Collins, trainers from the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, provided the instruction for public information officers working at local points of dispensing during an SNS activation.



*Hospital Preparedness Program Region 2 Coordinator Ann Steeves charts a small-group discussion during the recent Stakeholder Input Meeting in Portland.*

### **Hospital Preparedness Program Stakeholder Input Meeting**

- On Oct. 28 the Hospital Preparedness Program held a statewide Stakeholder Input Meeting in Portland. This meeting marked the beginning of a regular stakeholder input process, and included four federal representatives, 12 state staff, and 47 regional HPP stakeholders, coordinators and lead agency administrators.
- Participants identified nine priority areas for Oregon healthcare emergency preparedness efforts and, by consensus, adopted the following vision statement: "Oregon is prepared and effectively responds with flexibility and consistency to significant health emergencies and surge events that have impacts across institutional, jurisdictional and geographic lines."

### **Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) Region 10 Advisory Committee Update**

- Pandemic influenza was the focus of the Sept. 25 FEMA Region 10 meeting. RADM Patrick O'Carroll, the Regional Health Administrator for U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Region 10, and the pre-designated Senior Health Official (SHO) for the Federal Pandemic Influenza "Region-E," presented a briefing on the current status of the H5N1 virus, along with an overview

of HHS and general pandemic influenza response planning efforts.

- Dennis Worsham, Seattle-King County Public Health, gave an overview of the challenges facing a large metropolitan area in a pandemic influenza event. Federal support may be needed for Point-of-Dispensing (POD) site staffing and medical surge. Hospitals will have only a fraction of the beds and space they will need to treat patients during a pandemic influenza event.
- Oregon Public Health Preparedness Director Mike Harryman presented Oregon's pandemic influenza planning and preparedness efforts and challenges. Although much progress has been made in state planning, federal guidelines regarding pandemic influenza planning fluctuate, making complying with standards difficult. Also, FEMA Disaster Assistance policies related to pandemic influenza-eligible expenses are vague. This casts doubt on reimbursable items and complicates planning.

### **Public Health Emergency Preparedness – Six Years of Achievement Report**

- Interagency coordination is the key to strengthening the state and local public health infrastructure and has been core to the PHEP Program from the beginning. The CDC administers and funds the program, which is implemented by state and local health agencies. These agencies are represented by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) respectively.
- Key components of the program are initiatives to strengthen public health laboratories and epidemiology programs. These health agency programs are represented by the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE).
- To provide interim evaluation and data, representatives from state and local health agencies formed a Public Health Emergency

Preparedness Partners Workgroup composed of members from ASTHO, APHL, CSTE and NACCHO. Each association surveyed its respective memberships on the state of the preparedness program as of Dec. 31, 2007, with the exception of APHL, which surveyed its state public health laboratory membership for the time period Aug. 31, 2006 through Aug. 30, 2007.

- The full report can be found at: <http://www.astho.org/pubs/PHEPPartnersReport.pdf>



*Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) Federal Project Officer David Rykken, HPP Health Care Systems Manager Jere High and HPP Federal Lead Project Officer Anita Pullani discuss the status of Oregon's program during a recent site visit.*

#### **Hospital Preparedness Program Site Visit**

- The new Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) Federal Project Officer for Oregon, David Rykken, and the Federal Lead Project Officer, Anita Pullani conducted a site visit in Oregon in October.
- They attended the statewide HPP Stakeholder Input Meeting on Oct. 28, met with all regional coordinators and regional lead agency administrators, and visited regions 1, 2, 3 and 7.
- Rykken and Pullani plan to return to Oregon in April to visit regions 6 and 9, and observe the statewide full-scale earthquake and tsunami recovery exercise, Cascadia Peril.

#### **Oregon Law Commission Review of Liability Statutes**

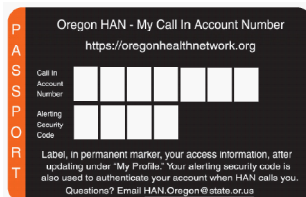
- The Oregon Law Commission is reviewing existing statutes with the goal of strengthening protection for those who volunteer during an emergency. The project also will look at the definitions for triggering events and how these interplay with the role of immunity for "Good Samaritans," military officers, and state officers.

#### **Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) Update**

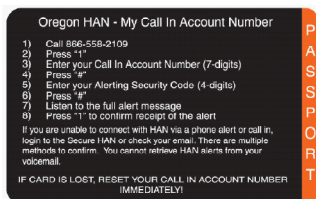
- At ASTHO's recent Annual Directors of Public Health Preparedness (DHP) meeting in Seattle, Oregon Public Health Preparedness Director Mike Harryman was selected by his peers to represent Regions 9 and 10 on ASTHO's Executive DHP Committee.
- States and territories represented in the two regions include Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Alaska, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, American Samoa, Guam, N. Marianas, Marshall Islands and Micronesia.

#### **Oregon Co-Sponsors National Information Technology Community of Practice**

- Oregon Health Alert Network (HAN) Manager Kevin Cradock was recently named co-chair of a newly formed national community of practice related to public health communication and information technology for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Information Network (PHIN).
- He will serve as co-chair on this committee with peers from the CDC and Indiana through September 2009. The group previously existed as a grassroots working group that advised states, cities and the CDC on the implementation of the Health Alert Network since 1999.
- Indiana, Michigan, Oregon and Minnesota have worked over the past three months to formalize a revised charter and secure executive sponsorship. The community has more than 80 members who meet on a monthly basis.



*HAN Passport Card*



## New Toll Free Call-In Account Feature on the Oregon Health Alert Network (HAN)

- Health Alert Network (HAN) users now have the option of calling the Secure HAN to confirm and retrieve any active and unconfirmed alerts.
- This new feature increases the flexibility of the HAN so users can access alerts from wherever they may be. Internet connectivity is not required to access this feature.
- For those who have a HAN account, only three items are needed to access active and unconfirmed alerts:
  - The toll-free Call-In Account phone number: 1-866-558-2109
  - Your Call-In Account Number
  - Your Alerting Security Code.
- To use the call-in account feature, access the Secure HAN at [www.OregonHAN.ORG](http://www.OregonHAN.ORG), go to My Profile, then My Call-In Account Number. The account number listed is active and ready to be used.
- Access to alerts is controlled by this account number and each user's four-digit Alerting Security Code (also located under the My Profile section of the Secure HAN). The Alerting Security code is set by the user, who must have both to take advantage of this feature.

## HAN Passport Cards Introduced

- The HAN Passport is a plastic card that provides fields for users to write their Call-In Account Number and Alerting Security Code.
- The card also lists instructions on how to access the Call-In Account feature.
- If users need extra copies for their satellite phone or go kit, they may request them from their organization's HAN Administrator or from: [HAN.Oregon@state.or.us](mailto:HAN.Oregon@state.or.us).

## HOSCAP System Upgrades Continue

- The Oregon Hospital Capacity (HOSCAP) Web System, which tracks important hospital emergency department data statewide and also tracks supplies and bed availability, will be upgraded in early 2009.
- A HOSCAP advisory group, made up of key stakeholders including EMS and local county health departments, helped enhance the current version of the system.
- The new system will feature a new map reporting tool, expanded data collection points, and be one of the first state systems of its kind to automatically exchange data with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services hospital tracking system. The new version also contains new online tools to help hospitals manage a mass casualty incident such as a chemical exposure, major fire, or crash.

## Incident Command System Position-Specific Training

- *Incident Command System (ICS) Position-Specific Trainings* will be offered in February and March at three locations around the state.
- The intermediate-level Incident Command System (ICS) trainings are designed to develop advanced skills on the roles and functions of specific ICS positions and sections.
- Single-day courses will be offered in the areas of Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics and Finance/Administration.
- Anyone who will serve in a specific ICS position or section, as well as those who are just interested in acquiring a more detailed understanding of these positions and sections is invited to attend. Participants can attend one course, all five courses, or any combination, at any locations.
- Classes will be offered in Woodburn the week of Feb. 16, in Eugene the week of March 9, and in Klamath Falls the week of March 16.
- Since these are intermediate-level workshops, students are required to take the on-line prerequisite courses IS-100 (Course

# C00065) and 200 (# C00066). Each class takes less than three hours to complete.

- Registration is via the DHS Learning Center: <https://dhslearn.hr.state.or.us>.

### Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program Exercise Design Training

- The Oregon Public Health Division is offering a three-day *Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Exercise Design Training* (Course # C00191) at three locations across the state this spring.
- The training is interactive and includes instructor-led presentations, small-group activities, videos and group discussions.
- Participants will learn how to use the online HSEEP Toolkit including the Design and Development System that allows for easy creation of a Master Scenario Events List (MSEL) and Exercise Evaluation Guides.
- The course will focus on capabilities-based planning, and participants will receive a hard copy of the Target Capabilities List to keep.
- Since this is an intermediate-level exercise design course, students are required to take the prerequisite course, IS-120A, *An Introduction to Exercises*, available on-line at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS120A.asp>.
- The course will be offered in La Grande on March 10, 11 and 12; in Woodburn on March 17, 18 and 19; and in Bend on March 24, 25 and 26.
- Registration is via the DHS Learning Center at: <https://dhslearn.hr.state.or.us>.

### State Mass Fatalities Plan Orientation and Tabletop Exercises

- State Mass Fatalities Plan orientations and tabletop exercises are planned in Woodburn and Portland in January and February.
- The goal is to introduce the plan to a broad range of county/regional responders, to discuss the coordination of state and local response, and to ensure the state plan is realistic, clear and adequate.
- Invited participants include members of the faith community, morticians, funeral directors, medical examiners, Oregon

tribes, and professionals from local health departments, hospitals, vital records, emergency management, law enforcement, fire/hazmat, EMS, Healthcare Regional Coordinators, PHEP Liaisons, and other emergency response partners.

- The scenario for the tabletop exercise will be an earthquake. James Roddey, the Oregon geologist who is the earthquake subject matter expert for the Cascadia Peril scenario, will present information on what to expect from such an earthquake if it took place in the location of the training.
- Course locations and dates include:  
Woodburn: Jan. 20 (full)  
Portland: Feb. 13
- Registration is via the DHS Learning Center: <https://dhslearn.hr.state.or.us>, Course # C00808, or by calling Michelle Tworoger at: 971 673-0342, or [michelle.b.tworoger@state.or.us](mailto:michelle.b.tworoger@state.or.us).

### Staff Changes

- **Akiko Berkman** has joined Public Health Emergency Preparedness as the new Oregon Health Care Volunteers coordinator and has also been designated as the state Medical Reserve Corps coordinator. Berkman has spent most of her career as a community organizer and a public health consultant. This is a new position in public health, similar to other states.
- **Alan John**, who has worked extensively with the Health Alert Network implementation project since 2007 as project manager, has taken over the customer account management for the Office of Disease Prevention and Epidemiology in the Office of Information Services (OIS). John has spent the past two years working closely with contractors, OIS, the Department of Administrative Services, and other key preparedness staff.
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness liaison for Eastern Oregon, **Bryan Hopkins**, has left the program to take on a new position with the State of Idaho Emergency Preparedness Program.



*A statewide Dec. 18 test of 162 recently deployed emergency satellite phones proved very successful, with an 85 percent call-back rate.*

### Winter Tactical Communication Exercise

- On Dec. 18, the Public Health Division conducted an extensive statewide test of the communication capabilities of the Health Alert Network (HAN) and new Iridium satellite phone fleet.
- The semi-annual, grant-mandated exercise involved a HAN alert from CDC to the public health duty officer in Oregon. Subsequently, an exercise HAN alert was sent to 998 local, state and federal partners, including every health department in Oregon, seven out of the nine federally recognized Oregon tribes, and every hospital, including two hospitals in Southwest Washington.
- All agencies with an assigned satellite phone or phones were instructed to make a test call to the Public Health Agency Operations Center (AOC). Of 162 phones in the satellite fleet, 85 percent successfully communicated back to the AOC in the required time frame. Several regions had 100 percent participation.
- The exercise hotwash will take place on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 3 to 4 p.m., during the regularly scheduled monthly HAN User Group meeting, and will be available via webinar.
- The next exercise of this kind will take place the morning of Feb. 19, and will include an additional grant-required HOSCAP HAVBED exercise objective.
- *“Given this was the first official test of the new satellite phone fleet, the exercise was an overwhelming success—well in excess of the target participation goal of 70 percent,”*

says HAN Manager Kevin Cradock. *“Eighty-five percent returned calls across the state was an excellent example of the work the division and our partners completed prior to November 2008 to deploy the new fleet and get trained.”*

### Health Alert Network User Group

- The Health Alert Network (HAN) User Group meets monthly via Webinar on the third Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m. These on-line workshops allow participants to share best practices, explore system functionality, and foster a strong collaborative network of intermediate and advanced users.
- Alerting “clinics” are held after every session to help users get the most from the alerting capabilities of the HAN system.
- “HAN Users that hold either Collaborator or Administrator-level licences are strongly encouraged to participate,” says HAN Coordinator Nick May.
- Registration for the User Group and HAN trainings is via the HAN Home page: [www.OregonHAN.org](http://www.OregonHAN.org). For more information, get in touch with your local HAN Administrator, or e-mail: [HAN.Oregon@state.or.us](mailto:HAN.Oregon@state.or.us).

### New HAN/HOSCAP Training Available

- Health Alert Network (HAN)/Hospital Capacity Web site (HOSCAP) 101 training will be offered via two Webinars on Thursdays, Jan. 22, from 10 a.m. to noon, and Feb. 12, from 2 to 4 p.m. The new 2.1 version of HOSCAP will be introduced.
- HAN/HOSCAP 101 will be available as an on-demand e-learning course beginning in late February.
- HAN 201 will be offered as a classroom course at the State Office Building in Portland on the first Thursdays in February, April, June, August, October and December, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. It will be available as a Webinar on first Thursdays in March, May, July, September and November, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. It also is available by request.
- HAN 301 will be held via Webinar on first Thursdays in February, April, June, August, October and December from 1 to 4 p.m.





*Capt. Andy Stevermer (left), U.S. Public Health Service Region 10 Emergency Coordinator, receives a plaque in appreciation for his 18 years of service on behalf of the State of Oregon from Public Health Emergency Preparedness Director Mike Harryman (right). Stevermer is taking on new duties as the liaison with the Canadian government for the U.S. Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.*



*A recent drive-through flu vaccine clinic in Clackamas County was a cooperative effort that included the City of Canby, Clackamas County Community Health Division, Clackamas County Emergency Management, Clackamas County Fairgrounds, the Canby Fire District, Canby Police Department, Clackamas County Sheriff's office and many other Canby businesses and volunteer agencies.*



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