

WHO PanFlu Alert Level 6 March 17, 2010 U.S. Terrorism Threat Level Yellow

→The Regional News Update is now posted on MIHAN and the Regional Website←



Please Welcome Cari Hillman To the Region 3 Staff!

Region 3 is very pleased to welcome Cari Hillman as our new Pandemic Planner.

Cari recently completed her B.S. in Health Sciences from SVSU graduating Summa Cum Laude with a strong emphasis in Public Health and Epidemiology.

Cari comes to us to replace Lisa Cross, our previous PanFlu Planner who left effective Feb. 28th to accept a full time position with the Central Michigan District Health Department.

Cari started her new position on Monday, March 8th and has been very quickly learning the tasks required of the PanFlu Planner. She will be working with the hospitals and Medical Control Authorities to properly expend their PanFlu Phase 2 & 3 funds and will be helping them complete the outstanding areas on their assessments.

Please make Cari welcome as a member of the Region 3 team. We've already found her a valuable asset. To contact Cari, email her at: region3panflu@gmail.com

Region 3 Completes PanFlu Hotwash March 9th

On March 9th Region 3 hosted 35+ representatives from hospitals, Infection Control Practitioners, Medical Control Authorities, Long Term Care, Local Health Departments and Regional Staff, at the Lincoln Center in Bay City, to review the response to the H1N1 pandemic up to now.

The group discussed their lessons learned in the response to the disease over the last 10 months. Key findings of the meeting included:

- Local public health was the lead on the H1N1 vaccination efforts. It is important to remember that the guidelines were set by the CDC for vaccination
- Priority groups must be adhered to, otherwise chaos can develop.
- Incident Command Structure was identified as an effective way to handle the flow of information and direction during this second wave of H1N1.
- It was recognized that the human resource policies of many organizations did not effectively meet the needs of employees. Many policies did not take into consideration the increase in employee absenteeism, due to employee illness or illness of a minor child.
- Hospital emergency departments handled the increase of visits well. Each facility developed effective mitigation tactics designed to work with their special considerations.
- Hospital visitors, especially over the Christmas holiday posed additional threats to the safety of in-patients and workers. Hospitals developed effective and efficient ways to communicate and manage the increased flow of visitors.
- The ordering and delivery of vaccine and anti-virals was challenging for some facilities, as it was required that all receiving organizations keep count of their inventory and distribution of vaccine and anti-virals on the MCIR. Training of individuals on the MCIR was a challenge to some, as staffing was in short supply in some facilities. Also, there were problems with errors in the majority of the shipments of supplies and anti-viral medications received from the SNS via the State.

Overall, the results of the Hotwash were found to be very helpful. The Region and our partner agencies continue to work toward improvements in our pandemic planning. We hope that we will not need our PanFlu plans again but all agree that it is of great importance to our patients that we be prepared.

**Remember to register for the
MI VOLUNTEER REGISTRY – it's a great way
to help your neighbors, our community and
the State! For more information, go to:
www.mivolunteerregistry.org**

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND AT-RISK POPULATIONS

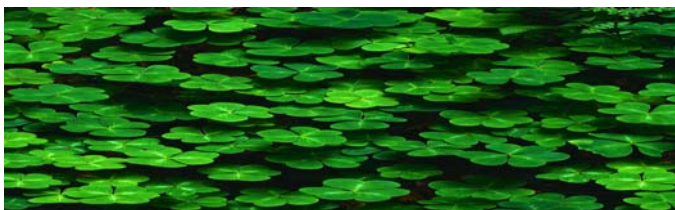
It's like an elephant in the corner. You can throw a blanket over it, dress it up like the Easter Bunny, paint it the same color as the walls...but that doesn't make it go away. There's still an elephant in the room that needs your attention.

Let's face it, comprehensive disaster planning and preparedness for any community can be a daunting task. But how prepared are you, *really*, to shelter, evacuate, or care for those who may not be able to assist in their own rescue? How do you help individuals with special health care needs that present unique challenges during large scale emergencies?

Join us June 17, 2010 at the Dow Events Center in Saginaw for our 2nd annual *Cornerstones in Preparedness* conference. Our focus this year is on Preparing and Caring for Special Needs Populations during mass casualty events. A special Long Term Care track, focusing on disaster planning and response for the elderly, will be presented by nationally recognized, special guest speakers.

We have an expert who will discuss pre-hospital decontamination protocols in special needs populations as well as a key note speaker who will put you on the edge of your seat as he gives new awareness to the reality of "suspicious activity" right here in our region.

It is time to stop ignoring the elephant looming in the corner. Gather the information and tools you need to be prepared for **all** individuals during mass disaster. The secret costs peanuts. The conference and all meals are free. To register go to our website at www.region3hpn.org or call our office at 989-758-3713.



Region 3 Successfully Completes 15th Consecutive Monthly 100% 800 MHz Radio Drill

The monthly Region 3 radio drill was held today for all hospitals, MCA's, Public Health Agencies and other key partners in the region for the month of March 2010.

Procedure:

Prior notice of the drill was provided to all key agencies in the Region via 1 email in the days prior to the drill and a MIHAN alert and email the morning of the drill.

The drill was started on March 4th at 8:00 AM with a MIHAN high level alert and email.

Results:

As outlined in the instructions, the drill was begun at 9:00 AM and ended at 10:36 with the following results.

Hospitals listed (includes Tribal Wellness Center): 23
Hospitals responding: 23
Percentage: 100%
(Unchanged from previous test)

MCA's listed: 11
MCA's responding: 11
Percentage: 100%
(Unchanged from previous test)

Health Dept. listed: 10
Health Dept. responding: 10
Percentage: 100%
(Unchanged from previous test)

Other personnel listed:
(includes EMHSD Dist Coordinator,
Regional Coordinator, Asst. Coordinator,
Reg. Assistant, Medical Director & Regional Lab) 5
Other personnel responding: 5
Percentage: 100%

Overall Percentage of agencies contacted: 100%
(UNCHANGED from 100% for the previous test)

Follow up Plan:

In that all agencies completed the drill in the allocated time, no follow up actions were needed.

**Congratulations to all who
participated in this very successful
drill!**

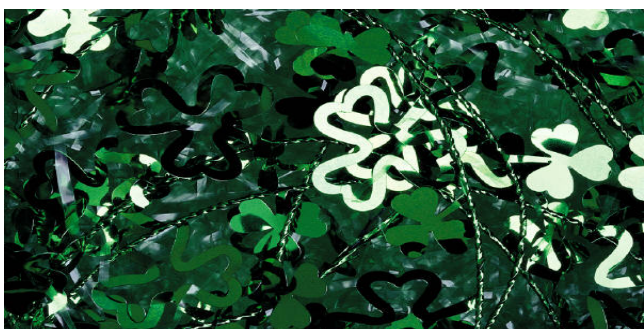
REMINDER!
THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING
REIMBURSEMENT PAPERWORK
FOR BOTH THE PANFLU PHASE 2 &
3 FUNDING IS
APRIL 16, 2010!

Contact Jim in the Regional Office
with ANY questions.

SAVE THE DATES!

- **Cornerstones in Preparedness conference June 17, 2010 at the Dow Event Center – SEE THE ATTACHED SAVE THE DATE FLYER! You can register NOW!**
- **Psychological First Aid training (ideal for Medical Reserve Corps personnel) July 20, 2010 at SVSU. Registration information to follow.**

Remember – MCA/EMS
Radio Test Reports are due
to the Regional Office by
Close of Business on March
31st!



Regional Office Continues to
Offer PortaCount Training

and Medical Clearance Form
Review

Region 3 has three PortaCount units for fit testing for N-95 respirators. These units allow for *QUANTATIVE* fit testing of individuals who need to wear these respirators.

We now have two certified trainers, Kathe Martin and Jennifer Stefaniak, in our office who can offer training sessions on the PortaCount machines. Agencies interested in setting up training sessions should contact Kathe in the Regional Office at kmmartin@saginawcounty.com or call her at (989) 758-3769.

In addition, when an individual is required to wear a respirator as part of their work, they are required by OSHA to complete a Medical Questionnaire. The Region 3 Office can now offer administrative review and approval of uncomplicated Medical Questionnaires for agencies located in our 14 counties. Questionnaires that have any possible indications for further medical evaluation will be returned to the agency for referral. For more information on this program, please contact Jim in the Regional Office at: jbrasseur@saginawcounty.com or call him at (989) 758-3712.

Currently, Region 3 is the only one in the State offering these services to regional partners.

REMINDER!
Long Term Care SNS
Resources Available
Through the Regional Office

The Region has received PPE supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) specifically designated for Long Term Care (LTC) agencies.

The inventory of these materials is being sent out to all the LTC agencies in our 14 counties as well as the procedures for requesting them.

For more information, contact Jennifer Stefaniak in the Regional Office at (989) 758-3713 or at jstefaniak@saginawcounty.com.



Happy St. Patrick's
Day!

Disaster Planning for Home Healthcare Providers

During a disaster, home health care professionals may find themselves in a situation where the home setting becomes a makeshift hospital. When health care facilities suffer the strain of patient overload, staff shortages, and depleted supplies, home care providers play a vital role in maintaining their clients' safety and care in the home. Does your agency have a current disaster plan?

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has information and planning tools on line at www.ready.gov. Follow the links to Disaster Planning Guide for Home Health Providers. Learn how to be prepared in the event of tornados, chemical spills, flooding, pandemics, and other situations that could delay help from the outside for a few days. Be pro-active. Plan ahead.

Update on the Region 3 MI Volunteer Registry Champion Project

The Region 3 MI Volunteer ESAR-VHP project, through the efforts of our Champion, Dave Gutierrez, is progressing nicely and ahead of schedule. Dave has been instrumental in developing proposed guidelines for uniform volunteer mobilization within the state. He has also generously offered to share templates for the peer review process required by the state.

Although not part of the required ESAR-VHP work plan, it is the intent of Region 3 HPN to maintain on-going collaboration with our EOC and LHD counterparts for the purpose of coordinating unified volunteer mobilization plans. With all of us pulling from the same pool of volunteers, it is essential to develop guidelines that support and enhance each agency's response during a large scale disaster.

The project's first table top exercise to test the plan is scheduled for April 28th. Kudos to Dave for all the work he has done on behalf of Region 3. His expertise in volunteer response during disasters has been invaluable.



REMINDER: Agency Inventory Project Due March 19th!

Annually, each partner agency working with Region 3 is asked to certify that the equipment and supplies they have received under this cooperative agreement are present, serviceable and ready for deployment.

In the last month, individualized inventories have been mailed to each hospital and medical control authority for their review and certification. Once completed, signed and dated, the inventories are to be returned to Jennifer in the Regional Office by **March 19, 2010**.

Please contact Jennifer with any questions regarding this project. She may be reached at jestefaniak@saginawcounty.com or at (989) 758-3713.

Region 3 Heads Statewide Effort for EMTrack Mutual Aid Agreement and State Event Calendar

THE EMTRACK MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT:

Working with the staff at EMSystems, the owner of our EMTrack patient tracking system, Region 3 has developed a State wide mutual aid agreement that has been signed by the seven Healthcare Preparedness or Bioterrorism Regions in the State who are clients of EMTrack. We have also enabled the one Region who does not use this system to access this tool by giving them access to the Region 3 EMTrack site.

This agreement will aid in the Region's ability to track patients across regional boundaries during a mass casualty event as well as coordination of efforts and resources.

THE STATEWIDE EVENT CALENDAR:

Working with the staff of Regions 2 North, 2 South and 5, Region 3 is in the process of developing a Statewide calendar for all the Regions and OPHP to list their various events, exercises, drills, conferences and training evolutions.

Once completed and all the information is added, this calendar will hopefully provide a centralized location for the Regions and OPHP to check for potential conflicts and events that would be of interest to other Regions. This should save on duplication of efforts and allow us to be better stewards of our valuable time and the public's funds.

Upcoming Meetings:

Healthcare Preparedness Regional Planning Board: Next regular meeting March 22, 2010 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the Lincoln Center, 820 S. Lincoln St., Bay City, MI.

Healthcare Preparedness Advisory Committee: Next regular meeting April 13, 2010 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the Lincoln Center, 820 S. Lincoln St., Bay City, MI.

Today's Quote:

*An Irish Blessing:
May the Good Lord take a liking
to you... but not too soon!*

**NEVER IRON A FOUR-LEAF CLOVER,
BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO PRESS
YOUR LUCK.**

SAVE THE DATE!

Region 3 Healthcare Preparedness Network
Presents:

Cornerstones in Preparedness:

*Planning and Preparing for Special Needs
Populations*



Join us for this **FREE** day of training and learn how to respond to the unique challenges of individuals with special needs during large scale emergencies and disasters.

Thursday, June 17, 2010

8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Dow Events Center

Saginaw, Michigan

For early registration go to www.region3hpn.org

A brochure with complete information, including topics and guest speakers, will soon be available.

Funding for this conference is made possible by a grant from the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) through the Michigan Office of Public Health Preparedness.

The Region 3 Healthcare Preparedness Network

Is pleased to announce the availability of



FREE!

On Line Training.

These ~~four~~ FIVE modules are now available on MITRAIN (<https://mi.train.org>)

- Region 3 MCC Operations
 - Region 3 ACC Trailer
 - Region 3 MCI Trailer
 - Region 3 Radio Systems
- *NEW COURSE! - REGION 3 ORIENTATION!!!*

The 1st four offer EMS CE credit!

To find the courses, after registering and logging into MITRAIN, go to the "Course Search" tab (at the top of the page) and click on "Key Word Search" under the Search Options (on the left side of the page.) Type in "Region 3" and the courses will be listed. Just select the course you want.

Contact the Region 3 office with any questions or problems.

Enjoy your FREE learning experience!

This program is supported 100% by Michigan Department of Community Health with funding from the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Hospital Preparedness Program Cooperative Agreement # 1U3REP080098-01-00.