

PUBLIC HEALTH SITUATIONAL UPDATE

VOLUME 3, ISSUE # 1 01 FEB 2012

A monthly publication of the WCHD Emergency Preparedness and Response Office.

ACTIVE PUBLIC HEALTH THREATS: OVERVIEW

Influenza: Winnebago County is experiencing normal influenza activity throughout the County. No unusual influenza activity is being reported across the nation at this time.

RADIATION EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

Potassium Iodide pills (KI).

Much discussion is taking place in the USA concerning the use of Potassium Iodide pills in response to the possibility of the radiation from Japan reaching the USA. The Center for Disease Control (CDC), Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Illinois Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) all do NOT recommend the purchasing and taking of KI tablets at this time.

If

If you are interested in joining the Winnebago County Medical reserve Corps, please contact Daniel Reilly at (815)720-4217 or dreilly@wchd.org

Flu Vaccination for uninsured at Rockford Food Pantry

Following a meeting of the Winnebago County Influenza Vaccination Consortium, the topic of providing influenza vaccinations for uninsured and homeless persons was discussed. Rockford Memorial Hospital, University of Illinois College of Medicine and College of Pharmacy (Rockford) and the Winnebago County Health Dept. came together and planned to conduct a flu vaccination at the Rockford Food Pantry. All three are hospitals donated vaccine, RMH also donated equipment and leadership, Rockford College, UIC College of Medicine and College of Pharmacy provided interns along with their preceptors to conduct the vaccinations. The Winnebago County Health Dept. provided the Logistics Management and the Winnebago County Medical Reserve Corps provided several volunteers. Over 140 vaccinations were given to persons who would otherwise not have had the opportunity to receive this vital protection.

The event was so successful that there are plans to conduct this type of clinic annually.

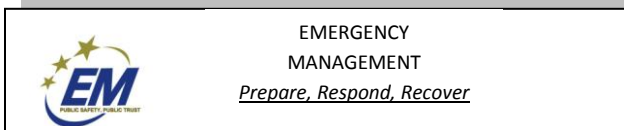
EMERGENCY PLANNING:

The Winnebago County Health Dept. is currently updating the Winnebago County Public Health Emergency Operations

WINTER PREPAREDNESS:

Winnebago County finally experiences its first appreciable snow fall. As always, please exercise caution when driving through the snow and slush.

Any wind that accompanies cold weather always adds the danger of wind chills. The colder the air temperature, plus the stronger the wind is blowing always reduces the ambient temperature which in turn decreases the time it takes for a body to develop hypothermia, frostbite and even death. For information on how to prepare for winter and cold weather please follow the link below:



Plan based on lessons learned from the H1N1 response and from an exercise held last year (Exercise Miracle). Response plan is now moving towards a regional response, which means that the health dept. is conducting planning and training with all 8 other local health depts. in Illinois Dept. of Public Health Region 1 (northwest Illinois)

OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL TERRORISM ADVISORY SYSTEM (NTAS)

The Dept. of Homeland Security is responsible for the National Terrorism Advisory System.

The system tiers are as follows:

- **ELEVATED THREAT ALERT** (warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States)
- **IMMINENT THREAT ALERT** (warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorist threat against the United States)

POSSIBLE TERROR THREATS IN THE USA:

While the war in Iraq has concluded, the war in Afghanistan is still ongoing, and many terrorist groups, both foreign and domestic, are still attempting to infiltrate the USA and cause disruption. Always be on the lookout for possible threats and maintain your situational awareness.

The 38th G8 meeting will take place in Chicago at the McCormick Place on May 19-20, 2012. The G8 is an unofficial annual forum for the leaders of Canada, the European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

At every G8 conference, many protestors take the opportunity to bring attention to their causes. Unfortunately, a few of the words professional protestors and agitators use the G8 conference as a platform which then drags in other peaceful and unsuspecting protestors to clashes with law enforcement. This then leads to violence and crime.

Everyone is cautioned to avoid the G8 Summit areas for the timeframe due to the disruption that may accompany the protestors.

BECOMING A POD: (Point of Distribution)

If your agency/organization is interested in providing emergency pharmaceutical medication to your employees and possibly the employee/staff families following a public health emergency (such as bioterrorism), please contact the WCHD in order to set this up. If you have access to nurses, you may be able to receive emergency pharmaceuticals from the WCHD and provide them to your employees and family members.

Please contact Daniel Reilly at (815)720-4217, or dreilly@wchd.org for more information.

FUTURE EMERGENCY PLANNING:

The Winnebago County Health Dept. Office of Emergency Preparedness offers assistance to organizations and agencies that request a review of the emergency plans. For assistance please contact the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.

Additionally, the following events are being planned for the near future:

- **MGT 339 Resource Inventory Management**
(Wednesday, March 14th 08:00 – 09:00)
- **MGT 335: Event Security Planning for Public Safety Officials**
(Wednesday, Thursday October 10th and 11th)
- **Public Health Emergency Planning Summit**
(details to follow later this month)

For more information on these courses please check the attachments to this e-mail. If you have further questions please feel free to contact Dan Reilly (815)720-4217

POSSIBLE EMERGENCIES IN THE COMING MONTHS

So far, the winter has been a mild one with little snow. Snow, and spring rains combine to create the usual springtime flooding that is seen each year. The amount of snow, amount of rain and how much the ground can absorb run-off all play a part in how much flooding we will see. For FLOODING PREPAREDNESS, please follow the link to Ready.Illinois.gov at the bottom of this page.

IF YOU HAVE ANY REQUESTS OR QUESTIONS:

Please contact Daniel Reilly at (815)720-4217, or at dreilly@wchd.org

If you would like to submit an article or photo for future Public Health Situational Updates, please contact Daniel Reilly at the information listed above.

For further information on becoming prepared for yourself, your family or your business, please visit:



FEEL FREE TO SHARE THIS WITH YOUR STAFF!