

The Infection

LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY
Health Department
www.ldchealth.org

Connection

Coalition seeks to assist vulnerable populations

Together Prepared is a group that formed in October 2007 to close critical knowledge and emergency planning gaps for vulnerable populations and the agencies that serve them.

The group is comprised of representatives from 13 local non-profit, social service and government agencies.

Agencies include: Douglas County Emergency Management, Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center, the University of Kansas Center on Independent Living, Success By 6, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, Independence Inc., Lawrence Housing Authority, Centro Hispano Resource Center, Cottonwood Inc. and others.

Together Prepared's mission is to: Ensure that local capabilities exist for enhancing personal readiness through training and education so that a disaster's impact on vulnerable populations is minimal.

On Nov. 6, 2008, Together Prepared held a forum for community-based organizations to discuss concerns and challenges they encounter in their emergency preparedness.

Participants reported that their consumers lacked education and resources or that their personal preparedness levels were quite low.

On Feb. 11, a second forum for community-based organizations was held to discuss resource sharing and collaboration during an emergency.

Grant seeks to improve preparedness

The Lawrence Public Library, partnering with Together Prepared, was recently awarded a grant from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine to help establish the library as the source of information in the event of a public health emergency, disaster or other community crisis.

The project aims to expand the library's services through printed material, staff assistance, the Internet and the library's mobile van also will be used to inform agencies, organizations and residences that serve vulnerable populations on what to do before, during and after a major emergency.

A third forum is scheduled for May 13 at the Community Health Facility second floor meeting rooms. A panel of emergency response agencies will answer

questions and discuss their response process. The forum is geared toward community-based organizations and how they can better prepare their consumers on emergency preparedness.

Health Department participates in March Health Madness



Free State High School students were some of the 'patients' during the Health Department's point-of-dispensing clinic, an exercise held as part of March Health Madness.

The week of March 23-27 was designated as March Health Madness for Kansas health departments and hospitals.

The week was full of activities to test local health departments' preparedness and response plans, as well as their ability to communicate with partner agencies and the media.

In Douglas County, Monday began with an epi tabletop that included the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Douglas County Emergency Management, KU Watkins Health Center and USD 497 school nurses.

Tuesday included a tabletop exercise at Lawrence Memorial Hospital that involved testing medical surge capacity. On Friday, the Health Department set up a point-of-dispensing (POD) clinic at Free State High School.

The scenario involved a grocery produce worker infected with Hepatitis A who potentially infected thousands of customers.

Free State High School students played the part of people coming to the clinic to be "vaccinated." Health Department staff, Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, members of the Douglas County Kansas All Hazards

See "POD" on page 2

Douglas County Disease Report

Disease category	Disease name	Jan. 2009	Feb. 2009	Mar. 2009	Total
Enteric	Campylobacter	1	0	0	1
	Norwalk-like virus	0	2	0	2
	Giardiasis	0	4	0	4
	Salmonellosis	5	5	0	10
General	Hepatitis B, chronic	1	3	3	7
	Hepatitis C	9	6	7	22
	TB disease	1	0	1	2
	Strep pneumoniae invasive	0	1	2	3
	Haemophilus influenzae	0	0	1	1
Vaccine-preventable diseases	Pertussis	1	2	3	6
	Varicella	2	2	3	7
STDs (tested at LDCHD only)	Gonorrhea	2	4	6	12
	Chlamydia	20	13	14	47

This report includes the number of cases investigated by the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. Case classifications include: Confirmed, probable, suspect and those determined to not be a case.

Mumps and pertussis reminder

The Health Department has had a couple of suspect mumps and suspect pertussis cases in the past few weeks.

Please remember to isolate a suspect or confirmed mumps case for five days, draw blood for Mumps Igm testing and obtain a viral throat or buccal swab culture.

If you suspect pertussis, please obtain a nasopharyngeal swab for PCR testing.

If you suspect either of these infections, please notify the Health Department at (785) 843-0721.

POD tests public health emergency preparedness

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Behavioral Health team (KAHB) and law enforcement staffed the clinic. Free State Nurse **Paula Hatcher** served as clinic supervisor and **Dr. Lori Hougham**, Health Department Health Officer/Medical Consultant also participated.

On the other side of Lawrence, Roger Hill Volunteer Center opened a spontaneous Volunteer Reception Center at the Fairgrounds. To track volunteers in a large disaster, plans include opening a center where unaffiliated volunteers will be checked in and processed.

The week was a success with the many agencies involved learning their strengths and what improvements need to be addressed.

New immunization requirements for 2009-2010 school year

The 2009-2010 school year is just around the corner and with it come new immunization requirements for schools and child care centers/preschools.

- Tdap will be required for children turning 11 by Sept. 1 if it has been more than two years since a previous dose of Tdap.
- For adolescents older than 11, a Tdap booster is required 10 years after the completion of the primary series of Tdap or previous dose. Three doses of Hepatitis B and one dose of varicella are now required for all students in grades 1-9.
- Kindergarten students are required to have two doses

of varicella. Students who have had varicella will need a written note from their health care provider documenting the history of disease.

- For children in day care centers or preschools, who are younger than age 5 by Sept. 1; four doses of Tdap, three doses of IPV, one MMR, one varicella, three doses Hib, three doses hepatitis B, four doses of pneumococcal and two doses hepatitis A are required.
- All adults up to age 65 are recommended to have one dose of Tdap. Additionally, one dose of pneumococcal vaccine is now recommended for adults ages 19-64 who smoke or have asthma.

Health Department announces annual Kay Kent award winner

Charlotte Marthaler, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department Director of Policy and Planning, was awarded the Kay Kent Excellence in Public Health Service Award recently. Marthaler has



Charlotte Marthaler

worked at the Health Department for 11 years and was nominated by **Barbara Schnitker**, Director of Clinic Services.

“Charlotte’s dedication and thoughtful guidance are assets in the provision of quality public health services,” Schnitker said in her nomination.

Laughter is the best medicine



It was on a short-cut through the hospital kitchens that Albert was first approached by a member of the Antibiotic Resistance.