



# NJ Communi- CABLE

Spring 2013

## Communicable Disease Service Mission Statement

Our mission is to prevent communicable disease among all citizens of New Jersey, and to promote the knowledge and use of healthy lifestyles to maximize the health and well-being of New Jerseyans.

We will accomplish our mission through our leadership, collaborative partnerships, and advocacy for communicable disease surveillance, research, education, treatment, prevention and control.

## Need a speaker for your event?

See page 9

Chris Christie, Governor  
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor  
Mary E. O'Dowd, MPH  
Commissioner

### COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SERVICE

Christina Tan, MD, MPH  
State Epidemiologist/  
Assistant Commissioner  
Gary Ludwig, MS, Director  
Suzanne Miro, MPH, MCHES  
Editor, Research Scientist

## Interactive Websites Test Flu Readiness of New Jersey Residents and Businesses

By: Daniel Emmer, Communications Manager

Are you "Flu Savvy?" Is your business prepared if employees call out sick due to the flu? These questions and many more can be answered by logging onto two interactive web applications that seek to inform and educate New Jersey residents on the flu.

"One of the best ways to prevent the spread of the flu is education," said Mary E. O'Dowd Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health.

"With these web tools, we help educate New Jersey residents and the business community on the dangers of the flu in an interactive and entertaining way."

At "Get Flu Savvy," users start with a 104.5 degree fever and lower their temperature to normal by navigating a road map back to health. Users take flu challenges, are provided historical facts, watch videos about the flu and learn how to prevent the flu and what to do if they become infected. As a participant moves along the roadmap, the player's temperature is lowered by



completing interactive quizzes, games and challenges. *Get Flu Savvy* is available at:

<http://www.getflusavvy.com/>.

"Operating Under the Influenza," is a flu simulation game that tracks the business community of City Town as a flu pandemic hits. Users choose one or more businesses to run, then pick the number of workers for each company, establish the makeup of their workforce and institute different contingency plans to protect employees. As players move through the game, businesses are given educational information provided by the CDC. Tips include:

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# It's a Wrap: Rap Video Wins First Statewide Adolescent Vaccine Education Contest

By: Jennifer Smith, Health Educator

The Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey, in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Health, launched the Protect Me with 3 video contest in an effort to broaden public awareness about the importance of adolescent vaccinations. New Jersey pre-teens and teens, 11 through 18 years of age, were challenged to create short (30 second) videos about one of three vaccines:



(HPV) that most commonly cause cervical cancer. HPV vaccine can also help protect boys and girls against genital warts and anal cancer.

Kiefer Wilson, 15, of Willingboro, was awarded the Grand Prize for his original rap video highlighting the causes, symptoms, treatments and prevention of HPV. Kiefer won a new iPad 3 and a chance for his video to be aired on television. He was encouraged to enter the contest by his teacher at the Burlington County Institute of Technology (BCIT), Westampton Campus. "I believe everyone should exercise their right to get vaccinated because it can save your life," said Kiefer, a sophomore at BCIT Westampton Tech. "When I heard about this contest, it inspired me to enter and give my peers a voice."

Austyn Kaplan, 17, of Marlboro, and Dan Arriaza, 16, of Jersey City, were awarded first and second Runners-Up, respectively, for their motivational videos instructing peers to seek vaccination against HPV, an infection which is most

- ❖ **Tdap vaccine**, which is a booster against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. Pertussis, or whooping cough, can keep kids out of school and activities for weeks. It can also be spread to babies, which can be very dangerous.
- ❖ **Meningococcal vaccine**, which protects against meningococcal disease. Meningococcal disease is caused by bacteria and is a leading cause of bacterial meningitis (a serious infection around the brain and spinal cord) and its complications. This infection can lead to brain damage, hearing loss, learning disabilities, and even death.
- ❖ **HPV vaccine**, which protects girls and women against the types of human papillomavirus

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Get more information at <http://nj.gov/health/cd/handwashing.shtml>.

### The NJDOH Communicable Disease Service includes:

Infectious and Zoonotic Disease Program (IZDP): 609-826-5964

Vaccine Preventable Disease Program (VPDP): 609-826-4860

We're on the Web! [www.nj.gov/health/cd](http://www.nj.gov/health/cd)

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Flu Savvy, continued from page 1

Providing masks to employees to cover the mouth and nose, asking employees to wave rather than shake hands, promoting teleconferencing and sending sick workers home.

The impact the flu has on worker productivity is tracked throughout the simulation. By the end of the game, players will see if their business or businesses were able to continue operating during the crisis. Operating Under the Influenza is available at:



<https://njlmn.rutgers.edu/jsp/ext/pfg/index.jsp>

Both web applications were developed in partnership with Rutgers University.

### Operating Under the Influenza:

A Continuity of Operations Simulation Tool for Businesses

Can your organization survive the pandemic? Play "Operating Under the Influenza" to learn more about effectively planning for crisis situations!

- Build companies to reflect real-world businesses, departments, and employees
- Figure out how to deal with the absence of key employees
- Implement workforce continuity policies to keep organizations functioning
- Track the effectiveness of different workforce continuity policies

#### Getting Started:

1. If it isn't already installed on your computer, first download and install **Adobe Air**.
2. Then download and install **Operating Under the Influenza**.
3. Open **Operating Under the Influenza** on your local computer to play!



Brought to you by the New Jersey Department of Health and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

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*Protect Me with 3, continued from page 2*

common in people in their late teens and early 20s. Their submissions, along with the Grand Prize video, can be viewed at [www.protectmewith3.com](http://www.protectmewith3.com).

NJ's coverage rates are at or above the national average for Tdap, meningococcal, and HPV vaccines (for females), but there is still room for improvement. With the increase in the number of pertussis cases this past year, it is more important than ever for adolescents to receive all of the recommended vaccinations.

Parents/guardians should talk to their health care provider to ensure that their children are enrolled in the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIS), New Jersey's confidential, web-based immunization registry. NJIS provides an official immunization record of your child's immunization history and convenient way to keep track of your child's next scheduled vaccines. For further information about NJIS, please visit <https://njiis.nj.gov>.



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Winners announced for NJ's first adolescent vaccine education contest. From left to right: Dr. Christina Tan, State Epidemiologist/Assistant Commissioner, NJ Department of Health; Kiefer Wilson, Grand Prize Winner; Austyn Kaplan, First Runner-Up; Ilise Zimmerman, Co-Executive Director, Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey





# Infectious Disease Summit-2012

By: Laura Taylor, Health Educator

The Infectious Disease Summit is now on-line and you can earn public health CE credits!!! The summit is broken into two separate modules:

- ❖ Part A (morning presentations): “Keeping the Infection Out of the Injection,” “Antibiotic Resistance,” “Public Health Outbreak Investigation Roles & Responsibilities” and “If it Isn’t Flu...What is It?”
- ❖ Part B (afternoon presentations): “Rabies Prophylaxis & Human Rabies Case,” “Salmonella Outbreak Associated with Chicken Livers” and “Norovirus Outbreak at a University.”

Part A is worth 2.00 public health credits and Part B is worth 1.00 public health credit. Each course includes several video segments which must be viewed in their

entirety before proceeding to a post test. A score of at least 73% is required to receive public health CEs. The post test will remain accessible for seven days after the course has been completed. Credits will be added to participants’ NJ Learning Management Network (NJLMN) transcripts upon successful completion of the post-test. The modules are posted on NJLMN at <https://njlmn.rutgers.edu>. To access the modules, log in and click on “on-line courses.” Public health continuing education credits are available only to those who did not earn credits at the live offering.

This is the first time that the Infectious Disease Summit has been offered as an on-line course. Thank you to the team at Rutgers University-Office of Continuing Professional Education that assisted with this project!



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The screenshot shows the NJLMN website interface. At the top, there are logos for NJ Health, NJLMN (New Jersey Learning Management Network), and Rutgers. Below the logos is a navigation bar with tabs for Home, Course Catalog, Library, Forum, Practice Exchange, Community Calendar, Contact Us, and About NJLMN. The main content area includes a description of NJLMN as an online resource for public health continuing education courses. It also features a 'User Login' section with fields for Username and Password, a 'Log in' button, and links for 'Forgot password' and 'Create Account'. A footer at the bottom states: 'Brought to you by Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and the New Jersey Department of Health'.





# THE IMPACTS OF UNSAFE MEDICAL INJECTIONS IN THE U.S.

## Unsafe Injection Practices Have Devastating Consequences<sup>1</sup>

Syringe reuse and misuse of medication vials have resulted in dozens of outbreaks and **THE NEED TO ADVISE MORE THAN 150,000 PATIENTS...**

...to seek testing for bloodborne pathogens such as **HEPATITIS B, HEPATITIS C AND HIV<sup>2</sup>** and have led to...



Patient illness and death



Legal charges/malpractice suits



Loss of clinician license



Criminal charges

In just one clinic, syringe re-use to access medication vials for multiple patients resulted in an outbreak and one of the largest public health notifications in U.S. history.



**50,000 PEOPLE EXPOSED TO INFECTION**



**\$16~\$20 MILLION IN COSTS**

## Outbreaks Occur in a Variety of Medical Settings



Primary care clinics  
Pediatric offices



Ambulatory surgical centers



Pain remediation clinics



Imaging facilities



Oncology clinics



Health fairs



**Injection Safety is Every Provider's Responsibility**

## Steps Every Healthcare Provider Should Take



Needles and syringes should not be used for more than one patient or reused to draw up additional medication.



Do not administer medications from a single-dose vial or IV bag to multiple patients.



Limit the use of multi-dose vials, and dedicate them to a single patient whenever possible.



Speak up if you see a colleague not following safe injection practices.

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The **One & Only Campaign** aims to eradicate outbreaks from unsafe medical injections by raising awareness among patients and healthcare providers about proper practices. The campaign is a public health effort led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and produced by the Safe Injection Practices Coalition (SIPC), a collaboration of several medical societies, state health departments, patient advocates, and private medical companies.

FACEBOOK.COM/ONEANDONLYCAMPAIGN

@INJECTIONSAFETY





# Injection Safety

By: Laura Taylor, Health Educator

New Jersey continues its participation in the national Safe Injection Practices Coalition (SIPC). New injection safety and bloodborne pathogen education materials and resources are available on the One & Only Campaign website ([www.oneandonlycampaign.org](http://www.oneandonlycampaign.org))

Are you responsible for conducting staff training or in-service education for employees or others?

“How to Do it Right” is a two-minute, animated video that follows “Ordinary Joe” through visits to his health providers. Joe gets an infection due to unsafe injection practices. The video explores the basics of safe injection practices and how good practice translates into reduced infection

due to poor injection practices. Another resource is the bloodborne pathogens training activity. Wearing gloves and taking other infection control precautions aren’t just for your protection. The SIPC created this training to remind healthcare providers that the measures they take to protect themselves from bloodborne pathogens and other infection exposures, as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), also protect patients from healthcare-associated infections. Injection safety and other basic infection prevention and control practices are central to patient and healthcare provider safety. This is a guided-module that is a great complement to traditional bloodborne pathogen training for

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Bloodborne Pathogen Training

**1 ONE NEEDLE, ONE SYRINGE, ONLY ONE TIME.**

Safe Injection Practices Coalition  
[www.ONEandONLYcampaign.org](http://www.ONEandONLYcampaign.org)

**Safe Injection Practices: Protecting Yourself and Your Patients**

**A Bloodborne Pathogens Training Activity**

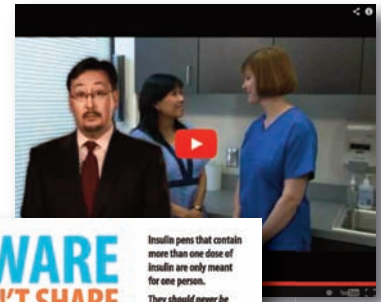




Injection Safety, continued from page 7

healthcare professionals. These new videos are available to enhance your trainings! Access the videos at: <http://www.oneandonlycampaign.org/content/audio-video>

New materials (poster and brochure) for health professionals and healthcare facilities regarding insulin pens are now available! Order FREE copies at the One & Only Campaign website!



## Two Posters Presented at ISDS Annual Conference in San Diego

Teresa Hamby, a data analyst with the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), Infectious and Zoonotic Disease Program (IZDP) presented two posters at the International Society for Disease Surveillance (ISDS) annual conference in December 2012. Both posters were the result of emergency department data analyses of data collected in EpiCenter, an online syndromic surveillance system developed by Health Monitoring Systems, Inc (HMS). EpiCenter incorporates statistical management and analytical techniques to process health-related data in real time. Chief complaint text is classified, using text recognition methods, into various public health-related and other categories. The first poster, based on an analysis completed by colleagues Michael Berry et al. in the NJDOH Consumer and Environmental Health Service, displayed a comparison of EpiCenter data to universal billing information to identify

how well heat-related illness is captured in EpiCenter chief complaint text. The second poster, by Ms. Hamby, IZDP staff, and local epidemiologists, outlined an investigation of several statewide alerts in EpiCenter data related to paralysis that took place in July 2012. For more information, please contact Teresa Hamby ([teresa.hamby@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:teresa.hamby@doh.state.nj.us)) or Stella Tsai ([stella.tsai@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:stella.tsai@doh.state.nj.us)) by email, or by phone at (609) 826-5964.

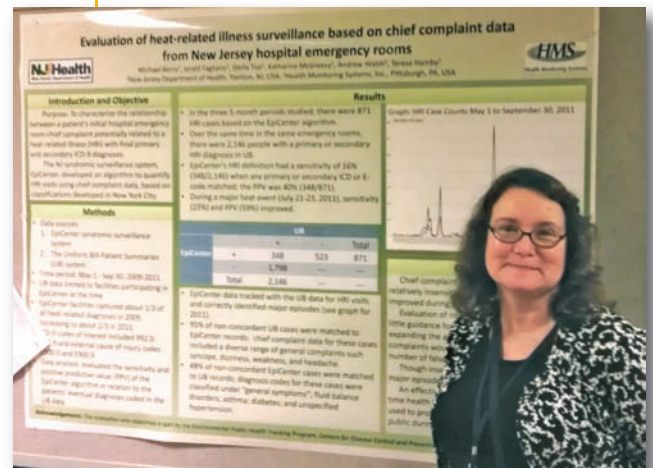
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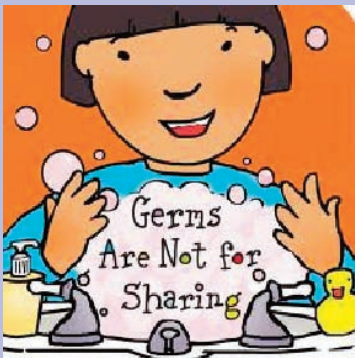






## New Resources for Outbreaks in School and Daycare Settings

These can be found on the CDS Home page under [Find a Disease / Health Topic – Outbreaks](#)



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## Need a Speaker for Your Event?

**W**e are looking to take our antibiotic resistance message on the road. If your professional organization needs a speaker for grand rounds, conferences or meetings please contact us to see how we can meet your needs. Antibiotic resistance and appropriate prescribing are



critical health care issues. The New Jersey Department of Health, Communicable Disease Service has partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Get Smart About Antibiotics program to increase awareness of this problem and deliver accurate information to health care providers. For more information or to arrange a date for a presentation, please contact Suzanne Miro, Senior Health Communication Specialist at

[suzanne.miro@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:suzanne.miro@doh.state.nj.us) or 609-826-5964. 