

HCA Education & Research— “Wired for Access”



Communications Directory Updates

Get it going with just a few clicks of your mouse!

The primary responsibility of HPN Coordinators is the maintenance and upkeep of current information for all contact roles within the Communications Directory. Up-to-date contact information is crucial for the New York State Department of Health (DOH) to have in the event of a crisis in order to disseminate important information and guidance.

Getting up-to-date is not as difficult as you think. If you have your Health Provider Network (HPN) or Health Commerce System (HCS) log on information, you can get into the system. If your password has expired or you are unable to remember your log on information, you should contact the CAMU hotline at 866-529-1890.

It is important to note that the old HCS format will remain as an option for several more weeks. The Communications Directory is located on the upper left of the page. From that point, you can choose the Coordinator’s Update Tool.



Upper left of opening page of “old” HPN portal

If you are using the new system, you are encouraged to add the Communications Directory and Coordinator’s Update Tool to your “My Applications” bar for easy access. Please check out this month’s “Cheat Sheet” on the last page of *Wired for Access* to review how to “Add a New User” for your organization. For additional help, you are urged to call HCS Training staff (518) 473-1809. All of this information is currently available through self-paced learning modules found on HCS.

Like Coffee? Then you’ll love this!

HCA Drills Have Begun

Congratulations to Heidi Bond, Otsego County Health Department; Aisha Lucas, Fedcap Homecare; Mandy Walsh, Delaware County Public Health; Brenden Bedard; Rensselaer County Department of Health; and Jennifer Weeks, Madison County Health Department who were the first to correctly respond to HCA’s Communications Compliance Drill and win \$20 coffee gift cards.

More HCA Communications Compliance drills are coming, so be sure your agency’s contact roles are up-to-date on the HPN.



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Wanted: Provider Participants For Best Practices Panel

For Emergency Preparedness Annual Meeting

HCA Research and Education is looking for providers who have been particularly effective in implementing Best Practices for Emergency Preparedness to participate in a panel at the annual meeting. This could include: HPN Communication compliance among staff; increasing seasonal influenza vaccination rates among their staff or other practices that enhance your agency's emergency preparedness. Panel participants will have lodging and travel costs reimbursed.

Vaccination against H1N1 is still encouraged by Health Officials

https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/hpn/ctrldocs/alrtview/postings/doc100319_1.pdf

In a letter to State Health Commissioners, the CDC praised efforts to vaccinate Americans. Health officials are pleased that approximately 37% of children under the age of 18 years old and 23% of all adults over 18 have been vaccinated. However, concerns still remains that a 3rd wave of 2009 H1N1, consistent with past pandemics, could still occur in the Unites States. While the CDC does not anticipate a large outbreak, the more likely scenario would be localized H1N1 outbreaks in communities that have been less affected by illness, or where disease or vaccination rates have been lower than other areas. That is why the CDC and the NYS Department of Health continue to encourage vaccination to curtail the impact of a 3rd wave of H1N1 influenza.

Save The Date - June 10, 2010

Emergency Preparedness

Annual Meeting

10:00am-3:30pm

Comfort Inn & Suites, Castleton, NY

Located minutes from downtown Albany; free shuttle from the Albany/Rensselaer Train Station.

Meeting fees paid by HCA - Education & Research through an Emergency Preparedness Grant from the New York State Department of Health.



Adult Immunization Schedule for 2010

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5901-Immunization.pdf>

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), an advisory group comprised of immunization specialists who assist the US Department of Health and Human services and the CDC with immunization policies, recently approved the 2010 Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule.

Study Finds Common Sense Aids in Household Flu Infection Control

<http://www.idsociety.org/Content.aspx?id=16219>

The April 1, 2010 *Journal of Infectious Diseases* has published a study finding that preventive behaviors can limit household transmission of H1N1. Researchers gathered data from a school-based H1N1 influenza outbreak in New York City last spring by surveying household members of ill students. One-third of the school's student body had Influenza Like Illness (ILI). Of the 702 household members surveyed, 79 said they had ILI, an 11.3% secondary infection rate. Half the cases occurring within 3 days and 87% within 7 days after the student fell ill.

Researchers found that talking with family members about infection control reduced the risk of transmission by 40%. Sleeping in the same room as the ill student and close contact activities such as watching television together promoted transmission of ILI.

“Having a household discussion about how to prevent transmission was associated with a 40 percent reduction in risk for influenza among others in the household.”

- *Journal of Infectious Diseases*

2010-11 Trivalent Influenza Vaccine

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

The FDA has accepted the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommendation for vaccine strains for the 2010-11 Northern Hemisphere trivalent influenza vaccine. The recommendation is that the vaccine contain A/California/7/2009-like (2009 H1N1), A/Perth/16/2009-like (H3N2), and B/Brisbane/60/2008-like (B/Victoria lineage) viruses. A seasonal influenza A (H1N1) component is not included in the 2010-11 formulation and the A (H3N2) component has been changed from the 2009-10 Northern Hemisphere vaccine formulation. This recommendation was based on surveillance data related to epidemiology and antigenic characteristics, serological responses to 2009-10 trivalent seasonal and 2009 H1N1 monovalent vaccines, and the availability of candidate strains and reagents.

Information on Distributors of Seasonal Influenza vaccine

Influenza Vaccine Distributor Information:

<http://www.flusupplynews.com/resources.cfm>

Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System (IVATS):

http://www.preventinfluenza.org/profs_production.asp

Still need this year's vaccine? Find the vaccine you need at IVATS .

Oh, please...it's only a sneeze!?!

This photograph illustrates the dispersion of droplets from one sneeze. Tactics such as sneezing or coughing into one's elbow help to diminish the transmission of influenza and other viruses.



April 1, 2010

CAMU Hotline

1-866-529-1890

The Commerce Accounts Management Unit is well staffed to assist you with any problems you may have with the Health Provider Network.

Any HPN questions or problems can be directed to the CAMU Unit during the hours of 8:00am to 5:00pm.

In support of the deliverables on a DOH grant, HCA Education & Research makes this e-newsletter available, free of charge, to all NYS home care providers.

Questions or comments concerning the grant deliverables may be directed to Lexi Silver, Vice President of Policy and Clinical Affairs, at (518) 810-0658 or asilver@hcanys.org; or Mandy Fallon, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, at (518) 424-1358 or mfallon@hcanys.org.

“Cheat Sheet” Add a New User

For complete instructions log on to HCS at

https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/hpn/accnts/doc2a_elect_inst.html

- Coordinators Update Tool
 - Select the Organization
 - Add A new person
 - ◆ Search for person
 - ◆ If a match
 - And, the person is already connected with your organization, then you can change the person's role.
 - And the person's account references a different organization
 - If person no longer works at other place, call CAMU (866-529-1890) to cancel the old account. Select “No Match”
 - If the person continues to work at the different organization as well as yours, select your organization and continue.
 - ◆ If no match, then
 - Add Person (complete the online form & Submit)
 - Fill out online and print Request Form
 - Have it **signed and notarized**
 - Mail the original to DOH
 - Wait for approval (7 to 10 days)
 - Then you may assign role through “Manage People” tab

For Information about Updating Roles, please check out the February issue of *Wired for Access* at http://homecareprepare.org/files/February_Newsletter.pdf.