



Preparing our Hawai'i communities for natural disasters, disease pandemic, bioterrorism and public health emergencies.

Public Health Preparedness News

Spring 2015

PHP holds Ebola response exercise

It's highly unlikely that a healthcare worker arriving in Hawaii after traveling to West Africa would be infected with the Ebola virus.

But if that scenario does materialize, how would the treating facility notify the appropriate authorities, transport the

consistent with Ebola. The worker-turned-patient is currently located on Maui, but requires transport to Oahu to receive definitive care.

The 2014 Ebola Response Planning Tabletop Exercise helped increase awareness for DOH and partners; it



Statewide participation: The 2014 Ebola Response Planning Tabletop Exercise convened a diverse group who would need to work together in the event of an Ebola case.

patient to a hospital, and safely handle any waste materials?

To ensure a common operating picture among all stakeholders, DOH Public Health Preparedness (PHP) branch held an Ebola Response Planning Tabletop Exercise on December 12.

More than 60 public health, first responders, waste management agencies, state and county emergency management groups, and other community partners from across the Hawaiian islands met to discuss the roles, response, and processes involved in handling an Ebola case, outside of the clinical care of the patient.

In the mock scenario, a healthcare worker who recently returns from Sierra Leone starts to exhibit symptoms

also provided a forum to discuss recommendations regarding the appropriate management and transport of patients who may have Ebola virus disease.

Discussion during the exercise play focused on agency roles and responsibilities, notification protocols, and response plans and procedures.

PHP planners met the objective to provide recommendations on the appropriate management and transport of Ebola patients.

"This exercise was an opportunity to present multiple options and possible solutions in an open, no-fault environment," says Dr. Sarah Park, State Epidemiologist. "We gathered great suggestions and actions that might improve response efforts."

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ASPR visits Hawai'i

DOH Public Health Preparedness branch and Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) Emergency Services were pleased to host Field Project Officers (FPOs) from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR).



Partnerships: Staff from ASPR, Hawaii DOH PHP program and HAH.

The FPOs conducted their at-site visit October 22-24, 2014, to discuss previous, current, and future preparedness activities and identify program strengths. The officers also weighed areas for possible improvements for the ASPR-funded Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) in Hawaii.

Highlights of the at-site visit included an overview of DOH and coalition HPP capabilities and a tour of the HAH Emergency Services warehouse facility.

The FPOs also met with key partners, the HAH Emergency Management Committee, and DOH leadership and staff.

Medical Reserve Corps volunteers help Stop Flu at School

The Hawaii Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) has wound down from another successful Stop Flu at School (SFAS) year.

MRC helped staff the immunization clinics across the state, which ran from November to December this past year. Members worked as registration and vaccination staff alongside Public Health Nurses (PHNs) and contracted staff.

This year, nursing students from various universities were channeled through the Hawaii MRC to provide staff support to SFAS. The MRC looks forward to the support and ongoing collaboration with the nursing schools of Hawaii. Additionally, nursing students pursuing their Master's degree in nursing assisted the PHNs in various clinic manager duties.

2014 was a busy year for the Hawaii MRC, participating in Vision and Hearing Screening activities coordinated by the Lions Club, multiple community

health fairs, the Honolulu Marathon, and two shelter activations! Busy as ever, the MRC will be planning trainings and other activities for 2015!

Mahalo to Hawaii MRC members for strengthening our communities and promoting public health & disaster preparedness.

If you are interested in learning more about the Hawaii Medical Reserve Corps, check out our [Facebook](#) page or visit the [HMRC page](#).



Stop Flu at School: (left photo) Hawaii Medical Reserve Corps volunteers Sheri Gon and Susan Fujii at an SFAS event. (right photo) MRC volunteers Sachiko Taketa, Amy Takeuchi and Sheri Gon help out at an SFAS clinic.



Need a presentation on Disaster Preparedness?

Would your community group, church, neighborhood board, scout troop, place of business, etc. be interested in a brief presentation on ways to Prepare Now for disasters and public health emergencies?

Contact the Public Health Preparedness Branch, Hawai'i State Department of Health, to schedule an engaging 20-minute presentation that covers the need for preparation, Hawaii's geographic isolation, key items for your emergency supplies kit, a family emergency plan, getting real-time information during a blackout, and building your physical and mental resilience to disasters.

To learn more about this free educational resource, call 1-808-587-6596 or email PHPnewsletter@doh.hawaii.gov.



Kaua'i practices Advanced Disaster Life Support

Hands-on training is a critical adjunct to classroom instruction, especially in life support.

On Oct. 27-28, 2014, Kauai District Health Office staff – along with American Red Cross, Kauai Community College, University of Hawaii, local hospitals and clinics, and Kauai Medical Reserve Corps – descended on the Kauai Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center to take part in Advanced Disaster Life Support



Sally Tazelaar, RN, dispatches assets as she thinks through operational challenges during a disaster evacuation tabletop exercise. ADLS instructors Libby Char and Michael Chan (right, in black) oversee the exercise.

(ADLS) training.

The course, provided by the National Disaster Life Support Foundation, is a follow-up to its Basic Disaster Life Support course offered last year.

Whereas the Basic course offers an awareness-level classroom-type instruction, the ADLS course was a hands-on program for the 32 participants.

The ADLS training dug deeper into the details of pertinent topics, such as mass casualty triage, community health emergency operations, PPE and PPE decontamination, legal and ethical considerations, and algorithms for



Participants go through the steps of doffing Level-C PPE with Positive Air Pressure Respirators.

hazard-specific mass care.

The ongoing Ebola response across the state highlighted the timeliness of aspects of the ADLS course; the prerequisite Basic course was waived at the last minute to give more people access to the training.

Class participants took part in various tabletop exercises, practiced the donning and doffing of PPE, and held a mass casualty exercise, with Kauai High School Academy of Health students playing the victims.



A Hawaii State Government representative checks the triage status of a "victim," played by Kauai High School Academy of Health students, while other "victims" await transport.

Big Island MRC assist Stop Flu at School

Much more than lava is headed toward Keaau Elementary School. On December 11, Big Island Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers assisted District Health Office staff at a Stop Flu at School (SFAS) event at Keaau Elementary. Approximately 292 children from grades K-5 were inoculated at the event.

MRC volunteers performed tasks during the 2-hour event that included setting up and breaking down the clinic, coordinating the registration process, routing participants through the site, and nurses directly delivering intravenous flu vaccines.

Clinic manager and Public Health Nurse Leanne Kihara praised MRC



Ahead of the lava: Big Island MRC nurses and other volunteers at Keaau Elementary's Stop Flu at School event, one of 58 Big Island schools where MRC members assisted.



volunteers as a valuable asset for SFAS clinics this year. "We truly appreciate our MRC volunteers," Ms. Kihara said. "They are essential for us in running smooth and efficient clinics."

During SFAS 2014, Big Island MRC volunteers assisted at more than 58 school-located clinics offered to public and private schools across the island of Hawaii.

Maui pilots a new multilingual outreach program

Disseminating info on public health preparedness can be a challenge when trying to reach the many and varied immigrant communities of Maui.

So, from June to mid-December 2014, the Maui DHO Public Health Preparedness staff piloted a new outreach effort: the Multicultural Emergency Preparedness Outreach Program.

The goal was to share information about preparedness and disaster with residents of the island who are not usually reached by mainstream com-

munications. The plan was to hire and train outreach workers who are fluent in both English and at least one other language.

The Maui PHP staff initially hired workers who spoke Hawaiian, Japanese, Chinese, Marshallese, Ilocano, Tagalog, Spanish and/or American Sign Language. After three months, an additional group was trained who were able to reach native speakers of Kosraean and Pohnpeian.

During the six-month program, Maui

staff attended or organized more than 150 events and distributed materials to 5,000+ individuals, including community leaders, pastors, teachers and businesspeople.

In response to feedback and other information gath-

ered by these workers, Maui PHP staff plans to put together a comprehensive, accessible list of emergency preparedness and health-related materials in the languages most commonly spoken in Hawaii.

The availability of these resources will hopefully make both existing and new information on measles, Ebola, hurricanes, tsunami, and other topics more accessible to residents and visitors who do not speak or read English as a first language.



Pilot program: Satoko Kiyabu (left) does emergency preparedness outreach in English and Japanese at a supermarket in Kihei, while Ronald Harris (right) shares preparedness information in English and Ilocano with senior citizens.

App for That!

- The Pacific Northwest may be far away, but when it comes to tsunami, Hawaii and Oregon are in the same pond of water. Tsunami-Evac-NW reports active warning and watches, allowing users to switch between views: road, satellite, terrain, etc.

Download: [TsunamiEvac-NW](#)



- ¿FEMA en Español? ¡Hay una aplicación para eso! Prepárase is a free Spanish-language app from FEMA with info before, during, and after a disaster to keep your family safe. Includes safety tips, emergency meeting locations, applying for assistance, and an FAQ.

Download: [Prepárase](#)



- Breastfeeding mothers are at higher risk of exposure to chemicals and drugs during a disaster or health emergency. The LactMed app from the National Library of Medicine includes info on chemical levels found in breast milk and infant blood, and possible adverse effects.

Download: [LactMed](#)



Stay on top of Hawaii disasters at WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HI.DOCD



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Send comments and questions to: PHPnewsletter@doh.hawaii.gov