



CDC Connection: For the Advisory Committee to the Director

New Issues and Alerts

H1N1 (Swine) Influenza Outbreak—On April 23, 2009, [Richard E. Besser](#), MD, Acting Director of CDC, activated the [Emergency Operations Center](#) in response to the outbreaks of novel H1N1 influenza virus (swine flu) infection in California and Texas. This virus has not been identified in people before, and human-to-human transmission of the virus appears to be ongoing. CDC's response included issuing [interim guidance](#), which is updated daily, and deploying 25% of the supplies in the Strategic National Stockpile to all states in the continental United States. CDC has developed—and distributed to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico—a [PCR diagnostic test kit](#) to detect this H1N1 virus. Besser told WHO that this virus is expected to spread widely and circulate worldwide. Current updates are available from CDC, which tracks domestic cases of influenza A (H1N1), and the World Health Organization, which tracks international cases. ([CDC H1N1 Flu update](#); [WHO Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response](#); [May 18 Reuters](#)) ■ **Sebelius Confirmed as HHS Secretary, Visits CDC**—Former Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius was sworn in as the 21st Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services on April 29, 2009. ([Biography on HHS Web site](#); [April 28 Boston Globe](#)) Sebelius visited CDC to see the Emergency Operations Center and meet CDC staff. ([May 5 MyFox Atlanta](#)) ■ **Sebelius: Healthcare Reform Top U.S. Priority**—HHS Secretary Sebelius said that healthcare reform “is our single biggest challenge facing this country, facing this economy, and it is our president's number one priority.” ■ **CDC Uses Social Networks as part of Pandemic Response**—CDC successfully used its Twitter site “[CDCemergency](#)” to counter misinformation about H1N1 flu, provide links to advisories, and “micro blog” key messages. ([May 8 USA Today](#)) ■ **Has Globalisation Made Us More Catastrophe-Prone?**—Highlights how world events are interconnected and interdependent, whether financial meltdowns or disease outbreaks. ([April 27 Reuters](#)) ■ **More U.S. Adults Reporting Disabilities**—The number of U.S. adults reporting a disability increased by 3.4 million between 1999 and 2005 and the three most common causes of disability were arthritis or rheumatism, back or spine problems, and heart disease. ([May 1 MMWR](#)) ■ **Private, Public Partnerships**—CDC's *Preventing Chronic Disease* journal features two editorials discussing private, public partnerships and their importance. ([April 2009 Preventing Chronic Disease](#)) ■ **10 Things You Didn't Know about the CDC**—A set of facts and figures about CDC. ([May 8 US News and World Report](#))

Director's Highlights

Frieden Named New CDC Director—On May 15, President Obama announced that [Thomas R. Frieden](#), MD, MPH, would become the new CDC Director starting in early June. Frieden has been the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene since January 2002, and he previously worked for CDC for 12 years. ([May 15 New York Times](#); [May 15 CNN](#); [May 19 Newsweek](#)) ■ **View Frieden's Lecture on Prevention and Primary Care**—Dr. Frieden spoke about his work as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in a lecture at the [Chautauqua Institution](#) last summer. ([July 31, 2008 FORA.tv.com](#)) ■ **CDC's Web site Traffic Soars**—Concerns about the H1N1 influenza caused a 142% increase in traffic for [www.cdc.gov](#) during April, making this site the top audience gainer among all Web sites that month according to [comScore](#). ([May 15 Reuters Blogs Media File](#); [comScore Inside the Ratings April 2009.pdf](#))



Advisory Committee to the Director Updates

The Advisory Committee to the Director meeting scheduled for April 30, 2009, at CDC was cancelled because of the novel H1N1 influenza virus outbreak. The 90-minute conference call scheduled for June 4 has been postponed to allow newly appointed CDC Director Frieden an opportunity to first become acclimated to the CDC issues that we had planned to discuss during that call.

Our Members

■ **Jack Lord** became President and CEO of Navigenics, a personal genomics testing company in Foster City, CA, on May 1. ([April 7 Navigenics Press Release](#)) ■ **Kenneth Mandel** has been interviewed twice recently in the *Boston Globe* about electronic medical records ([April 6 Boston Globe](#); [May 11 Boston Globe](#)) ■ A commentary by **Thomas Nelson** discusses proposed national service legislation (the G.I.V.E. Act). ([March 18 Washington Post](#))

FYI: Resources

- [CDCemergency Twitter](http://twitter.com/CDCemergency) (URL: <http://twitter.com/CDCemergency>)
- [Preventing Chronic Disease](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd) (e-journal) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/pcd>)
- [Guide to Community Preventive Services](http://www.thecommunityguide.org/index.html) (URL: <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/index.html>)
- [Advisory Committee to the Director](http://www.cdc.gov/about/advisory/advCharter.htm) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/about/advisory/advCharter.htm>)
- [White House Agenda for Health Care](http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/health_care) (URL: http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/health_care)

