

The Virginia Department of Health Resources for Health Care Professionals

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News and Updates

World Prematurity Day

Every year, 13 million babies are born prematurely worldwide and preterm delivery is the most frequent cause of infant deaths. There are some known risk factors for premature birth, such as:

- Chronic health problems in the mother, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and clotting disorders
- Infections during a pregnancy
- Smoking, alcohol, or illicit drug use during pregnancy

On November 17, 2012, World Prematurity Day, organizations worldwide are using this time to highlight steps that can lower a woman's risk of having a premature baby. Learn more by visiting, www.vdh.virginia.gov

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Recent Clinicians' Letters

- [Virginia Clinicians' Letter: Update on Fungal Meningitis Associated with Contaminated Product](#) (Oct 25, 2012)
- [Epidemiology Update: Fungal Meningitis](#) (Oct 25, 2012)

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Monthly Healthcare-Associated Infection Updates

Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program Update, [October Newsletter](#), topics include:

- Fungal Meningitis Outbreak
- *Clostridium difficile* Infection Prevention Webinar Recap
- Update on NHSN HCP Flu Vaccination
- HAIs and Device Utilization Rates in Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals, 2010

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Did You Know?

Lung Cancer in Virginia

- In 2011, 3,974 Virginia residents died from lung cancer.
- The American Cancer Society estimates that approximately 5,550 Virginians will be diagnosed with lung cancer in 2012.
- The primary risk factor for lung cancer is smoking, which accounts for 80-90% of all lung cancer cases
- Quit Now Virginia is a toll-free tobacco cessation counseling service available to aged 13 and older. The toll-free number is 1-800-QUIT-NOW. (1-800-784-8669)
- Additional information is available at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/ofhs/prevention/tucp/quitNow.htm>

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Influenza Surveillance

Virginia recently has confirmed its first influenza cases of the 2012-2013 flu season. Although there is only sporadic activity to date, it is never too early to think about prevention.

- [Virginia Influenza Sentinel Surveillance Information](#)
- [Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report \(VDH\)](#)
- [Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report \(CDC\)](#)

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Virginia Monthly Morbidity Surveillance Report by District and Region

[October 2012](#) update

View previous reports, [Morbidity Surveillance Reports](#).

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Emergency Preparedness

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy many residents turned to generators to power up their homes; these appliances may be harmful or even deadly when used improperly due to the emission of carbon monoxide. This “silent killer” is an invisible, odorless, tasteless gas and is highly poisonous. Accidental exposure to carbon monoxide kills more than 450 people die each year in the US, according to the Center for Disease Control. Awareness of the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning can save lives and prevent injury. For more information on carbon monoxide poisoning and prevention:

- [Carbon Monoxide Poisoning](#)
- [Clinical Guidance for Carbon Monoxide \(CO\) Poisoning After a Disaster \(CDC\)](#)
- [Prevent Carbon Monoxide \(CO\) Poisoning \(CDC\)](#)

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MMWR

MMWR publications are prepared by the CDC

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“Did You Know” Articles by the CDC

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