



Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Division of Disease Control

DONALD F. SCHWARZ, MD, MPH
Deputy Mayor, Health & Opportunity
Health Commissioner

NAN FEYLER, JD, MPH
Chief of Staff

CAROLINE C. JOHNSON, MD
Director, Division of Disease Control

Health Advisory
Army vs. Navy Football Game – Saturday December 6, 2008
Emergency Preparedness Recommendations
December 3, 2008

The 109th annual Army vs. Navy Football game is scheduled to occur on Saturday, December 6, 2008 at 12:00 pm at the Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia. Those attending and participating in the event will begin to arrive in the Philadelphia area on Thursday, December 4th. Given the very public nature of this game and the military profile of those in attendance, federal, state and local agencies are collaborating to ensure adequate safety and security of both those attending the game and the general public. **The Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Division of Disease Control (DDC) recommends that healthcare facilities review their emergency response and disaster preparedness plans before this event and before the upcoming holiday period, with the possibly heightened potential for terrorism.**

Specific recommendations include:

- Evaluate facilities and personnel to ensure the safety and security of both
- Ensure that appropriate staff understand their roles in an emergency and know communications protocols
- Update clinical providers on explosives, biological, chemical, and radiological agents (information on these threats may be found at <https://hip.phila.gov>, <http://www.bt.cdc.gov>, <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov> and <http://www.health.state.pa.us>)
- Review procedures that address medical treatment of mass casualties, including decontamination protocols, the use of personal protective equipment and triage protocols

DDC reviews data daily from multiple sources to facilitate the recognition of disease outbreaks. These include reports of notifiable diseases, triage data from hospital Emergency Departments, calls placed to the City's 911 Call Center, regional over-the-counter pharmaceutical sales, and deaths reported to the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office. However, DDC always relies on clinicians to report by telephone conditions that require immediate notification, as well as any outbreak or unusual presentation or cluster of disease. Indicators of naturally occurring outbreaks or possible biological terrorism include:

- An unusual clustering of illnesses, by geography, time or any other factor noted to be shared among cases (e.g., persons who attended the same public event or gathering)
- Increase in serious lower respiratory illness with negative tests for common bacteria and viruses
- Patients presenting with clinical signs and symptoms that suggest an infectious disease outbreak (e.g., ≥ 2 persons presenting with an unexplained febrile illness associated with sepsis, pneumonia, respiratory failure, or rash or a botulism-like syndrome with flaccid muscle paralysis, especially if occurring in otherwise healthy persons)
- An unusual age distribution for common diseases (e.g., an increase in chickenpox-like illness in adult patients)
- Single cases of disease due to uncommon, non-indigenous agents (e.g., anthrax, plague, brucellosis) in patients with no history suggesting an explanation for illness
- Large number of cases of acute flaccid paralysis with prominent bulbar palsies, suggestive of a release of *botulinum* toxin

Please contact the Division of Disease Control at 215-685-6740 to report any unusual disease occurrence. After hours, contact the City Hall Operator at 215-686-1776 and ask to speak to the person on-call for the Division.