



As the ESRD community prepares for the upcoming flu season, there are everyday actions patients and staff can take to stay healthy:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

Additionally, whenever possible, try to avoid close contact with sick people:

- Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people.
- If you get sick, CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

Please also remember the importance of the seasonal flu vaccine for dialysis patients and health care workers. Most, if not all, dialysis patients should strive to receive **both** the seasonal and H1N1 vaccine this year.

The Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition

Community Collaboration with Stakeholders

Electric providers play a critical role in emergency preparedness, especially for kidney patients. End stage renal disease (ESRD), or kidney failure, is fatal unless treated with kidney dialysis or a transplant. Florida has over 21,000 dialysis patients. Typically, patients receive a dialysis treatment for four hours a day, three times a week. The majority of patients receive their treatments at an outpatient dialysis facility. Without dialysis, the patient may require hospitalization or die from fluid overload and other complications. And without electricity, the dialysis facility cannot provide treatments.

There are more than 350 dialysis and transplant providers in Florida. Disasters, both natural and man-made, can cause major disruptions of dialysis services. Dialysis providers and community stakeholders work diligently to plan for emergencies, including the loss of power. For example, there are many dialysis facilities that have generators available in the event of catastrophic power loss. However, it is still important for dialysis facilities to work with



A large number of power lines are downed in Louisiana after Hurricane Gustav.

electric providers to receive priority restoration. Often, the generator cannot power essential computers or air conditioning, making an uncomfortable – even unsafe – environment.

If facilities are without the necessary power to provide treatment, dialysis patients may flood and overburden local emergency rooms, which do not have the dialysis (*continued on page 2*)

H1N1 Resources for the ESRD Community

The Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition has always encouraged year round, all-hazards disaster preparedness. This year, however, the concept took on even greater importance. As many Floridians were beginning preparations for the 2009 Hurricane Season, a new threat was identified – the H1N1 Influenza A, or “Swine Flu.” H1N1 is a new influenza virus that was first detected in the United States in April 2009. Other countries, including Mexico and Canada, also reported people sick with this new virus. In

people, symptoms of H1N1 are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu. These include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting; others have experienced severe illness (for example, pneumonia) and death.

The H1N1 threat has highlighted issues of concern around the country in addressing the need for community planning and relief efforts in the event of a major disaster. (*continued on page 3*)

Community Collaboration *(continued from page 1)*

machines or specially certified staff to provide the number of dialysis treatments required. Even though a hospital may have electricity, they do not have the resources to provide chronic, outpatient dialysis treatments.

In 2008, FKDC developed and disseminated the *Community Partner Packet* to all county emergency managers; Florida Senators and Representatives; and mayors of seven major cities within the state of Florida. Based on the success of the initial *Community Partner Packet*, FKDC developed an updated *Community Partner Packet* for electric partners.

The purpose of the packet, which was developed with the support of TECO and the Florida Hospital Association, was to help Florida utility service providers identify dialysis facilities in their area, and the number of patients they serve. Along with history and membership information, this

educational packet included a list of all Florida hemodialysis providers and a list of the total numbers of ESRD patients, categorized by zip code and modality. Also included was *ESRD for Policymakers*, a publication provided by the American Nephrology Nurses' Association that provides a comprehensive overview of kidney failure, co-morbid conditions, and treatment options.

Community collaboration is a key aspect of disaster preparedness. By providing materials and resources and sharing critical data, FKDC continues to establish and strengthen partnerships, both renal and non-renal, within the community. Through partnership, education and the dedication of all stakeholders, we will work to create a community better prepared for disaster.

www.fkdc.org

For access to continuously updated tools, resources & links for ESRD providers and community partners, visit the FKDC website:

- Tools for communicating with community partners, patients & staff
- Suggestions for implementing best practices
- Helpful links to patient & professional organizations, state resources & disaster planning & readiness sites
- Free continuing education units

Member Spotlight

FMQAI: The Florida ESRD Network held its 2009 Annual Forum from November 16—18, 2009 in Tampa, Florida. During the Forum, the second annual Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition Disaster Preparedness Award was presented. This award was developed to honor an individual or organization that has made outstanding contributions in disaster preparedness for dialysis and kidney transplant patients, healthcare workers, and emergency management in the state of Florida. FKDC is proud to spotlight one of our key members as the recipient of the second annual FKDC Disaster Preparedness Award: Don Cranston.

The Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition's mission is to establish and facilitate partnerships that provide a framework for disaster readiness and continuity of care for the renal community. Mr. Cranston's actions have helped the FKDC to establish new relationships and develop rapport among community partners across the state. He has consistently volunteered his time and resources to further advance the Coalition and its mission. Whether assisting with stakeholder

communications or donating resources for outreach and education, he is always a key contributor to FKDC activities.

Mr. Cranston has promoted the needs of the kidney community to top-level community partners and provided the Coalition with the information and contacts needed to forge new relationships with utility companies statewide. He truly upholds the FKDC mission and is one of the driving forces behind the Coalition.

All members of the Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition congratulate Mr. Cranston for his outstanding dedication, energy and service. Thank you, Don!



"I have found my work with the coalition to be enjoyable and educational. It's exciting to be around people that are so knowledgeable and passionate in their support of the renal community. Tampa Electric believes fully in the mission and objectives of the FKDC and will continue to support the coalition."

- Don Cranston

Member Organizations

Agency For Healthcare Administration	Hillsborough County Emergency Management
American Association of Kidney Patients	Kidney Group of Clearwater
American Nephrology Nurses' Association	Manatee County Emergency Management
American Renal Associates	National Kidney Foundation of Florida
Central Florida Kidney Center	North Beach Dialysis
Council of Nephrology Social Workers	Orange County Emergency Management
DaVita	Palm Beach County Emergency Management
Florida Department of Health	Pinellas County Emergency Management
Florida House of Representatives	Polk County Emergency Management
Florida Renal Administrators Association	Sarasota Physician's Dialysis
Florida Society of Nephrology	Seminole County Emergency Management
FMQAI: The Florida ESRD Network	Tallahassee Memorial Hospital
Fresenius Medical Care, NA	Tampa General Hospital
	TECO Energy



H1N1 Resources for the ESRD Community *(continued from page 1)*

For the ESRD community, where many patients have multiple co-morbid conditions and compromised immune systems, the need is even greater.

H1N1 can impact both facility patients and staff. The CMS Conditions for Coverage require that dialysis facilities have a plan to deal with emergencies and/or disasters, including pandemic influenza, and to provide education to patients and staff. Following are some key resources that can help providers in meeting this Condition.

One resource for obtaining educational materials is the FKDC website (www.fkdc.org), which was recently updated to include additional pandemic flu resources. Resources include checklists for patients and providers as well as helpful links to organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Agency for Healthcare Administration, and the American Red Cross.

Another excellent source for pandemic flu resources is the Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) Coalition website (<http://www.kcercoalition.com/pandemic.htm>).

There are many H1N1 resources on the KCER website, including those for patients and families; providers and healthcare workers; mental health resources; and materials from Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the CDC.

Finally, to receive up to date information on the status of H1N1, you can sign up to receive e-alerts from the CDC (<http://cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>), or receive real-time information via email or text message by following organizations such as the CDC, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Ready.gov on Twitter (www.twitter.com).