
HealthMap Newsletter

May 2010 (including new HealthMap 3.0)

In this issue:

- HealthMap 3.0 - HealthMap has a new look and new features
- Publications - including recent publication in New England Journal of Medicine
- Updates
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New Features

- (1) Website Redesign (HealthMap 3.0): We are excited to announce the launch of our redesigned HealthMap site, now live at www.healthmap.org. The new site features many improvements including:
 - a. A quick search feature that auto-completes with a list of existing diseases and locations from the HealthMap database;
 - b. An advanced search feature that allows users to search by multiple diseases and locations in user-specified time periods;
 - c. The ability to create customized maps, which can be saved, shared and added to a selection of preset Quick-View maps;
 - d. The ability to rate alerts and to view those rated most significant by the HealthMap Community;
 - e. A sortable list displaying all alerts on the map.
- (2) HealthMap Community (Participatory Epidemiology): Since HealthMap added the ability for our site visitors to report outbreaks or health alerts to the map, more than 3,300 alerts have been submitted. Visit the 'User Submitted Reports' Quick View preset below the map to view recently submitted alerts by HealthMap users. These contributions are extremely valuable to our service, and we thank everyone who has contributed. To participate, click on 'Outbreak Missing from the Map' and submit an alert via the Web site, phone or e-mail.
- (3) Smartphone Applications: Our Outbreaks Near Me (ONM) application was recently launched for Android and made available in the Verizon online store in the Android Market. Similar to the ONM iPhone application, ONM for Android uses GPS technology to show health alerts and ongoing outbreaks in the vicinity. The application also allows users to submit disease reports and to search for outbreaks in specific locations worldwide. For additional information visit: <http://healthmap.org/outbreaksnearme/>
- (4) Data Sources: HealthMap is now monitoring disease alerts from GeoSentinel, a tropical/travel related disease surveillance network instituted by the

International Society for Travel Medicine and the Centers for Disease Control. Additional information about GeoSentinel, including recent publications can be found at: <http://www.istm.org/geosentinel/main.html>.

Updates

- **New Staff:** Katelynn O'Brien has joined our team as a Research Software Developer and brings over 10 years of experience in interface design and development.

Three graduate students from Boston University's School of Public Health (Heron Baumgarten, Gilan Megeed, and Claudia Coronel-Moreno) began internships with HealthMap in early February 2010. They are working on monitoring and expanding our Spanish, Arabic and Portuguese data sources.

More information on HealthMap team members can be found at: <http://healthmap.org/theteam/>

Recent Publications

- Brownstein J, Freifeld C, Chan E, Keller M, Sonricker A, Mekaru S, Buckeridge D (2010) Information Technology and Global Surveillance of Cases of 2009 H1N1 Influenza. *New England Journal of Medicine*.
<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/362/18/1731>
- Khan K, Freifeld C, Wang J, Mekaru S, Kossowsky D, Sonricker A, Hu W, Sears J, Chan A, Brownstein, J (2010) Preparing for infectious disease threats at mass gatherings: the case of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. *Canadian Medical Journal*.
http://healthmap.org/documents/CMAJ_Olympics_Mass_Gatherings_2010.pdf

Awards

- Smithsonian – *Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum*. National Design Triennial: Why Design Now? May 14, 2010 – January 9, 2011.
<http://www.cooperhewitt.org/EXHIBITIONS/triennial/why-design-now.asp>
- (March 2010). Engelbart Prize for Best New Collaborative Tool Presented at the Tech Museum, San Jose, California.
<http://www.thetech.org/about/press/index.php?id=227>

Selection of HealthMap Articles in the News

- Jennifer Chu. (May 2010). Tracking H1N1 through the Internet. *MIT Technology Review*.
<http://www.technologyreview.com/biomedicine/25263/?a=f>

- Katherine Harmon. (April 2010). Medicine goes mobile: iPhone apps take vitals, track viruses. Scientific American.
<http://www.scientificamerican.com/blog/post.cfm?id=medicine-goes-mobile-iphone-apps-ta-2010-04-11>
- Deborah Yao. (February 2010). Fighting pandemics like swine flu in digital age. MSNBC.
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35408044/ns/technology_and_science-tech_and_gadgets/
- (February 2010). HealthMap crowd-sources possible Olympic outbreaks. CIDRAP.
<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/other/news/feb1210scan1.html>
- Tahir Andrabi and Asim Ijaz Khwaja. (January 2010). Responding to Disasters – can we act in time? The Boston Globe.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2010/01/20/responding_to_disasters__can_we_act_in_time/

We hope you find the new design and features of HealthMap useful. Please continue to let us know how we might improve HealthMap.

Best regards,

The HealthMap Team

For questions, comments or to unsubscribe from this list please send an email to info@healthmap.org
