

Contact: Annie Wiest
Executive Director
Association of Occupational Health Professionals
in Healthcare (AOHP)
125 Warrendale Bayne Road, Suite 375
Warrendale, PA 15086
a.wiest@kamo-ms.com
800-362-4347
<https://www.aohp.org>

AOHP Recognized as COCA Partner Spotlight

July 20, 2015 – The Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP) has been selected as The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) *COCA Partner Spotlight* for July. AOHP is featured online on the CDC's web page at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/index.asp>.

CDC's Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) provides timely, accurate and credible information to healthcare workers related to emergency preparedness and response and emerging public health threats. COCA fosters partnerships with national clinician organizations such as AOHP to strengthen information-sharing networks before, during and after a public health emergency.

"CDC's partnership with AOHP is vital to our ability to communicate with occupational health professionals and to provide them with information on public health emergencies, CDC guidance, health alert messages and training opportunities," says Loretta Jackson Brown, PhD, RN, representing COCA with the Healthcare Preparedness Activity at the CDC. "We value our longstanding relationship with AOHP and look forward to strengthening our partnership as we continue to work toward a common goal of improving national health security."

AOHP is one of more than 100 COCA partner organizations from across the United States that serve a wide variety of healthcare professionals such as physicians, nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, veterinarians, first responders and public health practitioners. Through COCA partnerships, the CDC is able to rapidly communicate to an extensive audience vital information about disease outbreaks, disasters, terrorism events and other health alerts.

"AOHP's recognition by the CDC COCA Partner Spotlight is a wonderful distinction for our association and its members. The occupational (employee) health professional's role in addressing emerging health threats and public health emergencies within the healthcare workforce has long been a critical link in providing quality patient care and this recognition is an important acknowledgement in that regard," says AOHP Executive President Dee Tyler, RN, COHN-S, FAAOHN.

"We are honored to have been chosen by COCA for this Spotlight recognition," explains AOHP Association Community Liaison MaryAnn Gruden, MSN, CRNP, NP-C, COHN-S/CM. "The cultivation of collaborative partnerships with agencies such as the CDC helps AOHP to advance our mission to support our members as they provide care to the caregivers, which ultimately strengthens our nation's healthcare system as a whole."

AOHP, led by an experienced and dedicated group of occupational health professionals, represents thousands of healthcare workers across the nation and beyond. The association's vision is to be the defining resource and leading advocate for occupational health and safety in healthcare.

AOHP promotes health, safety and well-being for healthcare workers through: advocating for employee health and safety; occupational health education and networking opportunities; health and safety advancement through best practice and research; and partnering with employers, regulatory agencies and related associations. For more information, contact Annie Wiest, AOHP Executive Director, at 800-362-4347, or e-mail info@aohp.org.

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