

DOE – Medical and Infectious Disease Update – Wednesday, November 26, 2003

DOE weekly updates on SARS, West Nile Virus, or other illnesses and medical issues will continue as appropriate or as requested. The following information is current as of Wednesday, November 26, 2003, 1100 hours, EDT. Information presented is routinely taken from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), <http://www.cdc.gov/>, The World Health Organization (WHO), <http://www.who.int/en/>, the Department of Defense Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System site, (DoD-GEIS)- <http://www.geis.ha.osd.mil/>, and other creditable sources.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR LOVED ONES—GET A FLU SHOT!

Recent News

Ohio E. Coli Outbreak Linked to Sawdust – Tuesday, November 25, 2003, *By MEGAN REICHGOTT, Associated Press Writer*, CHICAGO - At least 19 people who had gone to a county fair in Ohio in 2001 fell ill with E. coli after the bacteria apparently spread through sawdust in the air at an exhibition hall — the first time researchers have connected an outbreak to a contaminated building ... http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=534&ncid=534&e=7&u=/ap/20031125/ap_on_he_me/e_coli

China to Test Experimental SARS Vaccine - By Stephanie Hoo, AP Writer, Monday, November 24, 2003, BEIJING -- Chinese researchers expect to begin human trials next month on an experimental SARS vaccine that injects the dead virus into medical subjects so their immune systems can recognize it and hopefully attack it, a government drug official said Monday. "We cannot tell yet whether it will be successful in humans, but we can say it is effective in animals, especially monkeys," Yin Hongzhang, head of the biological product section of the State Food and Drug Administration, told The Associated Press ... http://www.sunspot.net/features/health/ats-ap_health10nov24_0_437167_story?coll=sns-health-headlines

Food-Borne Illness From Produce on the Rise - By Marian Burros, NY Times, November 23, 2003 - To consumers who took nutritionists' advice seriously and began eating more fruits and vegetables, word that fresh green onions could carry the hepatitis virus came as a shock. Yet the recent outbreaks of hepatitis A linked to contaminated scallions imported from Mexico, which have killed three people and sickened hundreds, are only the latest examples in a sharp rise of food-borne illness from fruits and vegetables... <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/23/national/23FOOD.html>. Note: The NY Times Web service is free but requires that you register on their site, a relatively painless process - Ed.

Will this year's flu vaccine protect me from the flu? - November 20, 2003 - Influenza viruses are changing all the time, and vaccine effectiveness depends, in part, on the match between vaccine strains and circulating viruses. Although the A (H3N2) strain in this year's flu vaccine is somewhat different from the main circulating strain causing illness in the United States so far, laboratory studies indicate that the vaccine should still provide some cross-protection against the circulating A (H3N2) strain. Because flu viruses are already circulating in some communities, it's even more important to get the vaccine now. There is plenty of flu vaccine available, and it's especially important that those people who are recommended for vaccination get the vaccine this year. (See **"Who should not get a flu shot?"** for vaccination recommendations ... <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/who.htm>). From the CDC Website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/vacfacts.htm#02>

CDC Influenza Summary Update ... The CDC's most recent update ... During the week ending November 15, 2003-Week 46, influenza activity in the United States continued to increase. Two state health departments reported widespread influenza activity, 6 states reported regional activity, 11 states reported local influenza activity, 20 states, New York City, Guam, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic influenza activity, and 10 states and the District of Columbia reported no influenza activity. See the map near the end. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>

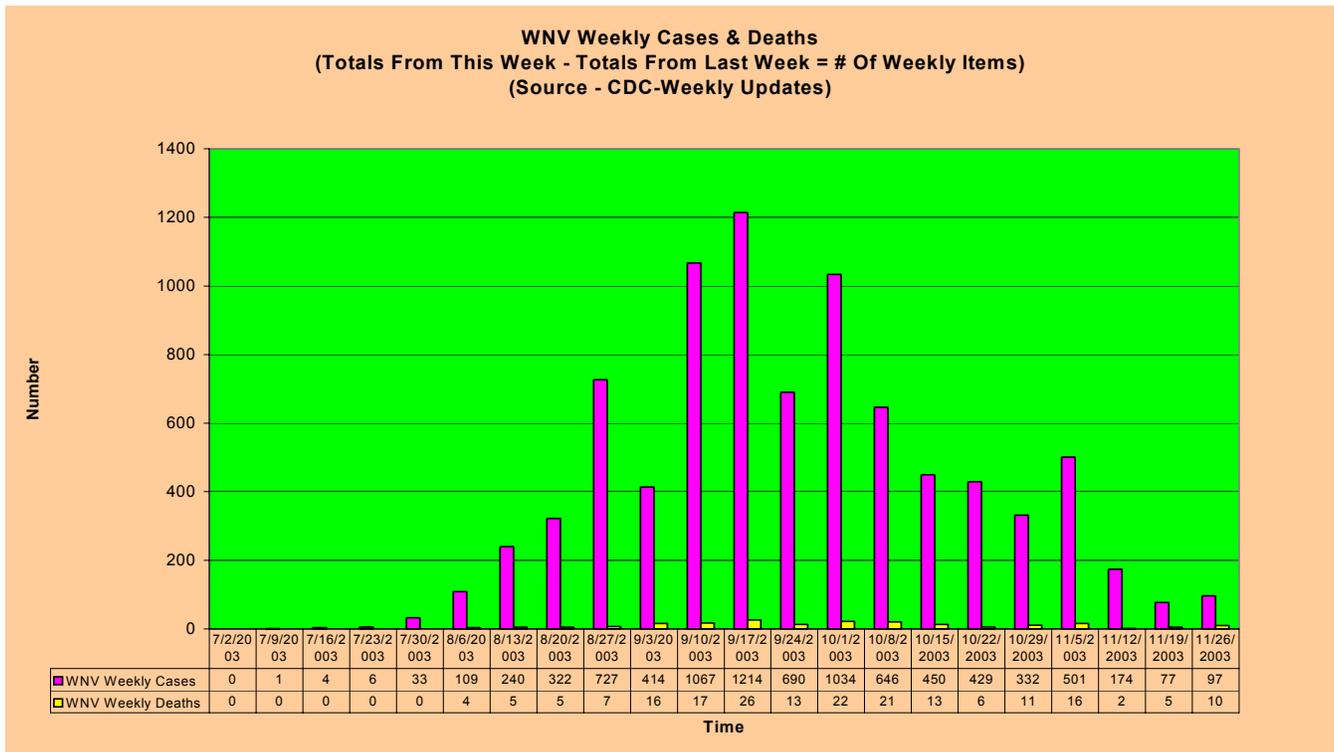
CDC West Nile Virus Home - <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

Three Ways to Reduce your West Nile Virus Risk:

[Avoid Mosquito Bites](#); [Mosquito-Proof Your Home](#); [Help Your Community](#)

CDC West Nile Virus Case Count - [Maps](#) reporting WNV activity and [human disease cases](#) reported to CDC have been updated each **Wednesday**. The information for the week ending November

26, 2003 is shown in the chart below. Total cases and deaths from 46 states now stand at 8567 and 199, respectively. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/surv&controlCaseCount03.htm>



Links to State and Local Government West Nile Virus Web Sites

Click on a state to link directly to their West Nile virus Web page.
 See list below for additional city-level and main State Health Department Web sites.
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/city_states.htm

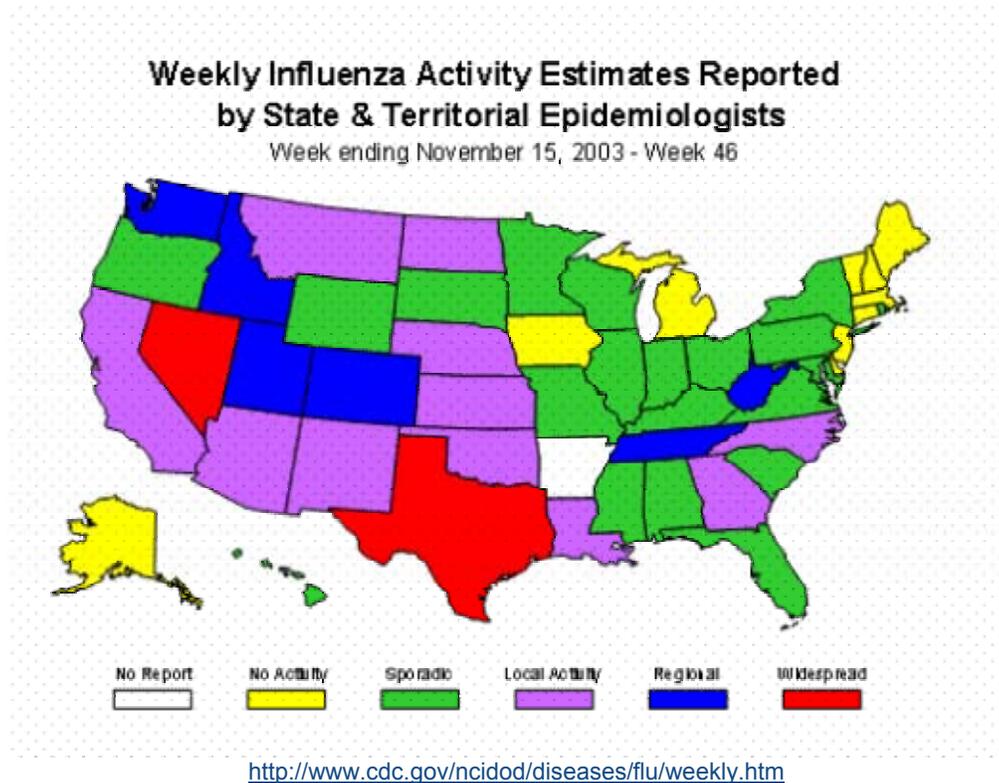


West Nile Virus Interactive Map – If you go to this site, each State will be ‘HOT’, and moving your mouse on a State will link you to its Health Department’s West Nile web site and bring up other information. Where the CDC map and case summary is a lagging indicator, this map, linked to each State’s

Health Department, provides real-time information for those states which update regularly, such as PA and CO.
http://www.mosquitoczar.com/west_nile_virus.

West Nile Virus: What You Need To Know

CDC Factsheet - http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/wnv_factSheet.htm



George R. Gebus, MD, MPH
US Department of Energy
Office of Occupational Health, EH-53/270CC
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, MD 20874-1290
Phone: 301-903-2876
Fax: 301-903-5072
Email: george.gebus@eh.doe.gov