

DOE – Medical and Infectious Disease Update – Wednesday, December 3, 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 Thursday, December 4, 2003, 0700 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

Selective Anti-cancer Compound Discovered - Tuesday, December 2, 2003, UPI, URBANA, Ill., (United Press International via COMTEX) -- Researchers at the University of Illinois said Monday they have produced a molecule that kills cancerous cells without hurting healthy cells ... The compound, known as Compound 13-D was found to have strong cancer-killing effects and an ability to induce a cysteine protease known as caspase-3 as well as blebbing (a pinching off of the cellular membrane) and cell shrinkage, all of which are hallmarks of apoptosis ... http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_14915.html

3-D virtual colonoscopy is more sensitive than conventional procedure - CHICAGO – Three-dimensional computed tomography (CT) colonography, also known as virtual colonoscopy, **is more sensitive and less invasive than conventional colonoscopy in screening average-risk patients**, according to research presented today at the 89th Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA). The new technology allows radiologists to obtain 3-D images from different angles, providing a "movie" of the interior of the colon without having to insert a scope. "I believe virtual colonoscopy will eventually join conventional colonoscopy as a major component of colorectal cancer screening in the U.S.," said lead author Perry J. Pickhardt, M.D., currently an associate professor of radiology at University of Wisconsin Medical School in Madison. Contact: Maureen Morley, mmorley@rsna.org, 630-590-7754, RSNA ... http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2003-12/rson-3vc112403.php

Fewer Building-Related Illnesses Reported After Ultraviolet Germicidal Lights Irradiate Office Ventilation Systems - 12/01/2003, *Lancet*, By Joene Hendry - Individuals who work in modern, environment-controlled office buildings reported significantly fewer respiratory, mucosal, and overall adverse health symptoms when the drip pans and cooling coils of the ventilation systems underwent ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI), according to study findings. "Use of UVGI lights in central ventilation systems in office buildings resulted in substantial reduction of viable micro-organisms on exposed surfaces," writes Dick Menzies, MD, of the Montreal Chest Institute, and colleagues ... <http://www.docquide.com/news/content.nsf/news/5B051625F1845F7F85256DEF004CDD99?OpenDocument&c=Pulmonary%20Other&count=10>

British Firm Plans Human Stem Cell Trial ... - Wed November 26, 2003, LONDON (Reuters) - A British company is planning human trials of a new technique which it says can transform white blood cells into stem cells that can be used to treat leukemia and a range of other diseases. London-based TriStem says the method it has developed eliminates the need for embryos and fetuses, rich sources of the stem cells that can develop into any cell type. The use of early embryos has been a major stumbling block in the use of stem cells ... <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.ihtml;jsessionid=UQCKGSOMQ5S5GCRBAE0CFFA?type=scienceNews&storyID=3897329>

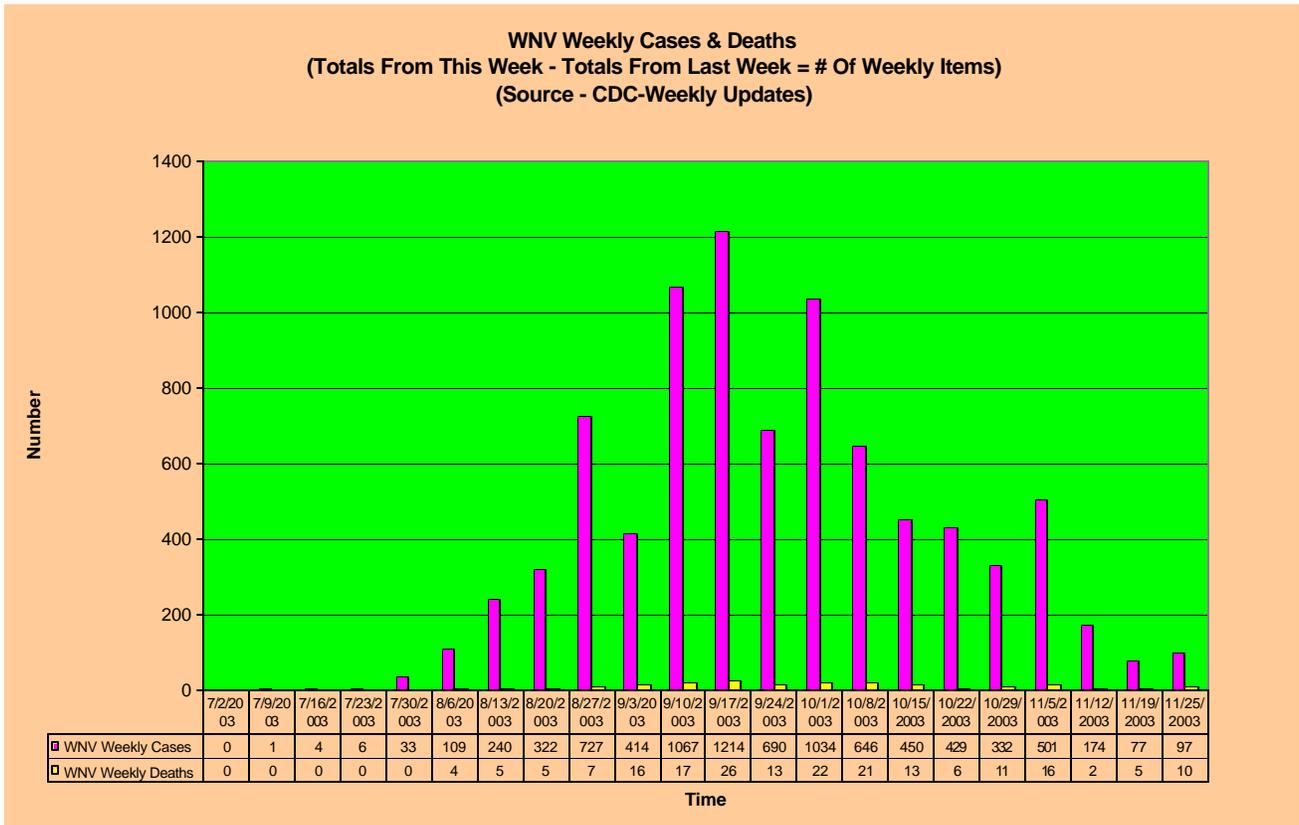
CDC Influenza Summary Update ... The CDC's most recent update ... During the Week ending November 22, 2003-Week 47, influenza activity in the United States continued to increase. Ten state health departments reported widespread influenza activity, 9 states reported regional activity, 8 states reported local influenza activity, 16 states, New York City, Guam, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic influenza activity, and 4 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 not been updated since November 25th. The information for the week ending November 25, 2003 is shown in the chart below. Total cases and deaths from 46 states 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

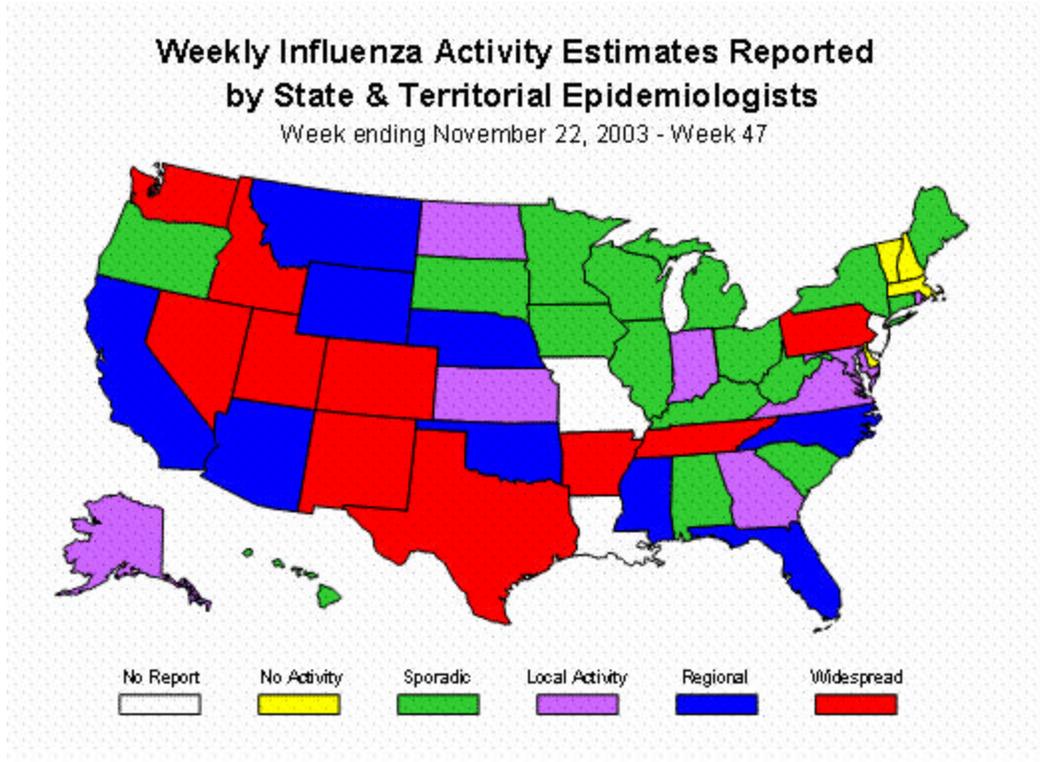
Click on a state to link directly to their West Nile virus Web page.
 See list below for additional city-level and main State Health Department Web sites.
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/city_states.htm



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



<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>

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