

DOE – Medical and Infectious Disease Update – Wednesday, December 31, 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 December 31, 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

China to send suspect SARS samples overseas as nation braces for re-emergence - 31 December 2003, *Channel NewsAsia*, BEIJING, China has agreed to send samples from a SARS case in southern Guangzhou city to an overseas laboratory to definitively establish the status of a patient that a senior health official said is infected with the deadly virus ... http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_asiapacific/view/64262/1.html

Mad Cow Believed to Be From Canada - December 31, 2003, By [Kyle Meenan](#), First Coast News, JACKSONVILLE, FL -- The Washington State Holstein found to be infected with Mad Cow Disease has been traced back to a Canadian farm. Now, health officials on both sides of the border are scrambling to put a positive face on the implications ... <http://www.firstcoastnews.com/health/news-article.aspx?storyid=12600>

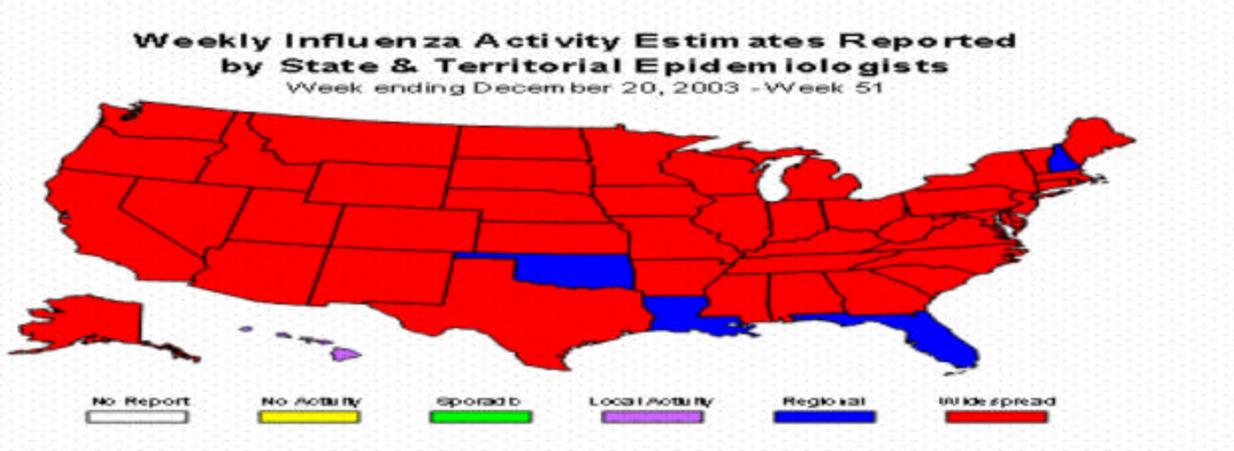
The Next Generation of Diseases Are in Hiding, Somewhere

December 28, 2003, By DONALD G. McNEIL Jr., The New York Times, In 2004, the world will be on the lookout for the re-emergence of SARS, monkeypox, new forms of flu and the unexpected. We have been warned. But must epidemics always catch humanity by surprise? They kill far more people than war does, while billions of dollars are spent watching the political shifts that presage war. If the World Health Organization had half the budget of the Central Intelligence Agency, far more lives might be saved ... <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/12/28/weekinreview/28dise.html>. (Note: The NY Times Web service is free but requires that you register on their site, a relatively painless process - Ed.)

A leap forward in medical study - BEIJING, Dec. 26 (Xinhuanet) -- Chinese researchers have found and isolated a rare group of adult stem cells from mature tissues. Dr Zhao Chunhua, who heads the newly founded Centre of Excellence in Tissue Engineering in Beijing, detailed the findings at the second International Symposium on Stem Cell Research in Beijing last week ... Zhao emphasized that he and his colleagues focus on adult stem cells and isolate them from mature tissue, regardless of the age of the donor, so that the patients themselves will get treatment via transplantation of their own stem cells. "We are currently focusing on growing adult stem cells for blood diseases, heart diseases, acute hepatic failure and diabetes," said Zhao ... http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2003-12/26/content_1249034.htm.

Two Drugs Better Than One for Enlarged Prostate - Wednesday, December 17, 2003, By Anthony J. Brown, MD , Reuters Health, NEW YORK - Combined treatment with Cardura (doxazosin) and Proscar (finasteride) is better than either drug alone at delaying the progression of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), a common disease in older men that involves urinary symptoms due to enlargement of the prostate gland. "I think it is an important study because it is...very well done and it involves longer follow-up than most other studies," Dr. E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr. author of a related editorial, told Reuters Health. "The follow-up period is particularly important because an earlier study of just 1 year's duration failed to show a benefit for dual drug therapy," Vaughan, from Weill Medical College of Cornell University in New York, noted. "The current study verified this, but went on to show that a benefit emerged later." ... http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_15179.html

CDC Influenza Summary Update - Influenza activity in the United States continued to increase during week 51 (December 14 - 20, 2003). Although Influenza Like Illness activity continues to increase overall, activity in some states, including Texas and Colorado, has declined in recent weeks. Forty-five state health departments, New York City, and the District of Columbia reported widespread influenza activity, 4 states reported regional activity, and 1 state reported local influenza activity. Availability of trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine is limited; additional doses of the vaccine previously purchased by CDC will be shipped to state and local public health agencies in January. The live, attenuated influenza vaccine continues to be available in both the private and public sectors. See the map below. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>



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

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

West Nile Virus: What You Need To Know

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

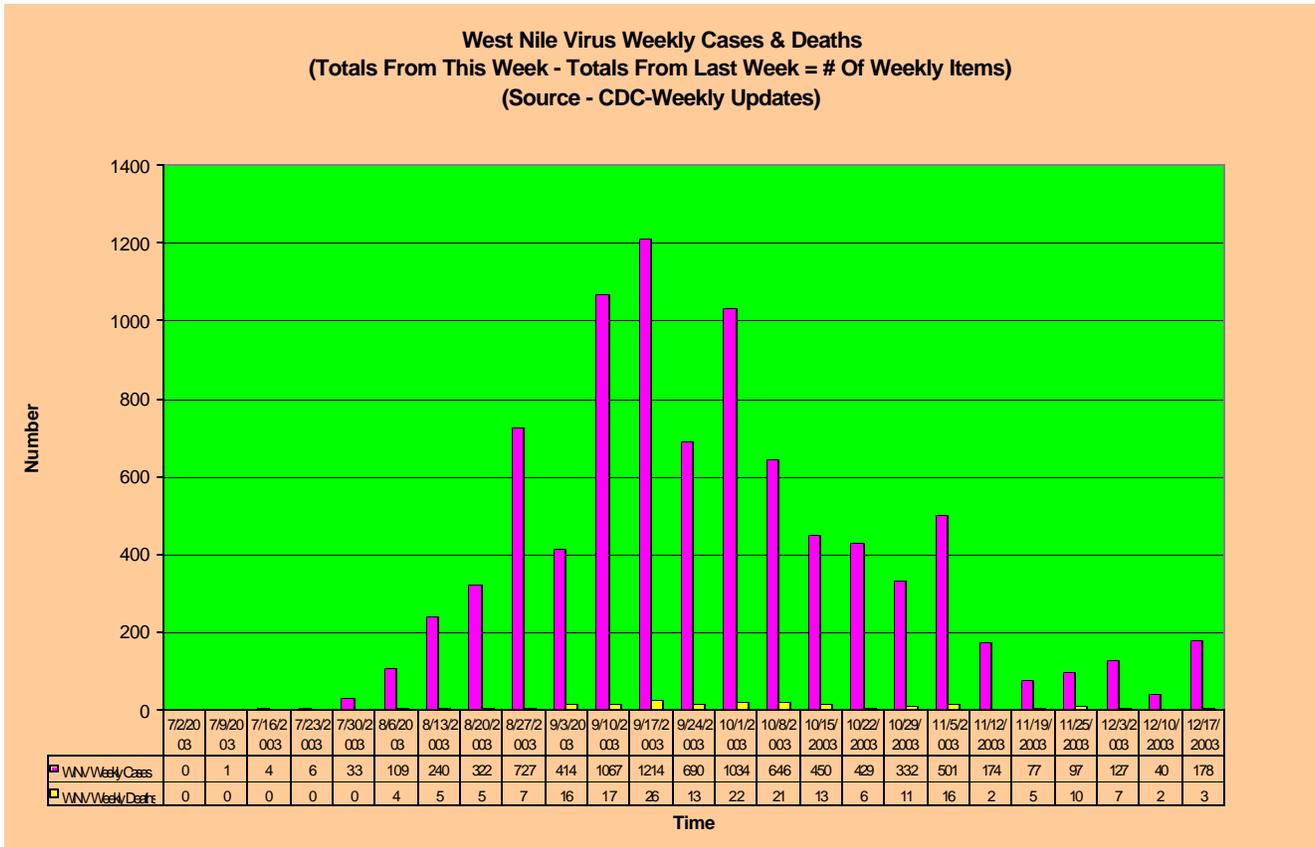
Links to State and Local Government West Nile Virus Web Sites

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.



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.

CDC West Nile Virus Case Count - [Maps](#) reporting WNV activity and [human disease cases](#) reported to CDC were updated on December 17th. The next CDC update will be posted in early January 2004. The information for the week ending December 17, 2003 is shown in the chart below. Total cases and deaths from 46 states stand at 8912 and 211, respectively. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/surv&control/CaseCount03.htm>



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