

## DOE – Medical and Infectious Disease Update – Wednesday, January 21, 2004

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, January 22, 2004, 0700 hours, EST. 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 credible sources.

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

### Recent News

#### **New Dressing For Wounds Developed At Hebrew University –**

20January2004, **ScienceDaily** --A novel wound dressing made of genetically engineered human collagen that will enable faster and improved healing of injuries has been developed by researchers at the Hebrew University Faculty of Dental Medicine ... The dressing developed at the Hebrew University incorporates an inner layer of genetically engineered, human recombinant collagen. This material becomes a soluble, readily enzymatically degradable molecule in the wound tissue. The molecular fragments that are thus formed have been shown to play a pivotal role in the healing process ...

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2004/01/040120033740.htm>.

#### **Fifth avian flu death confirmed in Vietnam**

- Agence France-Presse, *International Herald Tribune on line* - HANOI --A fifth person has died from bird flu in Vietnam, the World Health Organization said Monday, as UN experts searched the country for other suspected cases of the virus that has caused an Asia-wide health scare. Bob Dietz, the UN health agency's spokesman in Vietnam, said the latest victim was an 8-year-old girl who died at the Central Pediatric Hospital in Hanoi on Saturday, two days after being admitted ... "The source of infection still seems to be coming from poultry," he said. "There still does not seem to be human-to-human transmission but we are monitoring the situation very closely" ... <http://www.iht.com/articles/125567.html>.

#### **Vitamin Supplement Use May Reduce Effects of Alzheimer's**

**Disease** – 19January2004, **ScienceDaily** --Antioxidant vitamin supplements, particularly vitamins E and C, may protect the aging brain against damage associated with the pathological changes of Alzheimer's disease, according to a study conducted by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and other institutions. The researchers believe antioxidant vitamin supplements may be an ideal prevention strategy for our aging population as they are relatively nontoxic and are thought to have wide-ranging health benefits. The study, "Reduced Risk of Alzheimer's Disease in Users of Antioxidant Vitamin Supplements" is published in the January 2004, issue of the journal *Archives of Neurology* ... <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2004/01/040120034901.htm>.

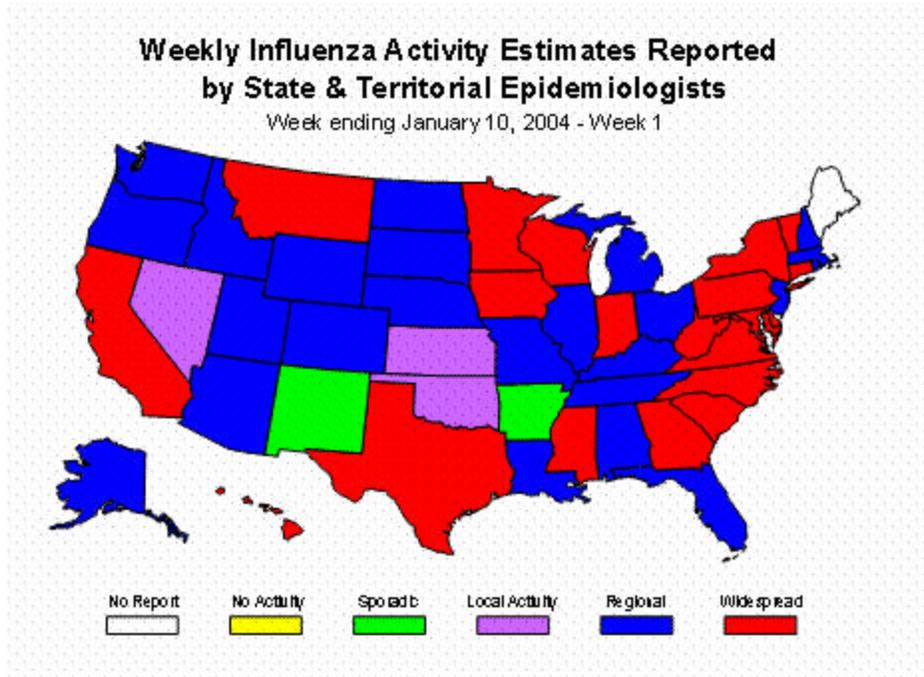
#### **WHO: Avian influenza -fact sheet**

– 5January2004 --Avian influenza ("bird flu") and the significance of its (potential) transmission to humans ... [http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004\\_01\\_15/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_15/en/).

#### **CDC Influenza Summary Update**

- The number of states reporting widespread influenza activity continued to decrease during week 1 (January 4-10, 2004), the percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza also decreased, and the percentage of patient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) declined in all 9 surveillance regions, with an overall national percentage of 2.8%. However, pneumonia and influenza (P & I) mortality (10.2%) continued to exceed the epidemic threshold during week 1 (8.1%). Twenty state health departments and New York City reported widespread influenza activity, 24 states reported regional activity, 3 states reported local activity, 2 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic activity, and 1 state did not report. Availability of trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine is limited. 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) - <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

### Links to State and Local Government West Nile Virus Web Sites

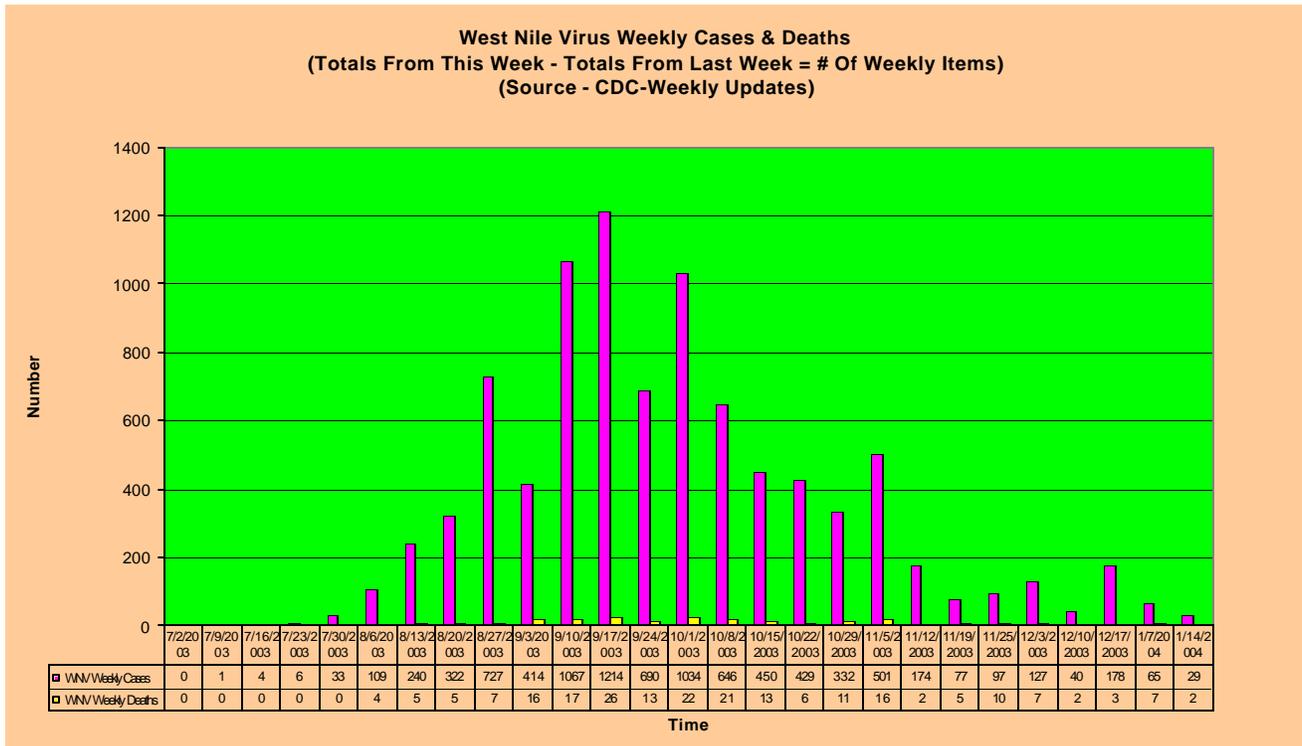
Click on a state to link directly to their West Nile virus Web page.  
See list below for additional city-level and main State Health Department Web sites.



**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](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 January 14, 2004. The information for the week ending January 14, 2004 is shown in the chart below. Total cases and deaths from 46 states stand at 9006 and 220, respectively.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/surv&controlCaseCount03.htm>



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