

## DOE – Medical and Infectious Disease Update – Wednesday, January 28, 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 29, 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

**Strategy on Bird Flu Has Human Risks, Officials Say: Lack of Safeguards in Poultry Slaughter May Help Alter Virus** - 28January2004, *By Alan Sipress, Washington Post Foreign Service, BANGKOK*, -- As bird flu continued to spread in Asia, international health and agriculture officials warned Tuesday that the chief strategy for containing the disease -- the mass slaughter of chickens -- could inadvertently help turn the virus into a form far more threatening to humans. U.N. officials have pressed countries in the region to accelerate their culling of chickens but say the contact between poultry and the people killing them poses a risk by creating more chances for avian influenza to hijack genes from ordinary human flu ...

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A52595-2004Jan27.html?nav=hptoc\\_h](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A52595-2004Jan27.html?nav=hptoc_h).

**Sars tactics in bird flu fight** - 27January2004, **NEWS24**, South Africa, Bangkok -- Asian nations battered by bird flu will hold crisis talks here on Wednesday amid calls for them to unite against the outbreak in the same way they co-operated to fight last year's Sars epidemic. Ten Asian countries have now confirmed they have been hit by bird flu, killing at least eight people and leading to the slaughter or death of more than 20 million chickens ... Ministers and senior officials from agriculture and health ministries from the affected nations of Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, South Korea, Pakistan, Taiwan and Vietnam have been invited to attend ... [http://www.news24.com/News24/World/News/0,6119,2-10-1462\\_1474778,00.html](http://www.news24.com/News24/World/News/0,6119,2-10-1462_1474778,00.html).

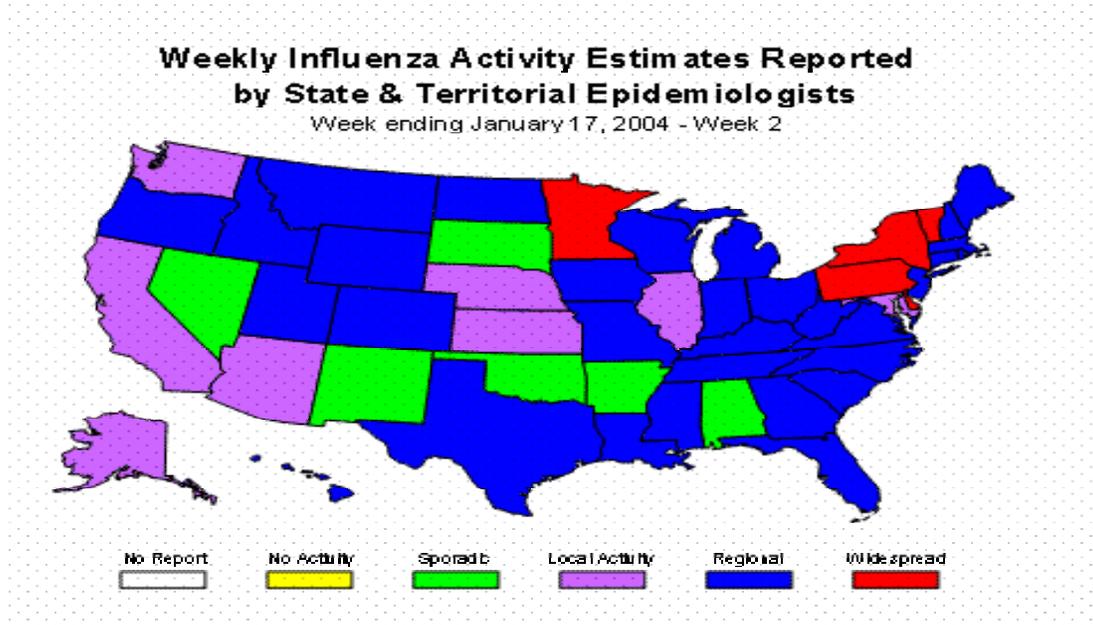
**Deodorants plus shaving linked to breast cancer** - 24January2004, *New Scientist* --Frequent underarm shaving combined with deodorant use might increase women's chances of getting breast cancer, claims a study based on a survey of over 400 women with breast cancer in the US. It is the first evidence of such a link to appear in a peer-reviewed journal, but it is far from conclusive ... <http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99994587>.

**Scientists Grow Neurons Using Nanostructures** – 22January2004  
EVANSTON, Ill. --- Scientists at Northwestern University have designed synthetic molecules that promote neuron growth, a promising development that could lead to the reversal of paralysis due to spinal cord injury. Similar to earlier experiments that promoted bone growth, the scientists now have successfully grown nerve cells using an artificial three-dimensional network of nanofibers, an important technique in regenerative medicine. The results were published online, January 22nd, by the journal **Science** ... "We have shown that our scaffold selectively and rapidly directs cell differentiation, driving neural progenitor cells to become neurons and not astrocytes," said Stupp, who led the research team in Evanston. "Astrocytes are a major problem in spinal cord injury because they lead to scarring and act as a barrier to neuron repair." ... [http://www.northwestern.edu/research/news/news\\_01232004.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/research/news/news_01232004.html).

**WHO: Avian influenza-fact sheet** – 5January2004-Avian influenza ("bird flu") and the significance of its transmission to humans - [This excellent article also explains the concepts of antigenic "drift", and antigenic "shift", Ed.] ... [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 2 (January 11-17, 2004), with the majority of

states reporting regional influenza activity. However, pneumonia and influenza mortality (10.3%) continued to exceed the epidemic threshold during week 2 (8.1%). Five state health departments reported widespread influenza activity, 31 states and New York City reported regional activity, 8 states reported local activity, and 6 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic activity. 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>

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

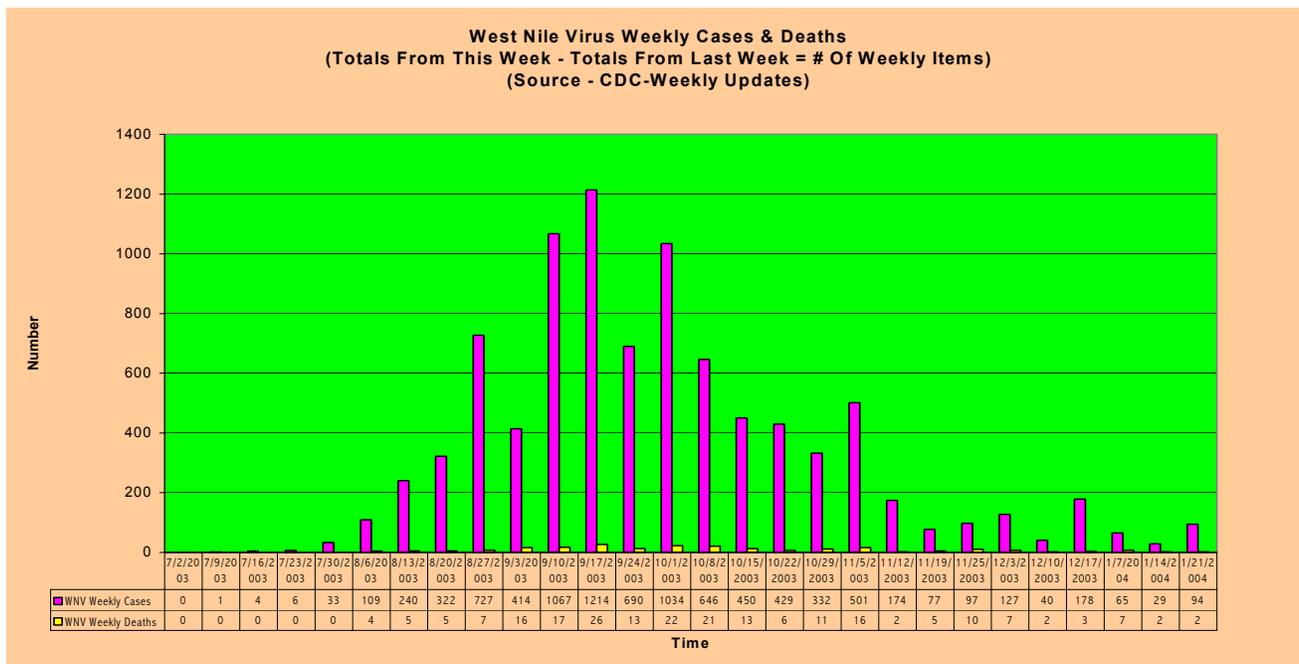
Click on a state to link directly to their West Nile virus Web page.  
 See list below for additional city-level and main State Health Department Web sites.



**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 21, 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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