

## DOE – Medical and Infectious Disease Update – Wednesday, February 4, 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, February 5, 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 creditable sources.

### Recent News

**'BIRD' Flu Travel Recommendations: CDC:** Travelers to countries in Asia with documented H5N1 outbreaks should avoid poultry farms, contact with animals in live food markets, and any surfaces that appear to be contaminated with feces from poultry or other animals ...

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/index.htm>. **WHO:** ... Influenza viruses are destroyed by heat. As a precaution, consumers should ensure that all foods from poultry, including eggs, have been thoroughly cooked ... [http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004\\_01\\_26/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_26/en/).

**FDA Links Antidepressants, Youth Suicide Risk** - 3February2004, *By Shankar Vedantam, Washington Post Staff Writer* --Federal regulators said for the first time yesterday that clinical trials of popular antidepressants such as Prozac, Paxil, and Zoloft show a greater risk of suicide among children taking the drugs compared with those taking dummy pills. Although only one of these drugs has been approved for the treatment of children with depression, doctors are prescribing them to hundreds of thousands of American children every year. The new Food and Drug Administration analysis of the trials is starkly at odds with repeated assurances by the U.S. psychiatric establishment that the drugs are very safe ... <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A7008-2004Feb2.html>.

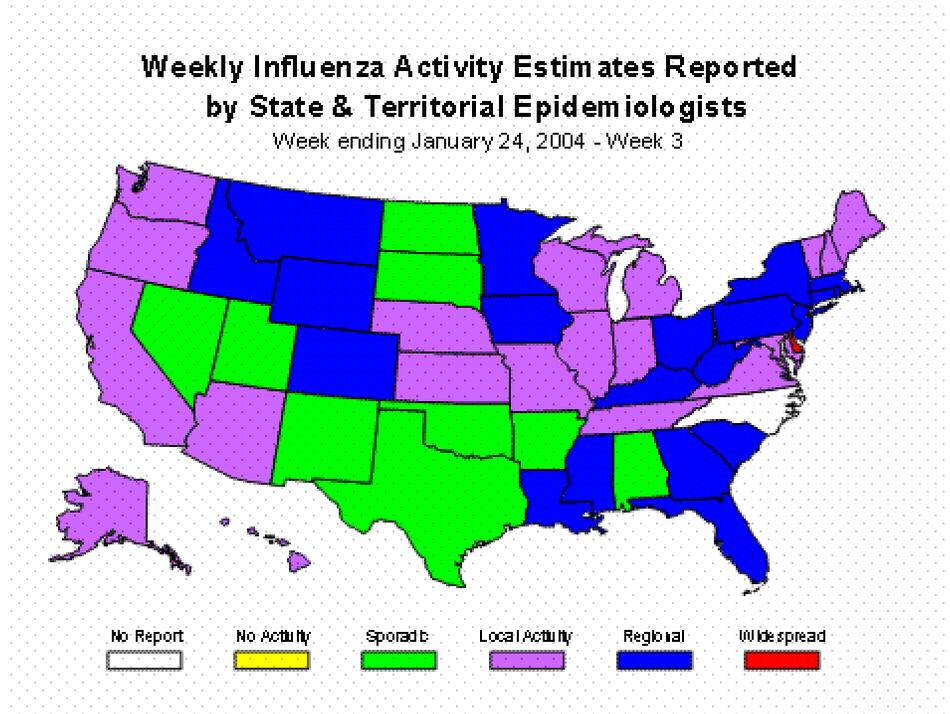
**'Human-to-human' bird flu transmission investigated** - 2February2004, *NEW SCIENTIST.COM* -The World Health Organization says it cannot rule out the possibility that two women in Vietnam have caught bird flu by human-to-human transmission. Such transmission has been feared by health authorities, as it could signal the start of a dangerous new phase in the epidemic. However, there is so far no evidence that the virus has undergone changes that would make it highly contagious among humans. The greatest fear is that the bird flu will recombine with a human (influenza) strain, making it both highly pathogenic and easily transmitted from person to person ... <http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99994631>.

**Researchers discover that a virus can naturally target and kill tumors** --29Jan2004, *New York University School of Medicine (NYUSoM)* -Mosquitoes are notorious for their ability to spread disease, but in some cases they may prove to be a boon instead of a bane. In a recent study, researchers at NYUSoM found that one mosquito-borne virus automatically targets and kills tumor cells in mice. Most importantly, it does so while leaving healthy cells alone, a feature that may make it a promising treatment for some forms of cancer ... According to the study, the Sindbis virus is effective at killing tumors in mice at every location tested--whether the growths occur under the skin, in the pancreas, in the main body cavity, or in the lungs ... published in the January 2004 issue of the journal *Nature Biotechnology* ... [http://www.med.nyu.edu/communications/news/pr\\_37.html](http://www.med.nyu.edu/communications/news/pr_37.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** - All four surveillance components reflected decreases in influenza activity during week 3 (January 18-24, 2004). Mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (9.7%) appears to have peaked, but remained above the epidemic threshold during week 3 (8.2%). One state health department reported widespread influenza activity, 20 states and New York

City reported regional activity, 19 states reported local activity, and 9 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>

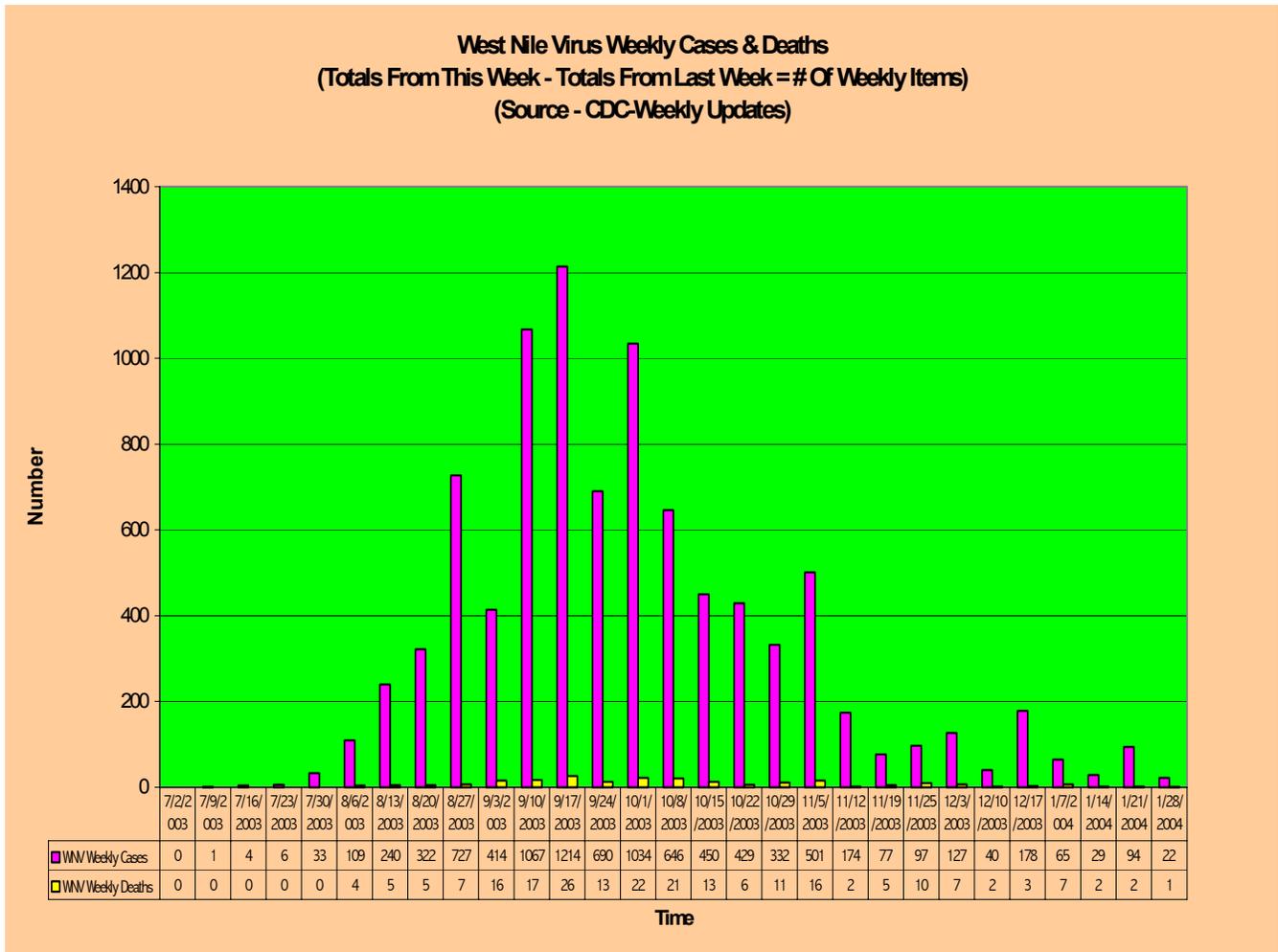
### **Links to State and Local Government West Nile Virus Web Sites**

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 28, 2004. The information for the week ending January 28, 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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