

## DOE – Medical and Infectious Disease Update – Wednesday, February 25, 2004

DOE weekly updates on Bird Flu, Human Influenza, 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 26, 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

**Test results reveal deadly Texas bird flu** – 24Feb2004, *By Marguerite Higgins, THE WASHINGTON TIMES* --A strain of avian flu found on a Texas chicken farm Friday is far deadlier to poultry than originally thought and has spread to two bird markets in Houston, federal officials said yesterday. However, the bird flu is not the same strain that has killed at least 22 persons in Asia, said U.S. Agriculture department Chief Veterinarian Dr. Ron DeHaven. Preliminary tests on the H5N2-type strain found at a farm in Gonzales County, 50 miles east of San Antonio, show that it has a higher mortality rate among birds and is possibly infectious to humans ... <http://washingtontimes.com/business/20040223-094016-6124r.htm>.

**Downsizing raises risk of death in workers** – 23Feb2004, Maggie McKee, *NewScientist* --Corporate downsizing doubles the risk of death from cardiovascular disease and has serious health effects on employees who survive redundancy, suggests new research. A Finnish study of 22,430 government employees shows that employees who are laid off are not the only ones who suffer health repercussions from major downsizing ... <http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99994706>.

**Hormone (amylin) linked to osteoporosis** - 22Feb2004, HOUSTON, (*United Press International* via COMTEX) -- Baylor College of Medicine researchers in Houston, Texas, have found that a hormone prevents bone loss in the human body. Osteoporosis, caused by loss of mineral density in bones, makes bones weaker and more prone to fracture, especially in post-menopausal women ... The BBC said the study found those who lack the hormone amylin, which is secreted by the same cells that produce insulin in the pancreas and whose failure leads to diabetes, have less bone mass than those who produce the hormone. {The size and mass of your bones are balanced by the rates at which certain bone cells(osteoclasts) chew up the mineral layers and other cells(osteoblasts) lay down new mineral layers. --Ed} ... The study was published in the Journal of Cell Biology ... [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_16194.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_16194.html).

**Heart disease associated with oral health – studies of women and serological factors** – 14Feb2004, *Karolinska Institutet* --A new study from

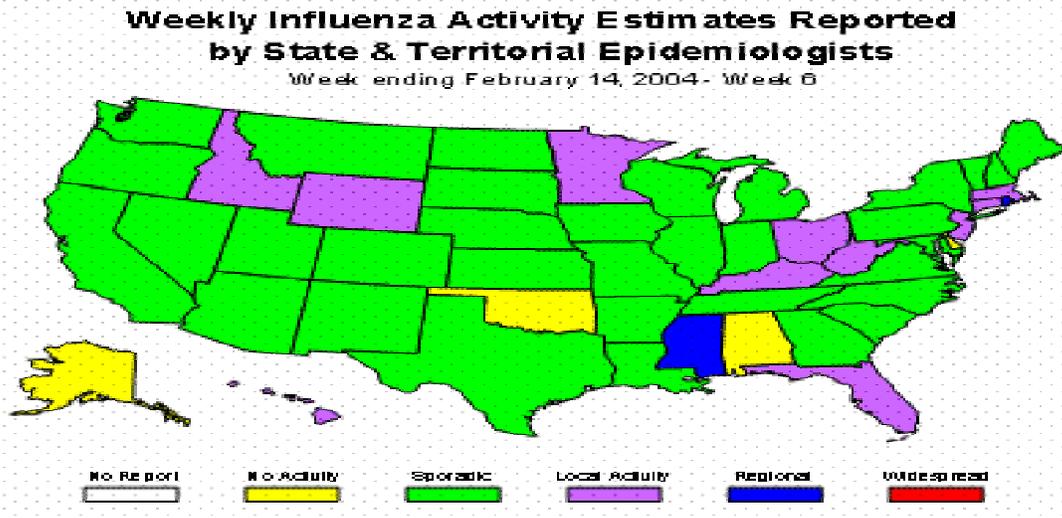
Karolinska Institutet shows, for the first time, an association between coronary heart disease and oral health in women. Recent results have also shown that serological factors, might provide insight into the reported epidemiological association between periodontitis and cardiovascular disease. Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death in the Western industrialized world. Classic risk factors such as smoking, obesity and high blood lipids do not explain all clinical and epidemiological features of CVD. Chronic inflammation has been suggested as a possible “unknown” risk factor. However, the chronic inflammatory disease periodontitis, has only recently been found to be associated to CVD ... [http://info.ki.se/article\\_en.html?ID=789](http://info.ki.se/article_en.html?ID=789).

**BIRD FLU 2003-2004: DOE SPECIAL MEDICAL UPDATE** – With information from WHO and the CDC, this update also explains the concepts of viral infection, viral replication, antigenic “drift”, and antigenic “shift” ... [http://www.eh.doe.gov/health/news/BIRDFLU2003-2004\\_DOESPECIALUPDATE\\_B200402091.pdf](http://www.eh.doe.gov/health/news/BIRDFLU2003-2004_DOESPECIALUPDATE_B200402091.pdf) (PDF) or for a choice of PDF or Word format, <http://www.eh.doe.gov/health/index.html>, and scroll down under **"News and Features:"**.

**WHO: Avian influenza-fact sheet** – 5January2004-Avian influenza (“bird flu”) and the significance of its 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** - Influenza activity remained low during the week of February 8-14, 2004. The percentage of patient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) remained below the national baseline (2.5%). Mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) continued to decline (8.6%), but remained above the epidemic threshold for week 6 (8.3%). There were no reports of widespread influenza activity from state and territorial epidemiologists during week 6. Two states reported regional activity, and 11 states reported local activity. Thirty-three states, New York City, the District of Columbia, and Guam, reported sporadic activity, and 4 states reported no activity ...

<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**

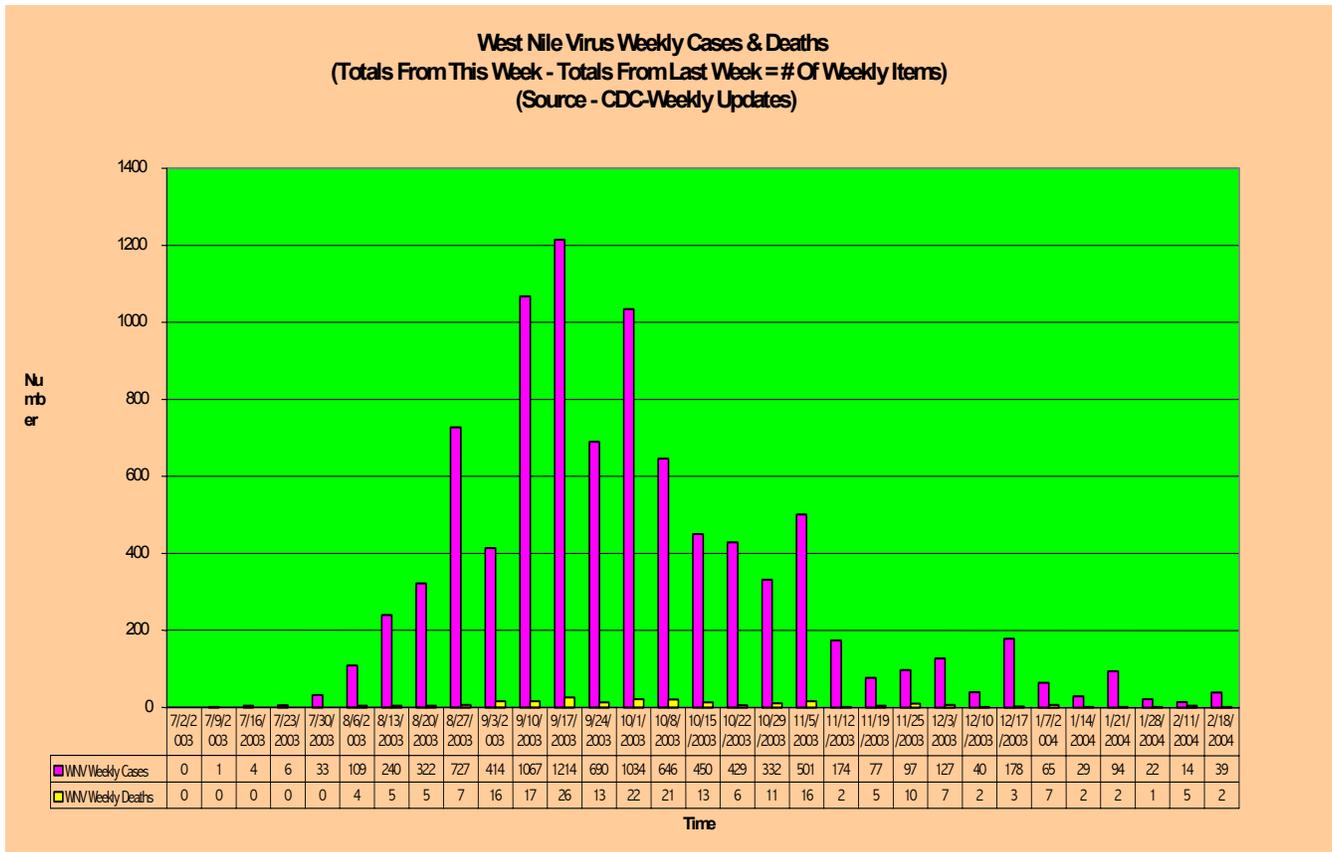
Click on a state to link directly to their West Nile virus Web page.  
See list below for additional city-level and main State Health Department Web sites.



**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 February 18, 2004. Weekly information thru February 18, 2004 is shown in the chart below. Total cases and deaths from 46 states stand at 9175 and 230, respectively ... <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/surv&controlCaseCount03.htm>



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