



Capsule

Ed Krisiunas

WNWN International, Burlington, Connecticut

What's new, what's hot, what's timely? If you don't have time to search the Internet for the latest developments that might impact your work environment, you just might find some of this information in this "Capsule" column. Please e-mail any comments or suggestions to ekrisiunas@aol.com or to the Editor, Ira F. Salkin, at irasalkin@aol.com.

ABSA Web Site

LouAnn C. Burnett, Chair of the ABSA Communications Committee, recently notified *BIOSAFETY* subscribers that "the Communications Committee is pleased to announce that construction of a totally new ABSA web site has begun. The new site will be unveiled sometime this Fall—no later than the Biological Safety Conference in San Francisco in October 2002. We are working to include your favorite links from the current site, as well as to provide many new features including a members-only section and the ability to securely submit credit card information online. Stay tuned! Please visit www.absa.org and take note of the following new links and information."

1. The Biosecurity Task Force, chaired by Barbara Johnson, has prepared a summary of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act, highlighting aspects most applicable to biosafety professionals. See CDC/USDA Notification of Possession of Select Agents Guidance Document and Form on the ABSA home page.
2. The Technical Review Committee (TRC), chaired by Bill Homovec, has updated the Bioterrorism Links on the home page. The TRC also continues to submit comments regarding new regulations, guidelines, and

standards. Please link to those listed on the home page or to the archive of past comments.

3. The Technical Review Committee has also posted a list of helpful biosafety links. Find this under Tools/Biosafety Resources on the homepage, and then click Helpful Biosafety Links.

4. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has asked ABSA to post several documents relating to the Nationwide Survey for Wild Polio Viruses. You may access this information from the link on the home page.

5. Many items about the 45th Annual Biosafety Conference are posted, and new ones will be posted continuously in the next few weeks. Please note the links for the ABSA Training Exhibit and the Outstanding Means of Communication Citation and keep checking back for more details on the San Francisco meeting.

HIV/AIDS Surveillance

The first in a new series of supplements to the *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, The HIV/AIDS Surveillance Technical Report* (Volume 1, Number 1) is now available. Entitled "HIV Infection in Areas Conducting HIV Reporting Using Coded Patient Identifiers, 2000," it can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/stats/hastr1100.htm>.

Highly Requested TB Training Videos Become NIOSH's First Product on DVD

Two training videos to help protect healthcare employees from the risk of job-related tuberculosis infection are available as one package from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National

Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). This is NIOSH's first health and safety training resource in DVD format.

This free DVD includes "Respirators: Your TB Defense," a training video to educate healthcare employees about proper respiratory protection against TB exposure, and "TB Respiratory Protection: Administrator's Review," a companion video that takes healthcare administrators step-by-step through development of a worker respiratory protection program.

The two programs were NIOSH's most requested training videos when in VHS videocassette format. The new DVD packages both videos in a convenient, easy-to-use format that provides greater visual clarity

and more user options. The DVD also includes reference documents, forms, and checklists. Viewers can use an onscreen menu to choose among the videos and the supplementary features.

To request copies of the new DVD, contact Roger Wheeler, NIOSH Education and Information Division, at RWheeler@cdc.gov or call toll free 1-800-35-NIOSH (1-800-356-4674). For additional information on other NIOSH training videos, other NIOSH resources on preventing job-related tuberculosis among healthcare workers, and NIOSH research in other areas, call the toll free number or visit NIOSH on the web at www.cdc.gov/niosh.