



## Capsule

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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 have an impact on your work environment, chances are you just might find some of this information in this "Capsule" column. Please e-mail any comments or suggestions to [ekrisiunas@aol.com](mailto:ekrisiunas@aol.com) or to the Editor, Ira F. Salkin, at [irasalkin@aol.com](mailto:irasalkin@aol.com).

### SARS

Issues related to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) are being addressed in another portion of the journal this month. Many useful links can be found at the CDC web site. A recent piece on use of respirators is provided below.

Interim Domestic Guidance on the Use of Respirators to Prevent Transmission of SARS  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/respirators.htm>.

### HIPAA

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) have impacted many types of healthcare providers. The following web sites are good primers:

- <http://aspe.hhs.gov/admnsimp/>
- <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2002pres/hipaa.html>
- <http://www.hipaaplus.com/abouthippa.htm>  
(a white paper "what is HIPAA")

**"End of Polio" Web Site's Photo Essay Chronicles the Eradication of the Long-Prevalent Disease**

Early in 2001, Brazilian photojournalist Sebastiao Salgado began documenting the global effort to eradicate polio. Inspired to be a witness to the end of a disease whose recorded evidence can be traced to 1580 BC, Salgado traveled to Somalia, Sudan, India, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Pakistan to create a photographic record of the last of the mass campaigns against polio. His beautifully composed black-and-white photographs are featured on the "End of Polio" web site, along with explanatory text. To access the site, go to: <http://www.endofpolio.org>.

Begun in 1988, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative has helped cut the global toll of polio paralysis from an estimated 350,000 per year to 1,925 in 2002. The goal for 2005 is global eradication certification.

### EPA Registered Disinfectants and Sterilizers

Last year there was a comment on BIOSAFETY about where the EPA listing of registered disinfectants and sterilizers would be published when the National Antimicrobial Information Network discontinued listing the information. After some digging I found the following site on EPA's web site that appears to be current. <http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/chemregindex.htm>.

### Computer Staffing Model for Bioterrorism Response

A new computer model is available to help hospitals and health systems plan antibiotic dispensing

and vaccination campaigns to respond to bioterrorism or large-scale natural disease outbreaks. The model was funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and developed by researchers at Weill Medical College of Cornell University after testing a variety of patient triage and drug-dispensing plans. This project is part of a larger initiative of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop public health programs to address bioterrorism concerns.

This new resource is the nation's first computerized staffing model that is downloadable as a spreadsheet or accessible as a Web-based version. It can be used to calculate the specific needs of local health care systems based on the number of staff they have and the number of patients they would need to treat quickly in a bioterrorism event. The new computer model allows health care system planners to estimate the number and type of staff required to operate these clinics in order to provide an entire community with critical medical supplies in an efficient and timely fashion. The model can be downloaded to run on common spreadsheet software and customized for use by health officials at all levels of government, hospital administration, and emergency medical planning.

To download the Mass Prophylaxis/Vaccination Campaign Staffing Model, go to: <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/biomodel/index.asp>.

### **Copyright Constraints**

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vidual applications by organizations and for personal use, providing the copyright notice is included.

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### **For Technical Assistance**

Permission requests and technical assistance questions on the use of the model should be directed to:

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### **For Additional Information**

If you have any questions about AHRQ's bioterrorism and health system preparedness program, contact:

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