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 Chief Editor, Barbara Johnson, at barbara_johnson@verizon.net.

**BSE and CJD Information and Resources**

The recent announcement of a presumptive diagnosis of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, or “mad cow” disease) in an adult Holstein cow from Washington State has generated a plethora of information from numerous perspectives. The following link from the CDC provides access to the most current information.

www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/cjd/cjd.htm

**Updated! Public Health Guidance for Community-Level Preparedness and Response to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)**

This is an updated version of the draft guidance document issued by CDC in November 2003. CDC revised the draft based on comments received from public health partners, healthcare providers, and others. CDC will continue to update the document as necessary to incorporate additional comments and to reflect increased understanding of SARS-CoV transmission dynamics and the availability of improved prevention tools.

www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/updatedguidance.htm

**Avian Flu Outbreak**

The impact of the Avian Flu outbreak is being felt on many continents, not only in loss of life but also economically. To date 18 human cases of H5N1 avian influenza have been confirmed (13 of whom have died). The recent isolation of the virus from a poultry farm in Delaware has caused numerous Asian countries to ban imports of poultry from the United States. A WHO team is working with affected countries using epidemiological methods to determine the best approach to control the outbreak.

www.who.int/csr/don/2004_02_09/en/

For the most recent Avian influenza situation updates, see

www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/updates/en/

**OSHA Reminds Employers to Post Injury/Illness Summaries by February 1**

As of February 1, 2004, employers must post a summary of the total number of job-related injuries and illnesses that occurred last year, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Employers are required to post only the Summary (OSHA Form 300A)—not the OSHA 300 Log—from February 1 to April 30, 2004.

OSHA Delays Enforcement of Respiratory Protection Rule Provisions

Six Month Phase-in Covers Workers with Potential Exposure to Tuberculosis

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced today that it will delay until July 1, 2004, enforcing several provisions of the respiratory protection standard for establishments required to provide respirators for protection from potential exposure to tuberculosis.