



## 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 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](mailto:ekrisiunas@aol.com) or to Co-Editor Barbara Johnson at [barbara\\_johnson@verizon.net](mailto:barbara_johnson@verizon.net) or Co-Editor Karen B. Byers at [karen\\_byers@dfci.harvard.edu](mailto:karen_byers@dfci.harvard.edu).

### Updated Regulations on the Transport of Infectious Substances—WHO

The document "Transport of Infectious Substances" focuses on the recommendations described in the 13th edition of the *United Nations Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods* for the transport of infectious substances. Review efforts occurring between 2001 and 2002 introduced major revisions to Division 6.2—Infectious substances of the Model Regulations.

[www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/WHO\\_CDS\\_CSR\\_LYO\\_2004\\_9/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/WHO_CDS_CSR_LYO_2004_9/en/)

### Laboratory Exposure to *Burkholderia pseudomallei*—Los Angeles, 2003

MMWR, 53(42), 988-990 (October 29, 2004)

On July 26, 2003, the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (LACDHS) received a report that a local clinical laboratory had isolated from specimens *Burkholderia pseudomallei* a category B biologic terrorism agent and the causative organism for melioidosis, which is endemic to certain tropical areas. Because laboratory workers had manipulated

cultures of the organism, CDC was asked to assist in the subsequent investigation. This report summarizes the results of that investigation, which included assessment of laboratory exposures, postexposure chemoprophylaxis, and serologic testing of exposed laboratory workers. The findings underscore the need to reinforce proper laboratory practices and the potential benefits of chemoprophylaxis after laboratory exposures.

[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5342a3.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5342a3.htm)

### Eagles Imported Illegally into Europe from Thailand Test Positive for H5N1

An individual traveling from Thailand illegally attempted to bring two eagles into the European Union. Subsequently, these two eagles tested positive for H5N1. As a result, prophylactic treatment has been provided to a number of exposed individuals. This incident raises concerns regarding the detection of illegally imported animals, especially those with zoonotic diseases. This past February, the European Commission banned imports of live birds and poultry products from countries in south Asia, including Thailand, and Malaysia. This ban has been extended to 31 March 2005.

[www.eurosurveillance.org/ew/2004/041028.asp#1](http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ew/2004/041028.asp#1)

### Eighth Case of vCJD Identified in France Had Been a Blood Donor

Eurosurveillance reported another case of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob (vCJD) disease in France, the eighth since 1996. The patient donated blood on

several occasions between 1993 and 2003. The risk of vCJD transmission has been previously reported. However, the risk of vCJD transmission by plasma-derived products remains to be determined. The fractionation process may reduce the risk.

[www.eurosurveillance.org/ew/2004/041028.asp#2](http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ew/2004/041028.asp#2)

## Select Agent Rule Guidance

Because there are many aspects of the Select Agent rules that have proved confusing to those who must comply with the regulation, the CDC has developed the following guidance.

## Guidance Document for Application for Laboratory Registration for Possession, Use, and Transfer of Select Agents and Toxins

[www.cdc.gov/od/sap/forms/01319-1f.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/od/sap/forms/01319-1f.pdf)

[www.cdc.gov/od/sap/forms/01319-2f.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/od/sap/forms/01319-2f.pdf)

[www.cdc.gov/od/sap/forms/01319-3f.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/od/sap/forms/01319-3f.pdf)

## Guidance Document for Report of Theft, Loss, or Release of Select Agents and Toxins

[www.cdc.gov/od/sap/forms/01316-f.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/od/sap/forms/01316-f.pdf)

Home page for the Select Agent program is:  
[www.cdc.gov/od/sap/](http://www.cdc.gov/od/sap/).

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