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 or to Co-Editor Barbara Johnson at barbara_johnson@verizon.net or Co-Editor Karen B. Byers at karen_byers@dfci.harvard.edu.

The CDC Emergency Preparedness and Response Web Site Has a New Look!

The site is now optimized for newer Web browsers and will display at lower quality in older browsers. CDC recommends using a newer browser, such as Microsoft Internet Explorer 6, Netscape 6, Mozilla Firefox 1.0.2, or other comparable new browsers, to ensure that you get the best experience on its site. See www.bt.cdc.gov/.

Interim Guidance for Minimizing Risk for Human Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis Virus Infection Associated with Rodents (July 29, 2005)

In May 2005, CDC received reports of four organ-transplant recipients with unknown illness. All were discovered to have been infected with lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV) via a common organ donor. Epidemiologic investigation traced the source of the virus to a pet hamster purchased by the donor from a local pet store. LCMV testing of other rodents at the pet store revealed three other LCMV-infected rodents (two hamsters and a guinea pig), supplied by a single distributor (distributor A). Preliminary laboratory testing of hamsters from distributor A has identified an infection rate of approximately 3% among the animals sampled. The facility of distributor A is under quarantine until it can be documented as free of LCMV infection. This report provides background information on LCMV and interim guidance* for the public on reducing risk for LCMV infection from pet rodents. For more information, see www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm54d729a1.htm.

Prevention and Control of Influenza

This report updates the 2004 recommendations by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) regarding the use of influenza vaccine and antiviral agents (“CDC—Prevention and control of influenza: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices”—MMWR 2004; 53 [No. RR-6]:1-40). The 2005 recommendations include new or updated information regarding: (1) vaccination of persons with conditions leading to compromise of the respiratory system; (2) vaccination of health-care workers; (3) clarification of the role of live, attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) in vaccine shortage situations; (4) the 2005-2006 trivalent vaccine virus strains; and (5) the assessment of vaccine supply, timing of influenza vaccination, and prioritization of inactivated vaccine in shortage situations.

A link to this report and other information can be accessed at www.cdc.gov/flu or www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5408a1.htm.
**OSHA to Extend Comment Period for Occupational Exposure to Ionizing Radiation (July 29, 2005)**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced in the August 1, 2005 Federal Register that it is extending until November 28, 2005, the period for the public to submit comments and information to help the agency determine what action, if any, the agency should take to update its standards for occupational exposure to ionizing radiation.

The agency is extending the comment period to give stakeholders adequate time to comment on the National Academy of Science's *Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation (BEIR) VII* report on health risks for exposure to low levels of ionizing radiation, which was not issued until June 29, 2005. For additional information, see www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=11509.

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