



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 the "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.

Revised Recommendations for HIV Testing

The CDC has revised recommendations for HIV testing of adults, adolescents, and pregnant women in health-care settings. This "Reports and Recommendations" was issued September 22, 2006.

The major revisions from previously published guidelines are as follows.

For patients in all healthcare settings:

- HIV screening is recommended for patients in all healthcare settings after the patient is notified that testing will be performed, unless the patient declines (opt-out screening);
- Persons at high risk for HIV infection should be screened for HIV at least annually;
- Separate written consent for HIV testing should not be required; general consent for medical care should be considered sufficient to encompass consent for HIV testing; and
- Prevention counseling should not be required with HIV diagnostic testing or as part of HIV screening programs in healthcare settings.

Additional information can be found at: www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/testing/resources/reports/pdf/rr5514.pdf

Review of Aerosol Transmission of Influenza A Virus—Emerging Infectious Diseases—November 2006

There continues to be a growing concern regarding an influenza pandemic. This publication discusses the

personal protective recommendation of various public health authorities that may contradict the existing body of knowledge. Surgical masks or N95 respirators? Review this publication to better understand the author's perspective. Tellier, R. Review of aerosol transmission of influenza A virus in *Emerging Infectious Disease*—November 2006. Available from www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol12no11/06-0426.htm

Training and Education

The CDC's Emergency Preparedness and Response web site provides a link for some interesting web-based training and education. Recent topics include:

- Training: "Radiological Terrorism: Medical Response to Mass Casualties";
- Video Webcast: Learning from Katrina;
- Video Webcast: Preparing for Radiological Population Monitoring & Decontamination; and
- Video Webcast: "Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Using Public Information to Enhance POD Flow."

The Emergency Preparedness and Response web site is: www.bt.cdc.gov/

The training link is: www.bt.cdc.gov/training/

Biosafety via the ABSA Web Site

The ABSA web site is an excellent resource for links to various organizations and information relative to biosafety. Links to the following sites are available on the ABSA web site:

- www.absa.org/resinternet.html
- Belgian Biosafety Server (European Biosafety Topics)
- Office of Biosafety, LCDC (Canada)
- OHASIS, Office of Health and Safety Information Systems (CDC)
- Select Agent Web Site
- International Veterinary Biosafety Workgroup
- European Biosafety Association