



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.

FDA Approves First U.S. Vaccine for Humans against the Avian Influenza Virus H5N1

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced on April 19 the first approval in the United States of a vaccine for humans against the H5N1 influenza virus, commonly known as avian or bird flu.

The vaccine could be used in the event the current H5N1 avian virus develops the capability to efficiently spread from human-to-human, resulting in the rapid spread of the disease across the globe. Should such an influenza pandemic emerge, the vaccine may provide early limited protection in the months before a vaccine tailored to the pandemic strain of the virus could be developed and produced.

www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01611.html

Human Rabies, *MMWR*, April 20, 2007, Volume 56, Number 15, Pages 361-365

Rabies is a viral infection that causes acute, progressive encephalitis and is considered to be universally fatal. In 2004, an unvaccinated Wisconsin patient received a new medical treatment and became the first documented survivor of rabies who had not received preexposure vacci-

nation or postexposure prophylaxis (PEP). This report describes two patients with rabies who were treated unsuccessfully using similar therapies. Enhanced clinical awareness of possible rabies exposure is needed to ensure prompt PEP and timely diagnosis of rabies, especially if treatment is attempted.

www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5615a1.htm

Progress Made Towards Safe Nanotechnology in the Workplace

This document is a report of the progress of The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Nanotechnology Research Center (NTRC) since its inception in 2004 through 2006. Using only internally redirected resources, the NTRC has begun to make contributions to all of the steps in the continuum from hazard identification to risk management.

www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-123/

CDC Unveils New Web Site to Provide Better Access to Health Information

On Thursday, April 19, 2007, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) unveiled a new site designed to improve the usability and performance of www.cdc.gov. The new CDC.gov web site provides better access to health and safety topics, data and statistics, news and events, and expanded tools and resources, as well as an improved search engine. The new web site is user-centered, research based, and is the product of extensive user testing of CDC's principal audiences. Take a virtual tour of the new CDC.gov site at:

www.cdc.gov/Features/VirtualTour/