

## Capsule

Ed Krisiunas

WNWN International, Burlington, Connecticut

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](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).

### Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule—United States, 2009

The Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule has been approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American College of Physicians. (*MMWR*, January 9, 2009, Volume 57, Number 53. Available at: [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr\\_wk.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_wk.html))

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) annually reviews the recommended Adult Immunization Schedule to ensure that the schedule reflects current recommendations for licensed vaccines. In October 2008, ACIP approved the Adult Immunization Schedule for 2009. No new vaccines were added to the schedule. However, several indications were added to the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine footnote; clarifications were made to the footnotes for human papillomavirus, varicella, and meningococcal vaccines; and schedule information was added to the hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine footnotes.

Additional information is available as follows: schedule (in English and Spanish) at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/adult-schedule.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/adult-schedule.htm); adult vaccination at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/default.htm); ACIP statements for specific vaccines at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/acip-list.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/acip-list.htm); and reporting adverse events at [www.vaers.hhs.gov](http://www.vaers.hhs.gov) or by telephone at 1-800-822-7967.

### Personal Protective Equipment and Risk for Avian Influenza (H7N3)

An outbreak of avian influenza (H7N3) among poultry resulted in laboratory-confirmed disease in 1 of 103 exposed persons. Incomplete use of personal protective equipment (PPE) was associated with conjunctivitis and influenza-like symptoms. Rigorous use of PPE by persons managing avian influenza outbreaks may reduce exposure to potentially hazardous infected poultry materials.

In April 2006, an outbreak of avian influenza occurred on three poultry farms in Norfolk, England. Reverse transcription-PCR (RT-PCR) of poultry blood samples and cloacal swabs detected low-pathogenic avian influenza (H7N3) on one farm, and veterinary investigation confirmed influenza subtype H7N3 on the two adjacent farms. Surveillance and protection zones were established around all infected premises, and all birds were culled. Persons who had been exposed were offered oseltamivir prophylaxis; those with influenza symptoms were offered oseltamivir treatment and influenza vaccination. All persons at risk were orally instructed to wear personal protective equipment (PPE).

Morgan, O., Kuhne, M., Nair, P., Verlander, N. Q., Preece, R., McDougal, M., et al. (2009 January [date cited].) Personal protective equipment and risk for avian influenza (H7N3). *Emerging Infectious Diseases* [serial on the Internet]. Available at: [www.cdc.gov/EID/content/15/1/59.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/EID/content/15/1/59.htm)

### Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus (H5N1) Infection in Red Foxes Fed Infected Bird Carcasses

Eating infected wild birds may put wild carnivores at high risk for infection with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus (H5N1). To determine whether red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) are susceptible to infection with HPAI virus (H5N1), we infected three foxes intratracheally. They excreted virus pharyngeally for 3-7 days at peak titers of  $10^{3.5}$ - $10^{5.2}$  median tissue culture infective dose (TCID<sub>50</sub>) per mL and had severe pneumonia, myocarditis, and encephalitis. To determine whether foxes can become infected by the presumed natural route, we fed infected bird carcasses to three other red foxes. These foxes excreted virus pharyngeally for 3-5 days at peak titers of  $10^{4.2}$ - $10^{4.5}$  TCID<sub>50</sub>/mL, but only mild or no pneumonia developed. This study demonstrates that red foxes fed bird carcasses infected with HPAI virus (H5N1) can excrete virus while remaining free of severe disease, thereby potentially playing a role in virus dispersal.

Reperant, L. A., van Amerongen, G., van de Bildt, M. W. G., Rimmelzwaan, G. F., Dobson, A. P., Osterhaus, A. D. M. E., et al. (2008 December [date cited].) Highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (H5N1) infection in red foxes fed infected bird carcasses. *Emerging Infectious Diseases* [serial on the Internet]. Available at: [www.cdc.gov/EID/content/14/12/1835.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/EID/content/14/12/1835.htm)

## Exposure to *Streptococcus suis* Among U.S. Swine Workers

Despite numerous cases of human infection with *Streptococcus suis* worldwide, human disease is rarely diagnosed in North America. We studied 73 swine-exposed and 67 non-swine-exposed U.S. adults for antibodies to *S. suis* serotype 2. Serologic data suggest that human infection with *S. suis* occurs more frequently than currently documented.

Smith, T. C., Capuano, A. W., Boese, B., Myers, K. P., & Gray, G. C. (2008 December [date cited].) Exposure to *Streptococcus suis* among U.S. swine workers. *Emerging Infectious Diseases* [serial on the Internet]. Available at: [www.cdc.gov/EID/content/14/12/1925.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/EID/content/14/12/1925.htm)

## Delinquent Mortgages, Neglected Swimming Pools, and West Nile Virus, California

Adjustable rate mortgages and the downturn in the California housing market caused a 300% increase in notices of delinquency in Bakersfield, Kern County. This led to large numbers of neglected swimming pools, which were associated with a 276% increase in the num-

ber of human West Nile virus cases during the summer of 2007.

Reisen, W. K., Takahashi, R. M., Carroll, B. D., & Quiring, R. (2008 November [date cited]). Delinquent mortgages, neglected swimming pools, and West Nile Virus, California. *Emerging Infectious Diseases* [serial on the Internet]. Available at: [www.cdc.gov/EID/content/14/11/1747.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/EID/content/14/11/1747.htm)

## OSHA Safety and Health Topics—Bioterrorism

Bioterrorism is the intentional use of micro-organisms to bring about ill effects or death to humans, livestock, or crops. The use of micro-organisms to cause disease is a growing concern for public health officials and agricultural organizations. The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 and the subsequent bioterrorist releases of anthrax have led to an increased awareness of workplaces as possible terrorist targets. Specific OSHA Safety and Health Topics Pages are available for Plague, Ricin, Smallpox, Tularemia, and Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHFs). There is also an OSHA Anthrax eTool. Available at: [www.osha.gov/SLTC/bioterrorism/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bioterrorism/index.html)

### Notice of Executive Order

The United States government has enacted policies and regulations that apply to facilities that possess biological select agents and toxins to protect against theft, misuse, or diversion to unlawful activity of such agents and toxins. A new Executive Order signed January 9, 2009 by former President Bush has established a Working Group to further study biosecurity. For more information on "Executive Order: Strengthening Laboratory Biosecurity in the United States" please visit: [www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2009/01/20090109-6.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2009/01/20090109-6.html)