

USACHPPM
HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO)
WEEKLY UPDATE

1 May 2002

The HIO Weekly Update provides information regarding global medical and veterinary issues of interest to the United States (US) Army. The weekly update does not attempt to analyze the information regarding potential strategic or tactical impact to the US Army and as such, should not be regarded as a medical intelligence product. Medical intelligence products are available at <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/>. The information in the HIO Weekly Update should provide an increased awareness of current and emerging health-related issues.

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HOT ISSUES

Anthrax - Connecticut

On 26 April, the United States Postal Service reported that three positive samples out of 101 taken at 71 locations in a mail-processing center in Wallingford, Connecticut were positive for anthrax. State health officials indicated that there was no immediate health risk to employees and the contamination was likely residual remains from a contamination last fall. The area where the contamination was found and a safety zone around it are closed to employees while the area is undergoing decontamination. The report is at http://www.usps.com/news/2002/press/pr02_0426ct.htm.

Antivenin Shortage - Protherics Inc.

On 27 March, the British company Protherics, Inc., announced the potential shortage of the snakebite antivenom, CroFab (Crotalidae Polyvalent Immune Fab - Ovine) for the 2002 snakebite season due to a short-term problem with the production process. The problem will result in at least a two-month delay in the release of the product (release anticipated in June). This product is marketed in the US by Savage Labs and is indicated for the management of patients with minimal or moderate North American crotalid envenomation. Crotalids include rattlesnakes, copperheads, and cottonmouths/water moccasins. Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, Inc., ceased production of the only other US-approved crotalid antivenom, Antivenin Crotalidae Polyvalent, in 2001. The report is at http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/020327/272154_1.html.

Breath Test for *Helicobacter pylori* - [BMJ](#)

On 27 April, the BMJ reported that in a randomized controlled trial by McColl and colleagues, non-invasive testing for *H. pylori* was found to be as safe and effective as endoscopy plus *H. pylori* testing in the management of dyspepsia. Exclusion criteria for the trial were age over 55, use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, presence of sinister symptoms, and family history of gastrointestinal malignancy or history of gastric surgery. The authors advocate non-invasive testing as the preferred mode of investigation in this group of patients with dyspepsia. The report is at <http://bmj.com/cgi/content/abstract/324/7344/999?lookupType=volpage&vol=324&fp=999&view=short>.

Hand Sanitizers - *Lancet*

On 27 April, the *Lancet* reported on a study that evaluated the antimicrobial efficacy of 10 hand gels and four rinses for use in hand sanitization when soap and water are scarce. According to the study, no hand gel met the European standards requirements within 30 seconds of application, whereas all hand rinses did. The authors recommended that alcohol-based liquid hand disinfectants be implemented as first choice agents in hospitals that allow this practice since the application time in clinical practice is often shorter than 30 seconds. The study also found that 1-propanol was the

most effective alcohol in terms of bactericidal efficacy, followed by 2-propanol and ethanol. The authors recommended that ethanol-based hand formulations should contain at least 80% ethanol (v/v). A review of the study is at <http://www.reutershealth.com/archive/2002/04/26/eline/links/20020426elin013.html> and the report is Kramer A, et al. Limited efficacy of alcohol-based hand gels. *Lancet* 359 (9316): 1489-90, 27 April 2002.

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Nosocomial Transmission - *Archives of Internal Medicine*

On 24 April, the Johns Hopkins Division of Infectious Diseases Antibiotic Guide posted a review of a study in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* regarding the possible transmission of HCV from an infected gynecological surgeon to his patients. The investigation evolved after it was proven that the gynecologist infected one of his patients with HCV during a cesarean section. All 2,907 women who had been operated on by the HCV-positive gynecologist between July 1993 and March 2000 were notified about potential exposure and were offered free counseling and testing. Seven women had HCV infections, but sequencing of the viruses revealed that they could not be linked. The resulting overall HCV transmission rate was 0.04% (1 per 2,286; 95% confidence interval 0.008-0.25%). The authors concluded that health care worker transmission of HCV in surgical procedures is rare. The review comments stated that there are now several case reports of HCV transmission from infected care providers to their patients (*NEJM* 1996;334:555, *Lancet* 2000;355:818, and *NEJM* 2000;343:1851). The review is at http://hopkins-abxguide.org/show_pages.cfm?content=news_content.html - [31 Apr](#) and the report is at Ross RS, et al. Risk of hepatitis C virus transmission from an infected gynecologist to patients: results of a seven-year retrospective investigation. *Archives of Internal Medicine* 162(7):805-10, 8 April 2002.

Influenza Pandemic - *Lancet*

On 24 April, the Johns Hopkins Division of Infectious Diseases Antibiotic Guide posted a review of a commentary in *Lancet* concerning an assessment of influenza readiness from Klaus Stohr of the [WHO](#). The average interval between influenza pandemics is 25 years, and the last pandemic was 34 years ago. The recent pandemics have shown that 25-35% of the population became sick over a few weeks, six percent of the patients developed pneumonia, one percent required hospitalization and 0.6% died. Changes to anticipate with the next pandemic are an increased spread from global travel and the availability of antiviral drugs. Challenges include severe vaccine and antiviral shortages, a lack of policies for the use of these products, and no national, regional, or hospital contingency plans. Other concerns include the cost prohibition for many of the antiviral drugs and that vaccine production is limited to nine countries, which may restrict export in the presence of an epidemic. The review is at http://hopkins-abxguide.org/show_pages.cfm?content=news_content.html - [33 Apr](#) and the report is McConnell J. Ready for the next influenza pandemic. *Lancet* 359 (9312):1133, 30 March 2002.

Meningococcal Meningitis - Fort Leonard Wood (FLW)

On 29 April, the FLW medical facility reported a case of meningococcal meningitis in a 20-year-old male soldier in the Training Group at FLW bringing the total number of cases in the outbreak to five. It is believed that this soldier was incubating the disease when he received his immunization last week. Ciprofloxacin is being provided to all trainees and staff from the patient's company. Three cases have occurred in the Engineer Brigade, one case in the Military Police (MP) Brigade, and one fatal case in a family member whose father is a cadre in the Engineer Group. The Training Group at FLW consists of four brigades: Engineer, MP, Chemical, and Basic Training (BT). The Engineer Brigade is three times larger than the other brigades, which are all similar in size. The brigades are geographically oriented in an "L" shape with the Engineer Brigade at the hinge and the MP Brigade to the right. These two brigades have overlap in personnel movements during daily routines. The Chemical Brigade is north of the Engineer Brigade, but there appears to be little overlap in daily activities between these two brigades. The BT Brigade is the northernmost unit. All trainees go through the Reception Battalion before entering any of the training brigades. Antimicrobial prophylaxis is continuing with ciprofloxacin. Vaccine shortages were addressed through logistical channels.

Skin Cancer Prevention Guidelines - [CDC](#)

On 26 April, the CDC published *Guidelines for School Programs to Prevent Skin Cancer*, which provides (1) background information on the important role that exposure to ultraviolet radiation during childhood plays in the future development of skin cancer, (2) public health action steps, (3) instructions on when and how to apply sunscreen products and what to look for when purchasing sunscreen products, and (4) seven guidelines for skin cancer prevention in schools (see below). The report is at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5104.pdf>.

1. Establish **policies** that reduce exposure to ultraviolet radiation.
2. Provide an **environment** that supports sun-safety practices.
3. Provide health **education** to teach students the knowledge, attitudes, and behavioral skills they need to prevent skin cancer.
4. Involve **family** members in skin cancer prevention efforts.
5. Include skin cancer prevention with **professional development** of staff (e.g., preservice and inservice education).
6. Complement and support skin cancer prevention with school **health services**.
7. Periodically **evaluate** whether schools are implementing the guidelines on policies, environmental change, education, families, professional development, and health services.

Recommendations for skin cancer prevention in schools. Courtesy of <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5104.pdf>.

Smallpox Vaccine - Joint Vaccine Acquisition Program

On 30 April, the [DoD](#) announced that its scientists and contractors are working to obtain [FDA](#) approval for a smallpox vaccine developed by the [USAMRIID](#) in the early 1990s. The FDA will likely require years of testing before the vaccine is approved for licensure and renewed production. An agreement signed on 27 March by DoD and Canada's Department of National Defence [sic] will facilitate the goal of producing a vaccine that is licensed in both the US and Canada. This would allow the US and Canada to share military smallpox vaccine stockpiles. The report is at http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Apr2002/n04302002_200204301.html.

Social Security Numbers (SSNs) - [GAO](#) Report

On 29 April, the GAO reported that SSNs are widely used by the government and gaps in safeguarding SSNs create the potential for SSN misuse. The GAO did acknowledge that the extent to which the government's broad use of SSNs contributes to identity theft is not clear. The GAO will recommend specific measures to encourage better security and reduce the display of SSNs in a future report. There may likely be an increased focus in this area in the future. The report is at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d02691t.pdf>.

USCENTCOM

Cholera - Somalia

On 23 April, the [WHO](#) reported that as of 22 April, 1,191 cases of cholera with 63 deaths (CFR = 5.3%) have occurred since the outbreak began on 12 March 2002. Five out of 18 regions are now affected: Banadir (Mogadishu), Lower Shabelle (Merka), Middle Shabelle (Jilib and Haranka), Hiraan (Belet Weyne), and Bari (Bossasso)

regions. Laboratory tests have confirmed *Vibrio cholerae* O1 Ogawa. Cholera is endemic in Somalia and normally surges from December through May each year. The outbreaks tend to recede with the onset of the long rainy season. The report is at <http://www.who.int/disease-outbreak-news/n2002/april/23april2002.html>.

Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) - Kazakhstan

On 25 April, [AFMIC](#) reported two cases of CCHF had occurred during April in the southern region of Zhambyl Oblasy. Previous outbreaks have occurred in this region in 1999 and 1995. Sporadic cases occur annually during the spring and summer months when tick activity is more active. According to the [UN OCHA](#), more than ten suspected cases were hospitalized last year in the southern region of Kazakhstan from 1 January to 17 May 2001. The report is at <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/> (registration required).

Measles, Suspected - Afghanistan

On 25 April, [AFMIC](#) reported that an ongoing outbreak in the Oruzgan Province, suspected to be measles, has led to 2,500 deaths. A measles vaccination campaign is underway in the neighboring Bamiyan Province where 100 cases of measles had been reported. Political insecurity is reportedly hampering investigations. The report is at <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/> (registration required).

Georgia Train and Equip Program (GTEP) - Georgia

On 29 April, the [DoD](#) announced the beginning of the GTEP, which will implement President Bush's decision to respond to the Government of Georgia's request for assistance to enhance its counter-terrorism capabilities and address the situation in the Pankisi Gorge. Medical gear is listed for transfer as part of the equipment support for Georgia. The report is at http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Apr2002/b04292002_bt217-02.html.

USEUCOM

Acute Respiratory Syndrome - Greece

On 26 April, the [WHO](#) and [CDR](#) Weekly reported that preliminary laboratory results indicate that an enterovirus is the etiologic agent responsible for 44 cases and 3 deaths of acute respiratory infection that was followed by pericarditis and/or myocarditis that occurred between 1 March and 24 April 2002. The majority of cases have been in middle-aged adults, with both sexes equally represented. There have been very few cases in children, although case histories revealed upper respiratory tract infections in child contacts preceding the adult cases. No cases have been reported among people visiting Greece for business or tourism. All schools were closed three days early for the two-week Greek Orthodox Easter holiday and Greek health authorities issued advice that personal hygiene should be intensified. The epidemiological investigation is ongoing. The reports are at <http://www.who.int/disease-outbreak-news/n2002/april/25april2002.html>, <http://www.who.int/disease-outbreak-news/n2002/april/26april2002.html>, and [http://www.phls.co.uk/publications/CDR Weekly/PDF files/2002/cdr1702.pdf](http://www.phls.co.uk/publications/CDR_Weekly/PDF_files/2002/cdr1702.pdf).

***E. coli* O157:H-, Sorbitol-Fermenting - Germany**

On 24 April, the Eurosurveillance Weekly reported 14 cases of sorbitol-fermenting *E. coli* O157:H- in children aged 7 months to 11 years (median 2.5 years) with dates of onset between 26 February and 17 March 2002. Six of the children were from five country districts in Lower Saxony, two were from Saxony, and one each from Bavaria and North Rhine-Westphalia. Six children developed hemolytic uremic syndrome and one died of thrombotic-thrombocytopenic purpura. Further suspect cases are being investigated. Questionnaire based interviews are being used to establish whether there is an epidemiological link underlying the current increase in case numbers but have thus far not identified a common source. The report is at http://www.eurosurv.org/2002/pfp/020426_pfp.htm.

HIV Infection - UK

On 25 April, the [CDR](#) Weekly reported that by 31 March, 4,164 HIV cases were reported in the UK for 2001. This is the highest annual total ever reported, and is expected to increase as late reports are submitted. The majority of these infections were acquired heterosexually, usually abroad. Sex between men remains the major route of HIV transmission within the UK. The report is at [http://www.phls.co.uk/publications/CDR Weekly/PDF files/2002/cdr1702.pdf](http://www.phls.co.uk/publications/CDR_Weekly/PDF_files/2002/cdr1702.pdf).

Lassa Fever - Nigeria

On 25 April, [AFMIC](#) reported eight cases (seven deaths) of an acute hemorrhagic fever syndrome in the Edo State suspected of being Lassa fever. According to the [WHO](#), Lassa fever is endemic in regions of Nigeria where it is transmitted to humans from

infected wild rodents through direct or indirect contact with excretions deposited on surfaces such as floors and beds or in foods and water. The report is at <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/> (registration required).

***Mycobacterium bovis* Outbreak in Cattle - North Wales**

On 25 April, the [CDR](#) Weekly reported that an outbreak of *M. bovis* infection in cattle was recently detected in an area of north Wales which was previously free of the disease. The testing was conducted after a nine-month suspension of routine screening due to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease. The overall incidence and number of reported outbreaks of disease in cattle has increased annually since 1990, but the number of cases of *M. bovis* disease reported in humans remains low at about 40 cases per year since 1993 (range 28-49); less than 1% of [TB](#) complex isolates. The vast majority of cases of TB caused by *M. bovis* are attributable to drinking contaminated, unpasteurized milk. There are no documented cases of infection associated with eating contaminated meat. Studies are in progress to look at the potential human health consequences of bovine TB. The report is at [http://www.phls.co.uk/publications/CDRWeekly/PDF files/2002/cdr1702.pdf](http://www.phls.co.uk/publications/CDRWeekly/PDFfiles/2002/cdr1702.pdf).

Onchocerciasis - Nigeria

On 25 April, the [UN OCHA](#) reported that 480,000 rural dwellers in Borno State, northeastern Nigeria, were recently infected with river blindness while another 40,000 had been affected in varying degrees. According to the report some 18 local governments have been affected. Local officials are collaborating with officials from the state and federal governments, [WHO](#), and others. The report is at <http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=27476>.

USJFCOM

Biosafety Level 4 Lab - Rocky Mountain Laboratories

On 28 April, the *Las Vegas Sun* reported that Rocky Mountain Laboratories, a part of the [NIH](#), has been approved for a \$66 million expansion for bioterrorism research, including upgrades to the maximum-security levels of Biosafety Level 4. This would be the only Biosafety Level 4 lab in the west. According to the report, the US government currently has Biosafety Level 4 labs at Fort Detrick; Bethesda, Maryland; the CDC in Atlanta; and the nonprofit Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, San Antonio. Another Biosafety Level 4 lab is planned at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Rocky Mountain Laboratories was already studying organisms that could be used in biological attacks, and the existing expertise at the lab was the main reason for the selection of this location. The report is at <http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/tech/2002/apr/28/042806967.html>.

Fixed Obstructive Lung Disease - Occupational Exposure

On 26 April, the [CDC](#) reported findings from an epidemiological investigation indicate workers exposed to flavorings at microwave popcorn factories are at risk for developing fixed obstructive lung disease. The results also raise concern about possible risk for workers in other flavoring and food production industries. Preliminary animal studies at CDC suggested severe damage to airway epithelia after inhalation exposure to high air concentrations of a butter flavoring. Further animal studies are planned to determine the causal ingredient in the complex butter-flavoring mixture. The CDC reported there was no evidence to suggest risk for consumers in the preparation and consumption of microwave popcorn. Healthcare providers should report to preventive medicine personnel who will report to state health authorities/CDC any cases of suspected occupational respiratory disease in workers exposed to food flavorings. The report is at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5116a2.htm>.

Non-tuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) - Occupational Exposure

On 26 April, the [CDC](#) reported that an epidemiological investigation of hypersensitivity pneumonitis in machinists at an Ohio automobile brake manufacturing facility in January 2001 indicated that exposure to aerosolized NTM might have been a contributing factor to the disease. A medical record review of facility employees in November 2001 found that physicians had placed 107 (27%) of 400 workers on work restriction during the preceding 11 months because of respiratory conditions; 37 (35%) of these 107 workers remained on medical leave. Medical records were reviewed for 32 (86%) of the 37 workers on medical leave. All 32 workers had either full- or part-time work duties in the machining side of the plant. Preventive countermeasures included steam-cleaning the metalworking fluid (MWF) systems and machines, improving local ventilation of selected machines, and installing a conditioned air system for the machining areas and fresh MWF combined with a new biocide effective against mycobacteria. The CDC recommended public health professionals become familiar with the appropriate preventive and engineering control measures, MWF management practices, and use of [PPE](#). Ongoing medical surveillance and early recognition of potential occupational illness in workers in the machining environment are needed to detect and prevent both acute illness and irreversible respiratory impairment. The report is at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5116a4.htm>.

Rabid Otter - Pennsylvania

On 24 April, ProMED reported that an otter, known to have been in contact with several people on Saturday, 20 April, in the vicinity of Chester Creek in Delaware County, had tested positive for rabies. Health officials are urging anyone who may have come into contact with the otter to seek physician consultation. Rabies can infect any mammal. The incubation period for rabies in humans can range from four days to more than one year. The report is at http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:202151::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,18021.

Smoking Ban in Apartments - New York

On 30 April, the *New York Times* reported that a co-op board on the West Side of Manhattan is forbidding new buyers to smoke in their apartments, a move that real estate experts are saying is the first of its kind in the nation and one that is likely to lead to legal debate. The co-op requires buyers to declare whether they are smokers, which could lead to rejection of their applications. The co-op's actions were reportedly due to chronic complaints from shareholders about the smell of smoke coming through vents. According to the report, co-op boards have long regulated noise levels and the size of dogs permitted. The report (requires registration) is at <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/04/30/nyregion/30SMOK.html?todayshadlines>.

West Nile Virus (WNV) in Horses - US

On 26 April, the [OIE](#) published the final report for WNV infection in horses in the US for calendar year 2001. According to the report 738 horses were infected in 20 states (see table below) with onset of illness between 25 June and 21 December 2001. The last case of the year occurred in Sumter County, Florida. Of the 470 horses for which an outcome was reported, 156 (33.2%) died or were euthanized. At least 30 breeds of horses were affected and breeds of horses infected appeared to reflect the general populations of horses in their areas. The mean age of clinically affected horses was 11 years with a range from one month to 38 years. The virus is now considered to be endemic in the US. The report is at http://www.oie.int/eng/info/hebdo/a_current.htm.

State	Number of Horses	State	Number of Horses
Alabama	4	Massachusetts	45
Connecticut	11	Mississippi	17
Delaware	1	North Carolina	6
Florida	492	New Hampshire	2
Georgia	68	New Jersey	33
Illinois	2	New York	22
Indiana	1	Pennsylvania	7
Kentucky	8	Rhode Island	1
Louisiana	9	Tennessee	1
Maryland	2	Virginia	6

USPACOM

Dengue Fever - Bangladesh

On 22 April, *The Independent* reported that more than 20 patients were admitted into different hospitals in Dhaka during the previous week, but the Directorate of Health had not received any reports of cases. According to the report, dengue fever generally occurs in late May or early June, but occurred earlier this year as intermittent rain created favorable conditions for mosquito breeding areas. The Directorate of Health had not performed a mosquito density survey; however, the Dhaka City Corporation had

found a high density of *Aedes* mosquitoes in areas where there was low density in previous years. The report is at <http://independent-bangladesh.com/news/apr/22/22042002mt.htm> - A8.

Dengue Fever - Thailand

On 29 April, *The Nation* reported that hospitals nationwide had reported 12,974 cases (17 deaths) of dengue fever from 1 January to 13 April 2002 producing an infection rate of 21 per 100,000 people. During this same time last year 12,551 people had contracted dengue fever with 24 deaths. In Bangkok 1,926 cases have been reported for an infection rate of 34 per 100,000. The Health Ministry is promoting mosquito control efforts to include drainage of stagnant water and usage of Abate[®] sand, a pesticide, to kill mosquito larvae. The reports are at <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/page.arcview.php3?clid=3&id=59127&date=2002-04-29&usrss=1> and <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/page.arcview.php3?clid=3&id=58221&date=2002-04-08&usrss=1>.

USSOUTHCOM

Dengue Fever - Brazil

On 26 April, [VOA](#) reported that Brazilian health officials were saying the dengue fever epidemic that has killed at least 50 people in Rio de Janeiro state this year appears to be slowing. Fewer than 3,000 cases were reported for the month of April compared to 37,000 cases reported in March. The epidemic, the worst on record, has sent demand for blood transfusions soaring. Thousands of firefighters and volunteers have joined the Brazilian army in efforts to eliminate the mosquito's breeding areas. The report is at <http://www.voanews.com/article.cfm?objectid=FC3BFCBE-7C86-4758-B301CC45D050A863&Title=Dengue%20Epidemic%20in%20Rio%20Slowing&CatOID=45C9C78A-88AD-11D4-A57200A0CC5EE46C>.

Dengue Fever - Nicaragua

On 25 April, [AFMIC](#) reported that Nicaragua had a 50 percent increase in reported dengue fever cases during March as compared to the same time frame last year. Health authorities are reporting shortages in both larvicide and insecticide. The report is at <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/> (registration required).

Dengue Fever - Paraguay

On 25 April, [AFMIC](#) reported that Paraguay had declared a dengue epidemic due to increasing numbers of dengue fever cases in the Asuncion metropolitan area. No cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever have been reported although dengue 1 is well established and dengue 2 was introduced into the country during the latter part of 2001. The report is at <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/> (registration required).

Please contact the below-listed POC for suggested improvements and/or comments regarding this report. This report is also available on the USACHPPM website at <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/Hiupdate/>.

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ACRONYMNS

ACIP - Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
AFMIC - Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center
AFPS – American Forces Press Service
AVIP - Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program
BMJ - British Medical Journal
BSE – Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDR – Communicable Disease Report (England)
DARPA – Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the central research/development organization for the DoD
DHHS – Department of Health and Human Services
DoD - Department of Defense
DOE – Department of Energy
DOS – Department of State
DOT – Department of Transportation
EISS – European Influenza Surveillance Scheme
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
ESSENCE – Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics
FDA – Food and Drug Administration
FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency
FMD – Foot and Mouth Disease
FSIS – Food Safety Inspection Service
GAO – US General Accounting Office
HIV/AIDS – Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IAEA - International Atomic Energy Agency
IDP – Internally Displaced Persons
ICRC – International Committee of the Red Cross
IRCS – International Red Cross Society'
MOU - Memorandum of Understanding
MSDS - Material Safety Data Sheet
NAS – National Academy of Sciences
NGO - Non-Governmental Organization
NIH – National Institutes of Health
NIOSH – National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
NRC – Nuclear Regulatory Commission
OCHA - Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OIE – World Organisation [sic] for Animal Health
OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PAHO - Pan American Health Organization
PCR – Polymerase Chain Reaction
PPE - Personal Protective Equipment
TB – Tuberculosis
UK – United Kingdom – England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales
UN – United Nations
UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USAID - United States Agency for International Development
USAMRIID - United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
USPS - United States Postal Service
vCJD - variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease
VOA – Voice of America, an international multimedia broadcasting service funded by the US Government
WHO – World Health Organization
WMD - Weapons of Mass Destruction