

USACHPPM
HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO) UPDATE

16 August 2002

The HIO Update provides information regarding global medical and veterinary issues of interest to the United States (US) Army. The 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 Update should provide an increased awareness of current and emerging health-related issues.

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HOT ISSUES

Anthrax Investigation – New Jersey

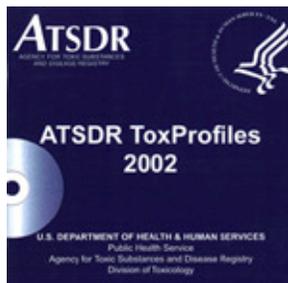
On 13 August, CBS News reported that US postal inspectors investigating the anthrax mailings linked to five deaths have discovered a mailbox that tested positive for traces of the bacteria on field-testing. The mailbox was located on Nassau Street near Princeton University and was sent to Aberdeen Proving Ground for confirmatory testing and forensic analysis. The mailbox has its mail fed through a sorting facility in Hamilton Township and was among 600 chosen to be swabbed for anthrax spores by the US attorney’s office in Newark; 39 of the 600 mailboxes remain to be tested. Hamilton handles mail for 46 areas post offices and has been closed since October 18. The office processed anthrax-tainted letters sent to NBC anchor Tom Brokaw, the New York Post, and US Senators Tom Daschle and Patrick Leahy. Officials state there is no risk to the public as a survey of 240,000 emergency room visits and 7,100 stays in intensive care units in and around the state following the October 2001 infections turned up no new anthrax cases. [[View report](#)]

Anthrax Recombinant Vaccine – [DHHS](#) and [DoD](#)

On 8 August, *Inside the Pentagon* reported that an [IND](#) application would be submitted to the [FDA](#) this fall for a recombinant anthrax vaccine being developed cooperatively by DHHS and DoD. Phase one of clinical trial testing on humans will begin this fall and take approximately 12 weeks. Phase two, an expanded safety and efficacy study, will follow if the initial data is favorable. Volunteers in the opening two phases of the trials will be healthy civilians between the ages of 18 and 55, the target age group of the vaccine. These ages would be later expanded to include older than 55 and pediatric age ranges. The third and final phase in the traditional licensing process, exposing the subject to the agent, will clearly not be done in this study since it would require testing a potentially fatal substance on human beings. Instead, under a new FDA “two animal rule,” the team will have to provide evidence that the vaccine protects animals exposed to anthrax. In the best-case scenario, the new vaccine would be a licensed product by 2009. [[View report](#); requires registration]

ToxProfiles 2002 – [ATSDR](#)

The 2002 ToxProfiles CD-ROM, which contains 159 toxicological profiles and five interaction profiles, provides health and toxicological information on more than 250 hazardous substances. To order a free copy, contact the ATSDR Information Center toll-free at 1-888-42-ATSDR (1-888-422-8737) or e-mail requests to atsdric@cdc.gov.



Bioterrorism Preparedness Progress Report – [CDC](#)

On 27 September, the CDC and University of North Carolina School of Public Health will sponsor a national satellite broadcast and webcast in the Public Health Grand Rounds entitled “Bioterrorism Preparedness: A Progress Report” from 1400-1500 EST. The target audience is public health leaders, managers, and professionals from local and state health departments, federal agencies, hospitals, clinics, academic institutions, emergency management services, and others who are involved in planning a response to the threat of bioterrorism. [[View info](#)]

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) – Congress

In August, *Science* magazine summarized the Senate’s version of the DHS approved bill on 24 July and the House bill approved on 26 July. The shaping of the final bill is expected to begin in September when Congress returns from a month-long recess. The table below summarizes the science-related issues and current status in each house. According to the report, some historians report this as the most significant reorganization of the US government since the Great Depression. The report is Malakoff D. Congress homes in on new department’s R&D programs. *Science* 9 Aug 2002: 912-13.

Issue	House	Senate
Management of research against bioterrorism	NIH	DHS
Regulation of designated bioterrorism agents	CDC, USDA	DHS
Create technology research agency to spur antiterrorism technologies	No	Yes
Homeland Security Institute	Yes	No
University-based research centers	Yes	No
Science czar oversee research portfolio	Yes	Yes
Merit review for outside proposals	Yes	Yes

Limited classification	Yes	Yes
External advisors	Yes	Yes

Homeland Security Issues: Congressional Approved Versions as of 26 July 2002.

***E. coli* Rapid and Portable Test – Michigan School of Public Health**

On 12 August, the BBC reported the Michigan School of Public Health had developed a portable testing kit that can detect *E. coli* in beach water in just 45 minutes. The test works by “immunomagnetic separation,” which uses a magnet to remove beads coated with antibodies specific for *E. coli* from a water sample. A further chemical process breaks open the bacteria to release [ATP](#). A marker chemical is then added, which fluoresces under a handheld luminometer [sic] when it combines with the ATP. The testing device reportedly costs \$5,000 to buy and each test costs \$5. [\[View report\]](#)

Global Weather Extremes – Asia and Europe

On 13 August, the [UPI](#) reported large swaths of central Europe lay under water as floods claimed the lives of more than 70 people. Worst hit has been Russia’s Black Sea Coast where almost 60 tourists died in flash floods late last week, and a compulsory vaccination campaign against typhoid fever and hepatitis A was launched. In the Czech Republic a state of emergency was declared in four regions, including Prague where 50,000 residents were ordered to evacuate after the river Vltava burst its banks. Austria declared Salzburg a disaster zone and Vienna is at risk from rising waters. In Asia, torrential rains in China claimed the lives of more than 70 farmers, bringing the number of people killed by floods to more than 900 this year. In eastern India, more than 700 people have been swept away and millions left homeless by floods and landslides over the past month, while the rest of the country is experiencing its worst drought in a decade. South Korea mobilized 32,000 troops after clouds dumped two-thirds of the average annual rainfall on the Korean Peninsula in one week. Australian scientists claim the changes are due to El Nino, while the World Wide Fund for Nature said that global warming was partly responsible. [\[View report\]](#)

Guidelines for Prevention of Intravascular Catheter-related Infections – [CDC](#)

On 9 August, the CDC released *Guidelines for the Prevention of Intravascular Catheter-related Infections* for healthcare providers who insert catheters and for persons responsible for surveillance and control of infections in hospital, outpatient, and home healthcare settings. These evidence-based guidelines emphasize (1) education and training of healthcare providers who insert and maintain catheters, (2) using maximal sterile barrier precautions during central venous catheter insertion, (3) using a 2% chlorhexidine preparation for skin antisepsis, (4) avoiding routine replacement of central venous catheters as a strategy to prevent infection, and (5) using antiseptic/antibiotic impregnated short-term central venous catheters if the rate of infection is high despite adherence to other strategies. The guidelines also identify performance indicators that can be used to monitor success in implementing these recommendations. [\[View report\]](#)

Lead Screening – [CDC](#)

On 9 August, the CDC reported that of approximately 1,000 cases of elevated blood lead levels among California children that were reported during May 2001-January 2002, candy produced in Mexico was identified as a possible exposure source in about 150 cases. Lead poisoning associated with tamarind candy has been reported previously where substantial concentrations of lead were found in the wrappers. Lead poisoning in children in the US results primarily from exposure to lead-based paint or from associated lead-contaminated dust and soil; however, other sources of lead exposure should be considered when conducting an environmental investigation: Mexican terra cotta pottery, certain imported candies, and certain folk remedies. An investigation is ongoing to isolate specific candy products. [[View report](#)]

Malaria Epidemic Warning Tool – Roll Back Malaria Technical Support Network (RBM-TSN)

On 9 August, the [WHO](#) reported that during a recent RBM-TSN meeting it was decided to develop a simple tool to monitor epidemic risk in semi-arid and desert-fringe areas of Africa. The tool would be based on the difference between current and short-term expected average rainfall, and results would be made available on the Web in a frequently updated map format. These maps are now available in experimental form and are updated every 10 days. [[View maps](#)]

Malaria and Case for Antipyretics – [PNAS](#)

On 12 August, the PNAS published online, before printing, a research study which concluded that fever-induced cytoadherence is likely to explain both clinical deterioration with fever in severe malaria and the beneficial effects of antipyretics on parasite clearance. In falciparum malaria, the malaria parasite induced changes at the infected red blood cell surface that lead to adherence to vascular endothelium and other red blood cells. As a result, the more mature stages of *Plasmodium falciparum* are sequestered in the microvasculature and cause vital organ dysfunction, whereas the ring stages circulate in the blood stream. The researchers found that heating to 40°C accelerated cytoadherence and doubled the maximum cytoadherence observed ($P < 0.01$). [[View report](#)]

Prescription Drugs Marketing – Internet

On 13 August, the BBC reported that physicians are warning that prescription drugs are being sold direct to the public over the Internet without a prescription and without medical advice. Companies are reportedly registering websites in the US and posting drugs from abroad. These companies can easily close down a website and re-open other sites once they start being investigated. [[View BBC report](#) or [View sample site](#)]

Syndromic Surveillance Conference – [CDC](#)

On 9 August, the CDC reported that the National Syndromic Surveillance Conference would be held 23-24 September in New York City. Systems using real-time, electronic surveillance of nonspecific disease indicators (e.g., syndromic surveillance) could provide early warning of large outbreaks, whether intentional or occurring naturally. The conference will provide public, private, and academic entities with a forum to evaluate syndromic surveillance critically and assist public health entities in defining their needs and priorities. Other topics include CDC guidelines for evaluating syndromic surveillance systems, model syndromic surveillance systems, temporal and temporal-spatial outbreak detection, nontraditional data sources, systems with dedicated data collection, data transfer and transformation, legal mandate and confidentiality, and investigation of syndromic alarms. [[View report](#)]

TRICARE – New Contracts

On 9 August, the *Newport News Daily Press* reported that contractor bids are due 1 November for new five-year TRICARE contracts. The new contracts should begin next spring although a 10-month transition is planned for new contractors. The number of TRICARE regions is expected to fall from 12 to three. No company would get more than one regional contract – TRICARE West, North, or South. One of the three would handle TRICARE overseas. Contractors will gain administrative flexibility but will be held to higher standards of “customer service and clinical care.” Under the new contracts, military hospitals that enroll more patients will get a bigger budget. Separate nationwide contracts are also sought for pharmacy services, for marketing and education initiatives and for fill-in medical staff, which would be used to address local shortages but would be managed nationwide. [[View report](#); requires free registration]

Weapons Over the Horizon – US

On 5 August, *Aviation Week & Space Technology* reported that reusable high-power microwave (HPM) weapons could be available in three to five years, but that HPM weapons now available are limited to expendable one-time-use weapons. These weapons are reportedly ideal to use on unmanned vehicles for chemical/biological storage or production facilities and other sites buried deep underground. HPM and lasers are the primary directed-energy weapons available to the military, but on the horizon is the plasma weapon. A plasma packet has mass, moves through space, and has been compared with a bolt of lightning. It is slower than a laser beam or HPM spike, but it can cause much more physical damage. Military health care providers may need familiarization with the associated health effects of these “emerging weapons.” [[View report](#); requires free registration]

West Nile Virus (WNV) Webcast – [CDC](#)

On 8 August, the CDC aired a satellite broadcast to provide information regarding the pathogenesis, epidemiology, clinical diagnosis, laboratory testing for WNV infection, and to review prevention strategies. The broadcast is now available via [webcast](#).

USCENTCOM

Flooding – Tajikistan

On 8 August, the [UN OCHA](#) reported that a flash flood on 7 August killed 28 and left 250 families homeless in the village of Dasht, 524 km east of the Tajik capital, Dushanbe. A mudslide had blocked the Shokhdara River near the villages of Dasht, Bar Roj, and Anjin, which could threaten nearby villages if the river burst through the dam. Damage to public health infrastructure, standing water, and crowded conditions in temporary shelters could increase the risk of infectious and vector-borne diseases.

[\[View report\]](#)

USEUCOM

***Cryptosporidium* in Water Supply – Scotland**

On 6 August, the [SCIEH](#) reported that on 3 August, about 140,000 people living in Glasgow were advised to boil all water used for drinking, food preparation, brushing teeth, and bathing babies. The advisory followed detection, through routine testing of Glasgow's supplies, of increased levels of *Cryptosporidium* in water from the Mugdock Reservoir in Milngavie. The exceptional heavy rainfall of the previous days was suggested as a contributory factor. [\[View report\]](#)

Influenza-like Illness – Madagascar

On 7 August, the [WHO](#) reported that influenza A (H3N2) viruses were isolated from two out of 39 samples taken from cases in Fianarantsoa province. The Madagascar Ministry of Health has reported 1,291 cases (156 deaths) from influenza-like illness between 4 July and 7 August. [\[View report\]](#)

Meningitis, NOT – Burundi

On 8 August, the [UN OCHA](#) reported that health officials investigating reports of meningitis in Burundi have not found any cases of the disease. The [WHO](#) and [NGOs](#) responded to the suspected outbreak and provided education on preventive measures and strengthened communication between provincial health centers and the health ministry of public health. [\[View report\]](#)

Nuclear Material Trafficking – Turkey

Jane's Intelligence Review recently reported that an increase in radiological material trafficking has been occurring across Turkey's borders. Turkey shares land borders with three countries of proliferation concern: Iran, Iraq, and Syria. In all verified cases, seized material was either natural uranium or low enriched, or depleted uranium. Most of the cases involve tiny amounts of radioactive material with no nuclear weapons use or frauds involving osmium (red mercury) or other substances. The US has donated more radiation-detection equipment and provided training of border guards. [[View report](#); requires registration]

TB Vaccine Recall – UK

On 9 August, the BBC reported that Powderject Pharmaceuticals Plc had recalled all batches of its TB [BCG](#) vaccine in the UK because testing indicated it did not meet end-of-shelf-life specifications. The company stated the recall was a precautionary measure following notification of an interim suspension of the company's license for BCG vaccine in Ireland. The company is reportedly the only UK-licensed manufacturer for the BCG vaccine. The company had recently been in the media regarding a US report that cast doubt on whether the UK had bought the right type of smallpox vaccine from the company. [[View BBC report](#) or [View company report](#)]

Varicella Vaccine – UK

On 8 August, *Eurosurveillance Weekly* reported that the UK licensed its first *Varicella* vaccine, Varilrix[®], last week; however, there are no current plans to introduce it into the routine immunization schedule. The vaccine is licensed only for susceptible individuals over the age of 12 years and younger individuals who may be in contact with high-risk patients. According to the report, European countries have been slow to introduce widespread chickenpox vaccination, despite the apparent success of the program in reducing chickenpox incidence in the US. The speculated reasons are a perceived lack of need for the vaccine among parents and healthcare professionals and two safety concerns: first that an inadequate chickenpox vaccination program will lead to an increase in more severe adult cases and second that vaccination will lead to an increase in zoster (shingles) in the medium term. Studies in the US do not support these safety concerns. [[View report](#)]

USJFCOM

GPS Personal Locator – Wherify

On 12 August, the BBC reported on a GPS personal locator marketed by Wherify that allows parents to locate their children to within feet in approximately one minute using GPS technology. The GPS personal locator is a wristwatch that contains miniature GPS technology, a built-in pager, and a panic button for alerting the police. The location can be identified by logging onto a computer and viewing aerial maps or by

calling the manufacturer's location center. Although the product is only available for use in the US, the company is developing a product for use in the [UK](#). Although marketed for children, the technology has potential uses for monitoring patients with Alzheimer's disease or other medical conditions. [[View report](#) or [view product](#)]

Hepatitis B Drug – [FDA](#)

On 7 August, the *Washington Post* reported that an advisory panel to the FDA voted unanimously to recommend approval of adefovir dipivoxil for hepatitis B. The drug was originally developed for [AIDS](#) but was rejected because it damaged the kidneys, but at lower, safer doses proved effective against hepatitis B. Panel members remained concerned about the potential for kidney damage from the drug, and they recommended careful monitoring in patients who use it, especially for long periods. Gilead Sciences, Inc., stated that it hoped to win formal FDA approval and put the drug on the market by the end of the year. About 1.5% of the American population is infected with hepatitis B or C, which is five times as many people who have HIV/AIDS. Gilead has also reportedly contracted with GlaxoSmithKline PLC to sell the drug overseas. Five percent of the world's population is chronically infected with hepatitis B, including a large number of people in Asia. Targeted markets will likely include China, Japan, and Korea. [[View report](#)]

Pesticide-Laced Salt – California

On 8 August, [DENIX](#) reported on a 7 August [JAMA](#) report in which more than 100 restaurant patrons became sick after eating salt intentionally contaminated with methomyl, a carbamate pesticide. Investigators found the pesticide in patients' vomit, on the kitchen stovetop, and in salt taken from containers in the storeroom. An epidemiological investigation revealed that the more salt contained in the meal people ate, the more likely they were to get sick. The pest control company serving the restaurant did not use the pesticide. Illnesses were associated with the presence of one cook, who had access to the pesticide through a relative. The investigation lead state officials to ask [EPA](#), as a part of the effort to improve homeland security, to enhance the capacity of state environmental laboratories, which analyze soil, water, and other environmental media, to detect chemicals. [[View report](#); requires registration]

Prion Research – [DoD](#)

On 8 August, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported the US military would dedicate \$42.5 million toward research on prions. One of the primary goals of the new funding is to quickly develop a test that can diagnose prion disease in both living animals and people. Currently, researchers generally remove brain tissue after death and analyze it, a process that can take several hours. Two areas of concern led to the appropriations: (1) the five million US service personnel and their families who were stationed in Europe from 1980 to 1996 when contaminated beef was available for consumption and (2) allowing a wider range of US service members to donate blood while ensuring the blood

supply is not contaminated by prions. Some service members are restricted from blood donations because of their overseas service during these years. [[View report](#)]

Smallpox Scare – New York City (NYC)

On 5 August, the *New York Times* reported that a 200-bed community hospital in Brooklyn was temporarily closed on 4 August after a man who exhibited symptoms similar to those of smallpox walked into its emergency room at midday. The hospital asked all visitors to leave and diverted ambulances for an hour and a half beginning at about 1400. Visitors who did not leave in time were locked inside the hospital. The NYC Health Department's emergency readiness and response unit was activated and worked with physicians to determine that no smallpox was present. Health officials said the scare was a good exercise in readiness. [[View report](#); requires free registration]

Tularemia in Prairie Dogs – Texas

On 9 August, the [CDC](#) reported that potentially infected prairie dogs were distributed to wholesalers, retailers, and persons in Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, Ohio, Texas, Washington, and West Virginia and exported to Belgium, the Czech Republic, Japan, the Netherlands, and Thailand. Unusually high numbers of sick or dead prairie dogs were reported from Texas and the Czech Republic. Adults who have handled sick or dead prairie dogs from the suspected shipments in the last two weeks are being advised to take doxycycline (100 mg twice daily for 14 days) or ciprofloxacin (500 mg twice daily for 14 days). Because these drugs have a higher risk for side effects in children, children who are considered at risk should not take prophylactic antibiotics but have their temperature monitored for 14 days. [[View report](#)]

[vCJD](#) – Canada

On 9 August, Health Canada reported that the first case of vCJD has been reported in Canada in a male less than 50 years of age who was a resident of Saskatchewan. The patient died earlier this summer, and vCJD was confirmed on autopsy. Health officials believe the disease was acquired in the [UK](#), where the deceased lived and visited during the 1980s and 1990s. [BSE](#) was reportedly widespread in cattle herds in the UK during that period. Canada has been BSE-free except for a single case in 1993 in a cow imported from the UK, which was destroyed. [[View report](#)]

West Nile Virus (WNV) – US

On 12 August, the [CDC](#) reported the below-listed human cases totals for 2002 that have been reported to Arbonet or compiled in direct communication with state/local health officials as of 1000 EST, 12 August. Arbonet is the national, electronic surveillance system established by CDC to assist states in tracking WNV and other mosquito-borne viruses. CDC has deployed field teams to Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas.

State	Confirmed/Probable	Deaths
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Human Cases		
Alabama	2	
District of Columbia	1	
Illinois	2	
Indiana	1	
Louisiana	85	7
Mississippi	41	1
Texas	13	
Totals	145	8

Human Case Totals of WNV for 2002 as reported to the CDC as of 1000, 12 August 2002.

USPACOM

“Asian Brown Cloud” – South Asia

On 12 August, the [VOA](#) reported the [UN](#) had released a study in which a toxic cloud of pollution hanging over much of South Asia may be responsible for causing widespread disease and environmental damage in the region. The pollution is likely to worsen over the next 30 years. The study says that the “Asian brown cloud” reaches two miles high and is thought to be responsible for a steep increase in respiratory diseases, drought, and flooding across South Asia. The pollution is the result of forest fires, the burning of agricultural wastes, vehicle emissions, industrial releases, and emissions from millions of inefficient cookers burning wood, cow dung, and other “biofuels.” The researchers reported that the pollution might reduce rain and snow over northwest India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, western China, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka by 20-40%. [[View VOA report](#) or view [UN press release](#)]

Cholera – Japan

On 9 August, *Japan Today* reported that the Tokyo metropolitan government issued warnings to public health offices and medical associations after five men with no history of overseas travel were diagnosed with cholera since late July. The five males were between 50 and 80 years of age and were diagnosed between 26 July and 6 August. The source(s) of the infections has not been determined. [[View report](#)]

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) – South Korea

On 9 August, the [OIE](#) reported that since 23 June when the last case of FMD was confirmed, no new cases have been diagnosed in South Korea. All the at-risk and protection zones, which were established around the FMD infected places between 2 May and 23 June, were lifted on 7 August. As a result, the restriction measures relating to the movement of live cloven-hoofed animals and their products have also been lifted. [[View report](#)]

Poliomyelitis – India

On 12 August, the Associated Press reported 86 new cases of poliomyelitis were reported in India during the first six months of 2002, an increase of nearly threefold from 31 cases compared to the same time period in 2001. According to the [WHO](#), 10 countries still have endemic polio: Afghanistan, India, Niger, Nigeria, and Pakistan, and to a lesser degree, Angola, Egypt, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan. The world goal for eradication of polio is 2005. [[View report](#)]

Potting Mix Deaths – Australia

On 7 August, News.com.au reported that public health officials were issuing public health warnings on proper handling of potting mix after 15 cases (two deaths) of Legionella disease have occurred in New South Wales. Health officials advised people to wear gardening gloves and a mask when handling potting mix especially when opening the bag to prevent dust inhalation, wet the potting mix to decrease dust, and wash hands after using the mix. *Legionella longbeachae* is the organism associated with disease from potting mix and soil, which is different from *Legionella pneumophila*, which is transferred through fine water droplets from cooling towers for air conditioning systems. [[View report](#)]

Viral Biological Control of Animals – Australia

On 7 August, *New Scientist* reported that Australian researchers would apply later this year for permission to conduct the first contained field trial of an engineered herpes virus, murine cytomegalovirus, to produce sterilization of female European house mice. The virus has consistently produced 100% sterilization of female mice in lab trials, and it appears to sterilize the females for life. Advocates say this method of biological control is more humane than existing strategies such as poisoning, shooting, or spreading lethal diseases. Other viruses are being engineered for rabbits and foxes. [[View report](#)]

USSOUTHCOM

Nothing Significant to Report

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/Hioupdate/>.

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ACRONYMS

ACIP - Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
AFMIC - Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center
AFPS - American Forces Press Service
ATP - Adenosine Tri-phosphate
ATSDR - Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
AVIP - Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program
BCG - Bacille Calmette-Guerin Vaccine against Tuberculosis
BSE - Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CDC - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDR - Communicable Disease Report (England)
DARPA - Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency; <http://www.darpa.mil/>
DENIX - Defense Environmental Network & Information eXchange [sic]
DHHS - Department of Health and Human Services
DoD - Department of Defense
EPA - Environmental Protection Agency
ESSENCE - Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics
EU - European Union
FBI - Federal Bureau of Investigation
FDA - Food and Drug Administration
GPS - Global Positioning System
HIV/AIDS - Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IDP - Internally Displaced Persons
IND - Investigational New Drug
JAMA - Journal of the American Medical Association
NEJM - New England Journal of Medicine
NGO - Non-Governmental Organization
NIH - National Institutes of Health
NIOSH - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
OCHA - Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OIE - World Organisation [sic] for Animal Health
OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PNAS - Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences
SCIEH - Scottish Centre [sic] for Infection and Environmental Health
TB - Tuberculosis
UK - United Kingdom - England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales
UN - United Nations
UPI - United Press International
USAMRIID - United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases
USDA - United States Department of Agriculture
vCJD - variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease
VOA - Voice of America, an international multimedia broadcasting service funded by the US Government
WHO - World Health Organization