



April 5, 2024
Weekly Situational Awareness Brief

Awareness Topics

[Blind People Can Hear and Feel 2024's Total Solar Eclipse With New Technology](#)

“While eclipse watchers look to the skies, people who are blind or visually impaired will be able to hear and feel the celestial event. Sound and touch devices will be available at public gatherings on April 8, when a total solar eclipse crosses North America, the moon blotting out the sun for a few minutes.”

[People with darker skin are 32% more likely to have pulse oximeter readings overestimate oxygen levels, report says](#)

“Scientists have long known that pulse oximeters are less accurate when used for people with dark skin tones – and now, a new report offers some insight into just how much more inaccurate these fingertip clamps can be.”

[Medical Debt in US Linked With Worse Health, More Deaths](#)

“An estimated 8% of US adults, or about 20 million people, live with medical debt of at least \$250, based on recent survey [results](#) from the nonprofits Peterson Health Center

and KFF (formerly Kaiser Family Foundation). The majority of those with medical debt owe more than \$1000. Now, a [study](#) that examined data from 93% of US counties found that the burden of unpaid medical bills might be affecting physical and mental health as well as shortening lives.”

[Multigenerational Nurse Experience Survey](#)

“Building from previous surveys, the American Nurses Foundation conducted this survey to determine the impact of generational issues in the workplace. This survey builds upon past surveys and includes questions on intent to leave, perceptions of other generations, and an understanding of what may keep nurses practicing in their role longer. 5,772 nurses completed the survey between September 25 – October 24, 2023.”

[Letter to the nation’s teaching hospitals and medical schools](#)

“Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (the Department), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), released new guidance to reiterate and provide clarity regarding hospital requirements for informed consent from patients as it relates to medical professionals performing sensitive examinations, particularly on patients under anesthesia. Please share this guidance with your members.”

[Avian flu infects person exposed to sick cows in Texas](#)

“Federal and state health officials today reported that a person connected to a dairy farm in Texas has tested positive for H5N1 avian flu, the first known case linked to sick dairy cows and the nation’s second since the virus began circulating in wild bird and poultry in 2022.”

[Study describes more severe pediatric mental health crises during pandemic](#)

“Children visiting the emergency department (ED) for mental health crises during the pandemic had longer stays and more severe diagnoses, according to a new study in Academic Emergency Medicine.”

Events

[Click Here for Current and Upcoming Events List](#)

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