



April 26, 2024
Weekly Situational Awareness Brief

Awareness Topics

[The 26th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is Saturday, April 27, 2024 - 10AM to 2PM](#)

"The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications."

[NOAA expands availability of new heat forecast tool ahead of summer](#)

"NOAA is expanding the availability of a new experimental heat tool called HeatRisk ahead of the hot summer months. A collaboration with NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), HeatRisk provides information and guidance for those who are particularly vulnerable to heat and may need to take extra precautions for their health when the temperature rises."

[Covid ignited a global controversy over what is an airborne disease. The WHO just expanded its definition](#)

"In the chaotic first few months of the Covid-19 pandemic, stores faced shortages of all kinds — toilet paper, canned food, and especially, cleaning supplies. With everyone scrubbing their groceries, mail, even library books, good luck finding antibacterial wipes or

disinfectant sprays back then. That's because public health advice in early 2020 focused on sanitizing surfaces, not protecting against a virus that could be spread through the air."

Supporting Family Caregivers Providing Complex Care

"AARP Public Policy Institute has released ten theme papers. These papers provide a glimpse into the value and complexity of CARE Act implementation. Use these theme papers to inform your practice recommendations to recognize and support family caregivers."

H5N1 bird flu virus particles found in pasteurized milk but FDA says commercial milk supply appears safe

"Testing conducted by the Food and Drug Administration on pasteurized commercially purchased milk has found genetic evidence of the H5N1 bird flu virus, the agency confirmed Tuesday. But the testing, done by polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, cannot distinguish between live virus or fragments of viruses that could have been killed by the pasteurization process."

Study notes small decline in preschool developmental milestones during pandemic

"Today in JAMA Pediatrics, researchers from the Johns Hopkins Children's Center published a study demonstrating small declines in developmental milestones in children 5 years old and younger during the pandemic in the United States. The authors of the study said the findings were reassuring for the short term but may mean behavioral and development pediatric care will be strained in the coming years."

H5N1 Bird Flu: Current Situation Summary

"H5N1 bird flu is widespread in wild birds worldwide and is causing outbreaks in poultry and U.S. dairy cows with one recent human case in a U.S. dairy worker.

While the current public health risk is low, CDC is watching the situation carefully and working with states to monitor people with animal exposures. CDC also is studying the virus from the recent human case and has found it is susceptible to flu antiviral drugs. CDC has already made a candidate vaccine virus (CVV) that could be used to make a vaccine if needed."

3 gas station drugs that could kill you

"As a physician, it may be surprising to see so many dangerous, unregulated drugs available for sale at gas station counters. Some of these drugs are legal, while others are (hopefully) being pulled off the shelf by the FDA. Whether these drugs are legally available or not, doctors should be on the lookout for negative health effects in patients who admit to using these products."

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

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