



May 3, 2024
Weekly Situational Awareness Brief

Awareness Topics

Heat and Health Initiative Releases Clinical Guidance to Protect Children

“For children with asthma, heat can provoke asthma symptoms, especially because warmer temperatures can worsen air quality. Breathing polluted air can trigger asthma attacks. In addition, humidity and dehydration can worsen lung function and can contribute to more severe asthma symptoms.”

Doctors seeing more syphilis patients with unusual and severe symptoms, study shows

“Disease detectives in Chicago say they have been seeing a worrisome trend: Patients complaining of unusual symptoms like vision and eye problems, headaches and hearing loss or dizziness caused by the sexually transmitted infection syphilis. Doctors have long known that syphilis can permanently damage a person’s vision and hearing and can even lead to psychiatric changes, but these symptoms are usually associated with infections that have gone undiagnosed and untreated for years.”

Extreme weather is making power outages trend higher

“According to a new analysis, the South and Southeast have experienced the most extreme weather-related power outages during the past two decades. Why it matters: The electrical grid is under increasing strain as climate change raises the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, from heat waves to wildfires.”

Bird flu in cattle: A step closer to humans or a random event?

“The two-year saga of rapid evolution and multi-species adaptation of H5N1 avian influenza took a drastic turn in recent weeks when the virus was detected numerous times in US cattle, raising fresh concerns that the “bird flu” virus could soon become a human threat. While cattle are susceptible to influenza viruses, until now, health officials had never detected infections with the avian strain, adding the ruminants to the increasing number of susceptible mammal species. A human case in a dairy farm worker was later confirmed, raising numerous questions about whether contact with cattle could cause infections and whether H5N1 might acquire dangerous mutations in cows.”

Pediatric Medical Countermeasures: Antidotes and Cytokines for Radiological and Nuclear Incidents and Terrorism

“The war in Ukraine raises concerns for potential hazards of radiological and nuclear incidents. Children are particularly vulnerable in these incidents and may need pharmaceutical countermeasures, including antidotes and cytokines. Searches found no published study comparing pediatric indications and dosing among standard references detailing pediatric medications for these incidents. This study addresses this gap by collecting, tabulating, and disseminating this information to healthcare professionals caring for children.”

Schoolkids six times more likely to die from gunshot than in past

“Today’s kids are four times more likely than children a half century ago to be shot while at school, according to a recent study. Released in March, the study in the Journal of the American College of Surgeons examines records on more than 2,000 school shootings, which injured more than 3,000 people. During the 50-year study period, the rate of school shootings grew more than fourfold, from 0.49 per 1 million population to 2.21. Death rates rose more than sixfold, from 0.16 per 1 million population to 0.97.”

What are prion diseases? Hunters died of fatal disorder after eating tainted deer meat, researchers say

“A recent report published in the medical journal Neurology suggests that two hunters contracted Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a fatal neurological disorder, after eating venison obtained from deer infected with chronic wasting disease. For years, researchers have thought cross-species transmission of chronic wasting disease (CWD) to be plausible. But this latest report, describing what researchers call a “cluster” of cases, presents some of the strongest evidence yet of possible animal-to-human transmission.”

Events

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