



July 21, 2023

Weekly Situational Awareness Brief

Awareness Topics

Tornado destroys Pfizer plant that made 25% of US hospitals' injectables

“Severe winds from an EF-3 tornado on July 19 crushed a North Carolina Pfizer manufacturing plant that made nearly 25 percent of all sterile injectables used by U.S. hospitals.”

Surging bird flu outbreaks raise human-infection risk, UN agencies warn

“Three UN agencies on Wednesday warned that an ongoing rise in avian flu outbreaks globally raised concerns that the virus might adapt to infect humans more easily, and urged countries to strengthen disease surveillance and improve hygiene at poultry farms.”

Ambulance personnel felt high stress during pandemic

“In a study this week in PLOS One, researchers describe the mental health impact of the pandemic on ambulance personnel, showing through the findings of six studies that as many as 92.2% felt a psychological burden while working during COVID-19.”

Early indicators hint at US COVID-19 uptick

“Though COVID has held at very low levels late spring and into summer, some early indicators show signs of rising activity, according to the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In other developments, the CDC and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) fleshed out more details about when the updated COVID-19 vaccine will roll out and how federal health officials will ensure that uninsured and underinsured people can receive their doses.”

Toxic smoke from Canadian wildfires could impact health of millions in the US

“Smoke from the Canadian wildfires -- fueled by record heat and dry conditions -- could severely impact the health of millions of people across the United States.

More than 800 active fires burning throughout Canada has led to smoke traveling south, affecting air quality in several states, including in the Midwest, the Great Lakes region and the Northeast. Readings from AirNow show air quality alerts ranging from 'moderate' to 'unhealthy.’”

Routine brain scanning may improve clinical care for people with psychosis

“Researchers led by Dr Graham Blackman and Professor Philip McGuire at the University of Oxford's Department of Psychiatry reviewed the results of over 1,600 patients with a first episode of psychosis who had undergone an MRI brain scan. They found that around six per cent of patients had a scan abnormality which led to a different diagnosis or a change to their clinical care.”

Events

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