

**USACHPPM**  
**HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO) UPDATE**  
**1 January 2004**

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 TOPICS

## Preventive Antibiotics for Syphilis Found Feasible

26 December – Reuters reported giving high-risk individuals antibiotics to cut their risk of [syphilis](#) does not appear to promote risky sexual behavior, according to a new study. Investigators say their findings support launching larger studies to see whether preventive antibiotics, given to those most at risk, can stop syphilis outbreaks. But the feasibility of giving antibiotics to people based solely on their risk, and not their known contact with someone with syphilis, is unclear. Experts question whether high-risk people will want the drugs, and there is concern that treatment would give a false sense of security that could encourage risky sex--and raise the risk of HIV and other incurable STDs. However, the new study of 125 high-risk African-American men in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, found that at one month and four months after receiving antibiotics, the men reported fewer sex partners and slightly higher condom use. None had contracted syphilis. Overall, 95 percent of participants asked said they would be willing to take the antibiotics again, and most were open to receiving monthly doses. [View Report](#)

## Researchers Find Inhibitor of Deadly Anthrax Toxin

29 December – Reuters reported a small group of molecules has been shown to inhibit a deadly toxin associated with inhalation [anthrax](#), a discovery that could lead to new ways of treating the disease, researchers said. Scientists at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston said the finding may help in the development of a drug that, when combined with antibiotics, could treat inhalation anthrax at a point when antibiotics alone are no longer effective. Unlike most types of bacteria, the anthrax germ can produce large amounts of a toxin that can kill a person even after antibiotics have destroyed the bacteria, said the study's senior author, Lewis Cantley. Writing in the January issue of the journal Nature Structural & Molecular Biology, the researchers said their discovery could enable scientists to develop drugs capable of fighting the anthrax toxin in a way similar to the protease inhibitors that tackle the AIDS virus. Protease inhibitors work by disabling native protease enzymes and -- like a key fitting perfectly into a lock -- they jam up the enzyme, rendering it ineffectual. Cantley, chief of the Division of Signal Transduction at Beth Israel and professor of systems biology at Harvard Medical, said there could be a number of advantages to using protease inhibitors to attack anthrax. "Unlike an anti-serum, which would require that whole populations be vaccinated -- regardless of whether or not an anthrax outbreak developed -- a therapeutic combination of antibiotics and protease inhibitor drugs wouldn't have to be used except in the incidence of actual disease," he said. [View Article](#)

## Researchers Find Promising SARS Therapy

23 December – Reuters reported a combination of steroids and anti-viral drugs offers a promising treatment for [SARS](#), the virus that killed about 800 people this year and infected thousands worldwide, Canadian researchers said. Preliminary results of a clinical study of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome patients show "major potential" for the treatment, they said. The study, led by a team of Canada's top researchers, will be published in the Dec. 24 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association. The study of 22 probable SARS patients in Toronto was conducted between April and May, in the midst of two deadly SARS outbreaks in the Toronto area that claimed 44 lives. The study was designed to test the benefits and safety of using immune-system-boosting interferons as a SARS treatment. It found that SARS patients treated with a combination of interferons

and steroids responded better to treatment and recovered faster than those given only steroids. [View Report](#)

## Soy, But Not Isoflavones, Keeps the Heart Healthy

29 December – Reuters reported eating soy can help keep your blood vessels free of plaque, but popping a pill that contains soy antioxidants won't do much good, new research in monkeys suggests. U.S. investigators found that female monkeys who ate a diet in which all protein came from soy showed fewer signs of artery-clogging (that is, [atherosclerosis](#)) than monkeys who consumed all of their protein from milk. However, supplementing milk protein diets with soy ingredients called isoflavones - antioxidants thought to confer much of soy's beneficial effects - appeared to do nothing to reduce the risk of atherosclerosis. All of the monkeys had undergone surgery to remove their ovaries, in order to simulate the process of menopause. [View Article](#)

## Youths Risk Death in Latest Drug Abuse Trend

28 December – USA Today reported emergency rooms and schools across the nation are reporting that waves of youths are overdosing on non-prescription cough and cold medicines that are widely available in drugstores and supermarkets. The dozens of overdoses in the past two years — including at least five deaths in which the abuse of over-the-counter medicines was a factor — reflect how medicines such as Robitussin and Coricidin are becoming more popular as recreational drugs for kids as young as 12, police and doctors say. More than 120 over-the-counter medicines include dextromethorphan, or DXM, a cough suppressant that when taken in heavy doses can produce hallucinations and a loss of motor control, much as PCP does. Kids don't have to drink entire bottles of goopy cough syrup to go "Robotripping" or "Dexing." Pills such as Coricidin HBP Cough & Cold tablets — known as "Triple C's" — offer far more potent doses of DXM with less hassle. Youths can buy the medicines easily, and then go to Web sites to learn how much someone of their weight should take to get high. [View article](#)

## Focus on Epidemiology

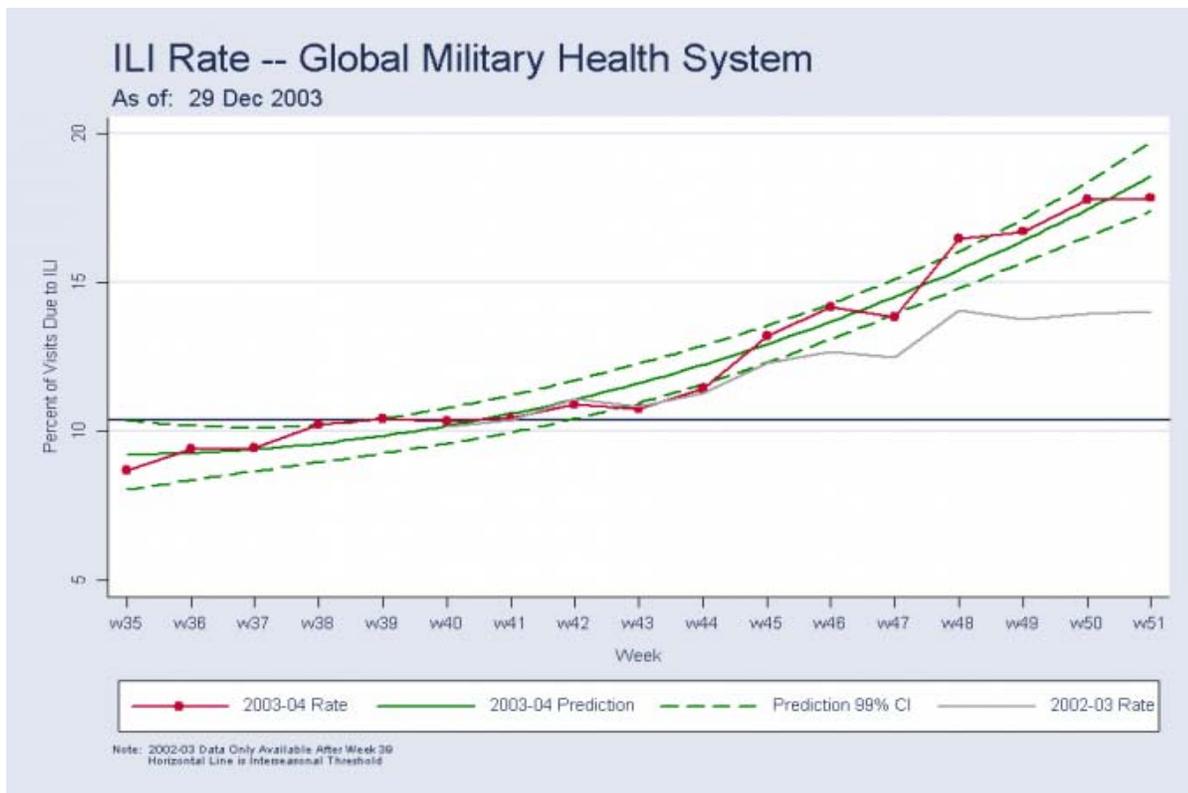
### Incidence of Acute Hepatitis B --- United States, 1990--2002

02 January – CDC-MMWR reported [Hepatitis B virus \(HBV\)](#) is a bloodborne and sexually transmitted virus that is acquired by percutaneous and mucosal exposure to blood or other body fluids of an infected person. Clinical manifestations of acute hepatitis B can be severe, and serious complications (i.e., cirrhosis and liver cancer) are more likely to develop in chronically infected persons. In the United States, approximately 1.2 million persons have chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and are sources for HBV transmission to others. However, since the late 1980s, the incidence of acute hepatitis B has declined steadily, especially among vaccinated children. To characterize the epidemiology of acute hepatitis B in the United States, CDC analyzed national notifiable disease surveillance data for 1990--2002. This report summarizes the results of that analysis, which indicated that, during 1990--2002, the incidence of reported acute hepatitis B declined 67%. This decline was greatest among children and adolescents, indicating the effect of routine childhood vaccination. The decline was lowest among adults, who accounted for the majority of cases; incidence increased among adults in some age groups. To reduce HBV transmission further in the United States, hepatitis B vaccination programs are needed that target men who have sex with men (MSM), injection-drug users (IDUs), and other adults at high risk. [View Entire Report](#)

## Influenza Update

### DoD Global Influenza and Other Respiratory Viral Pathogens Surveillance Weekly Update for the First Half of Week 52 (21 Dec – 27 Dec)

Since the start of the influenza surveillance season (Week 40: 28 Sep to 4 Oct 03), the Epidemiological Surveillance Division (AFIOH/SDE) has received **1898** throat swab specimens as part of the influenza surveillance program. 1,403 (74%) of the specimens have been processed to date. Of those processed, 623 (44%) were positive for Influenza A virus and one was positive for Influenza B virus. One hundred ninety-two (31%) of the influenza A isolates were subtyped. One hundred ninety-one (99%) of the Influenza A viruses subtyped were H3N2; one (1%) of the Influenza A viruses subtyped was H1N1. One influenza B has been subtyped as B Sichuan. Subtyping was accomplished by either polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or hemagglutination-inhibition (HI). Two additional deaths attributed to flu, one 14 month old Army dependant from CO, one unvaccinated 10 month old child in AF from Alaska. There have been five total Air Force beneficiary deaths. Only 2 have been virologically confirmed as influenza. [View Source](#)



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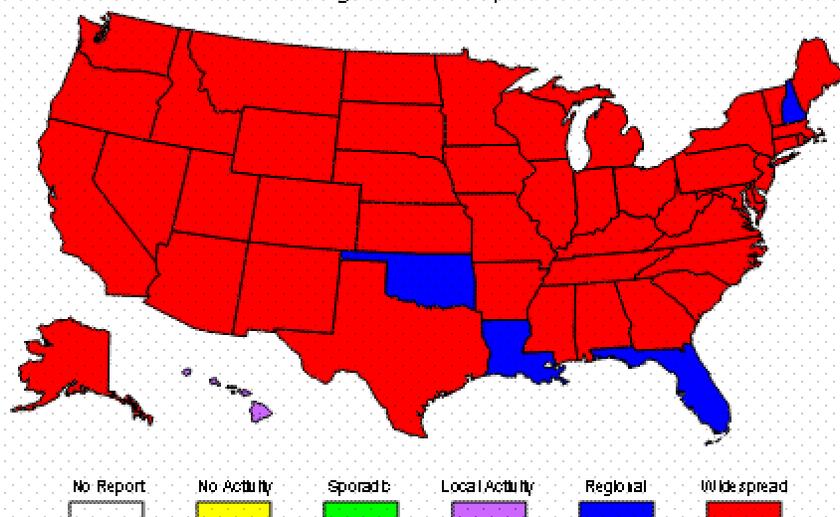
### CDC Weekly Influenza Report for Week ending December 20, 2003-Week 51

This report is being provided 1 day earlier than usual due to the holiday period. Therefore, fewer data than usual are available for some surveillance components. Influenza activity in the United States continued to increase during week 51 (December 14 - 20, 2003). The proportion of patient visits to sentinel providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) overall was 7.7%, which is above the national baseline of 2.5%. Although ILI activity continues to increase overall, activity in some states, including Texas and Colorado, has declined in recent weeks. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and

influenza was 7.8%, which equals the epidemic threshold for the week. Forty-five state health departments, New York City, and the District of Columbia reported widespread influenza activity, 4 states reported regional activity, and 1 state reported local influenza activity. Availability of trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine is limited; additional doses of the vaccine previously purchased by CDC will be shipped to state and local public health agencies in January. The live, attenuated influenza vaccine continues to be available in both the private and public sectors.

### Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State & Territorial Epidemiologists

Week ending December 20, 2003 - Week 51



### WHO Influenza Update for Week 50 (7 December - 13 December 2003)

Influenza activity associated with influenza A(H3N2) viruses continues to increase in Africa (Tunisia), Europe (Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Norway, Russia, Switzerland, Russia Federation and Ukraine) and North America (the United States), and persists in France and some parts of Canada. In other European countries (Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom) and most parts of Canada, activity has declined. Most influenza infections this season have been attributed to influenza A(H3N2) viruses. The majority of viruses antigenically characterized so far have been shown to be A/Fujian/411/2002-like; the rest have been A/Panama/2007/99-like. There have been few reports of influenza A/Fujian/411/2002-like virus detections from Asia. Influenza A(H1) and B viruses have also been detected in some countries. Both B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like and B/Sichuan/379/99-like viruses have been identified. The hemagglutinins of all influenza A(H1) viruses characterized so far have been A/New Caledonia/20/99-like. An avian influenza A(H5N1) outbreak in poultry in a chicken farm in the Republic of Korea was reported on Tuesday 16 December. The outbreak was recognized by the death of about 19,000 chickens. Surviving chickens in the affected farm were slaughtered. As of Monday 22 December 2003, nine poultry farms in 4 provinces were found to be infected by avian influenza. About one million chickens and ducks are to be culled. The A(H5N1) strain isolated is being examined to determine its relation to other influenza A(H5N1) viruses, which emerged in Asia recently. So far no human A(H5N1) cases have been reported. [View Source](#)

## Other Information

24 December – The CDC has published Interim Guidance for Prevention and Control of Influenza in the Peri- and Postpartum Settings. [View Guide](#)

## USEUCOM

### France: Three New Cases of Legionellosis in Pas-de-Calais

26 December – ProMed reported 3 new cases of [Legionellosis](#) were reported Wednesday by the prefecture of Pas-de-Calais, bringing to 38 the number of people involved in the epidemic since 28 Nov 2003. The 3 newly listed people are 2 men and a woman 58 to 73 years old. They lived in Wingles, Noyelles-sous-Lens, and Annay-sous-Lens, 3 communities already involved in the epidemic. Of the 38 cases now listed, 4 died, 16 went home, and 18 are hospitalized in Lens and Henin-Beaumont. Tuesday, the director of the medical and social Businesses (DDASS) and the director of the industry of research and environment (DRIRE) revealed the first results of an analysis tracking the origin of the epidemic. This analysis shows that the strain of bacterium found in 2 patients was also found in the factory Noroxo d'Harnes. The persistence of several cases more than 10 days after the closing of the TAR of the factory in Harnes (8 cases after 13 Dec 2003) and the shape of the epidemic curve suggest that another infection source could exist, in particular another contaminated TAR, which would have continued its activity after 3 Dec 2003. Although usually from 1 to 10 days, the incubation period can sometimes reach 14 days or more. That could explain several cases related to the TAR of the Harnes factory after 13 Dec 2003. [View Report](#)

### Increase of Meningitis Incidence is Observed in Kyrgyzia

23 December – ProMed reported the Sanitary Epidemiological Surveillance Department in Bishkek (the capital of Kyrgyzstan) has reported the deteriorating epidemiological situation regarding [meningococcal meningitis](#) in the City of Bishkek. Cases have been increasing for 11 months in Bishkek. Altogether there have been 115 cases reported, compared with 2002's total of 5. People at any age can acquire meningitis, though preschool-aged children have the highest risk. Over the past 11 months, 70 children were diagnosed with meningitis; this is 61 percent of the total. 7 children died from meningitis (aged 1 month to 4 years). [View Report](#)

## USCENTCOM

### Israel: Woman Dies from Infection after Contact with St. Peter's Fish

29 December – ProMed reported a woman about 60 years old died last Thursday as a result of an infection she apparently contracted as a result of contact with a fish carrying a rapid-spreading bacterium. The woman, a resident of Sderot, died at Barzilai Medical Center in Ashkelon. It is believed to be the first such case in Israel of a person who has died as a result of bacteria originating with fish. Israel Radio reported that the woman came to the hospital a few days ago with a wound to her hand. She was treated and sent home. After a few hours she returned because of swelling at the site of the wound. Doctors noticed that the infection had spread and amputated her hand in an effort to save her life. During the operation it became apparent that the infection originated in bacteria that

grow in pools where St. Peter's fish [tilapia] are bred for sale. Although the woman was placed in intensive care, her immune system collapsed and she died on the operating table. [View Report](#)

## Visceral Leishmaniasis Hits South Sudan

28 December - Doctors working in Sudan say they are concerned a deadly disease [Visceral Leishmaniasis](#) is sweeping through the population in the south. The medical emergency relief charity, Medecins sans Frontieres, says thousands of people could already be suffering. Between 1985 and 1993, a similar epidemic in southern Sudan killed an estimated 100,000 people. Visceral Leishmaniasis is a parasitic disease that weakens the immune system and is transmitted by the bite of the sand fly. It is fatal if untreated. Most people die from common infections the immune system can no longer handle, like pneumonia, diarrhea, and tuberculosis. The spread of the disease has been exacerbated by the civil war, chronic food shortages, and mass population movement. MSF health advisor Kees Keus says the evidence points to this being a new epidemic in a population with little acquired resistance to Leishmaniasis. Members of the MSF say they have seen 150 new patients in the past week in the area. 20 more arrive every day. Most say they have already lost at least one member of their family to the disease. There are reports of many more cases in the larger towns in the region, but so far doctors have been unable to get access. MSF have called for a concerted effort by aid agencies working in the region to attempt to control the spread of the disease. There is no vaccine, but it can be cured with drug injections. [View Report](#)

## USNORTHCOM

### BSE Update

28 December – Promed reported investigators disclosed that they have found meat cut from a Holstein sick with [mad cow disease](#) was sent to 4 more states and 1 territory. Dr. Kenneth Petersen, a veterinarian with the USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), said investigators have now determined that some of the meat from the cow slaughtered 9 Dec 2003 went to Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, and Guam. Earlier, officials had said most of the meat went to Washington and Oregon, with lesser amounts to California and Nevada, for distribution to consumers. He stressed, though, that the parts most likely to carry the infection -- the brain, spinal cord and lower intestine -- were removed before the meat from the infected cow was cut and processed for human consumption. Although federal officials maintain the food supply is safe, they have recalled as a precaution an estimated 10,000 pounds of meat from the infected cow and from 19 other cows all slaughtered Dec. 9 at Vern's Moses Lake Meat Co., in Moses Lake, Wash. Petersen, of the department's FSIS, said the department still is recovering meat and won't know if all of it has been returned until later this week. Officials say the slaughtered cow was de-boned at Midway Meats in Centralia, Wash., and sent Dec. 12 to 2 other plants, Willamette Valley Meat and Interstate Meat, both near Portland, Oregon. Petersen has said that much of the meat is being held by those facilities. Petersen said Willamette also received beef trimmings -- parts used in meats such as hamburger. He said those trimmings were sold to some 3 dozen small Asian and Mexican facilities in Washington, Oregon, California, and Nevada. In response, representatives from supermarket chains in the West -- Albertsons, Fred Meyer, Safeway, and WinCo Foods -- have voluntarily removed ground beef products from the affected distributors. Safeway has said it will look for another supplier. [View Report](#)

## Connecticut: 8th Case of Hepatitis A in Monroe

26 December – ProMed reported an 8th case of [hepatitis A](#) traced to a local pizza parlor has been identified. Those who contracted the virus include one employee and 7 customers of McGowan's Pizza Land in the Square Shopping Center. The latest victim was not identified by name, age, or gender; nor was it said when he or she became ill. The restaurant is temporarily closed and owner Harry McGowan, who has been cooperating with local and state officials' investigation, said he hopes to reopen next week, following a health inspection. Health officials said anyone who ate at the restaurant in November 2003 and develops symptoms of hepatitis A should see a physician for testing. [View Report](#)

## Illinois: Deer with chronic wasting disease found near Kirkland

27 December – ProMed reported the first case of [chronic wasting disease](#) (CWD) in DeKalb County has been confirmed in a deer killed by a hunter near Kirkland this fall. The deer was 1 of 9 that came up positive for the disease in recent testing by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The others were from Winnebago and Boone counties. The Kirkland deer is the southernmost known case of the disease in Illinois to date. [View Report](#)

## Mexico (Jalisco): Number of Conjunctivitis Cases Now 9,612

28 December – ProMed reported the Department of Health of the state of Jalisco (SSJ), through the General Directorate of Public Health, reported on Fri 26 Dec 2003 that as of Tue 23 Dec 2003, 9612 cases of [conjunctivitis](#) had been registered in 56 municipalities of that state. The number of cases represents an incidence rate in the state of 141.8 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. The SSJ reported also that last week there was an outbreak of conjunctivitis in the municipalities of Puerto Vallarta, Tamazula, and Tala. The SSJ has indicated that the number of cases will probably increase, given that for every reported case there are 4 that are not reported. In the metropolitan area of Guadalajara, 128 cases were reported, representing 1.3 percent of the official total. [View Report](#)

## N.H. Probes Bacterial Meningitis Breakout

29 December – ABC News reported hospitals across New Hampshire were being warned Monday to be "hyper-vigilant" in recognizing cases of [meningococcal meningitis](#) after five teens were hospitalized with symptoms of the disease and one of them died from it. "They are not linked," a state spokeswoman said. State epidemiologist Jesse Greenblatt has said the two 15-year-old boys likely spread the disease to one another at school, but no other links among the five teens had been found. Greenblatt said it is unusual to have so many cases in such a short period, particularly with only two cases apparently connected. Antibiotics were offered late last week to the 1,300 staff and students at Monadnock Regional High School in Swanzey, where the two 15-year-olds attend class. Antibiotics also were given to about 40 of Perry's co-workers, friends and family. Officials were contacting people who may have had contact with the other two teens. [View Report](#)

## U.S. Announces Ban on Ephedra Diet Supplement

30 December – Reuters reported The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said it will ban the weight-loss aid ephedra, saying it is unsafe and can cause heart attacks and stroke. It is the first time the FDA has banned a supplement. The agency said dieters were likely to do more harm than good by taking ephedra, which raises metabolism. The ban will become effective 60 days after the new rule is published, but the FDA gave no immediate date for publication. Manufacturers of the supplement insist their product is safe, when taken as directed. But FDA and Health and Human Services

Department officials have been saying for months that they would like to ban ephedra and were building their case so there could be little dissent. The FDA has reports of 155 deaths of people who took ephedra and more than 16,500 complaints. [View Article](#)

## USDA BSE Update

The USDA continually posts updates on the detection of [mad cow disease](#) (BSE) in a dairy cow. Visit their website <http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/2003/12/0448.htm> to view the most recent update.

## USPACOM

### Australia: 200 Contract Gastroenteritis on Pacific Island Cruise

27 December – ProMed reported up to 200 passengers have been taken ill on a holiday cruise liner after a mass outbreak of a [stomach virus infection](#). Most of the victims suffered nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, lasting up to 3 days. Many passengers were still ill when they disembarked from the ship at Darling Harbour, Sydney, after a 12-day Pacific island cruise. Doctors suspect that a norovirus is responsible for this outbreak of gastrointestinal infection] although tests have yet to confirm this. Staff began disinfecting the vessel as soon as it arrived in port, and embarking passengers were told that the extensive cleaning of all surfaces would push their 4 p.m. departure time back. [View Report](#)

### Australia: Pneumonia Warning for Gardeners

29 December – ProMed reported gardeners using potting mix could be exposing themselves to a deadly form of pneumonia. 5 cases of the potentially fatal [Legionella longbeachae](#) pneumonia have been detected in South Australia in the past 2 weeks. 4 victims had recently used potting mix, SA's Department of Human Services director of communicable disease control Dr Rod Givney said. 2 South Australians have died from the form of pneumonia from among 49 cases notified to state health officials this year [2003], he said. Gardeners using potting mix should take precautions, such as wearing gloves and a dust mask, dampening the contents before opening, and avoiding breathing potting or compost dust, Dr Givney said. [View Report](#)

### China: Poison Gas

26 December – ProMed reported rescuers in southwestern China are trying to stem the release of more toxic fumes from a burst of natural gas well that killed at least 191 people. But the operation to pump concrete into the well near Chongqing was put off for 24 hours, state media reported. The decision was taken by a government team in the area to "aid the rescue effort," Xinhua news agency said. Hundreds of people have been taken to hospitals suffering from poisoning and chemical burns after Tuesday's blast. More than 40,000 people living within 5 kilometres (3 miles) from the gas field have been evacuated, amid fears that the death toll would rise further. Chinese President Hu Jintao has ordered the local authorities to do everything possible to speed up the search-and-rescue operation and prevent poisonous sulphurated hydrogen gas from spreading. Operations were going normally before the gas suddenly exploded from the side of the drill, Qian Zhijia, deputy head of the gas field, told Xinhua. The accident sent a high concentration of natural gas and sulphurated hydrogen shooting 30 meters (100 feet) out of a burst well. Rescuers were only able to ignite the gas spewing from the well on Wednesday in an attempt to burn it off. The cause of the blast is still being investigated. [View Report](#)

## China Reports One Suspected SARS Case

27 December – ProMed reported a 32-year-old man who has been receiving treatment in quarantine in south China's Guangdong Province was confirmed to be a suspected case of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome ([SARS](#)), said a spokesman of China's Ministry of Health. The man, a freelance TV station worker, lives in Panyu District of Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province. He began to have a fever and headache in the evening of 16 Dec [2003] and went to see a doctor at No. 1 Hospital affiliated to Zhongshan University on 20 Dec [2003]. He was diagnosed as pneumonia with the right lower lung and was quarantined for treatment. The patient was transferred to the quarantine ward of Guangzhou No. 8 People's Hospital on 24 Dec [2003]. The Health Ministry and a panel of medical specialists confirmed this case of suspected SARS on 26 Dec [2003]. Wang Zhiqiong, deputy head of the provincial health department, said that the patient claimed he has stayed in Guangzhou City and eaten no wild animals for one month before hospitalization. The provincial health department was not sure about his claim and is organizing further epidemic investigation and lab examinations.

[View Report](#)

## South Korea: Quail Farm Feared to Be Infected With Bird Flu

28 December – ProMed reported the [bird flu](#) is suspected to have infected a quail farm in Naju, South Cholla Province for the 1st time. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry said on Sunday that 3 additional farms in Naju reported bird flu symptoms to authorities. This group included a quail farm located 8 km from an affected farm in Naju. The highly pathogenic avian influenza, also called H5N1 virus, can technically infect all kinds of birds such as quails, turkeys, and pigeons -- but only chickens and ducks had so far been confirmed with the disease. A white silky fowl farm in Umsong, had reported flu symptoms early last week, but it later tested negative for the virus. Ever since the virus was discovered on a chicken farm in Umsong, North Chungchong Province on 15 Dec 2003, a total of 14 farms were confirmed contaminated with the disease, and 18 farms are currently under inspection.

[View Report](#)

## USPACOM Dengue Fever Update

26 December – ProMed reported in Bangladesh, 5 more patients with [dengue](#) symptoms were admitted to Suhrawardy Hospital and Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital in Dhaka city, raising the total number of such patients to 452 this season. 9 patients have died so far of the mosquito-borne disease dengue Fever. In Indonesia, an outbreak of dengue fever has killed 4 people in the West Java district of Majalengka. In the Philippines, health officials in Manila raised an alert over increasing cases of dengue, which has killed at least 170 people in the country. The Iloilo provincial health office reported 2 more fatalities due to dengue hemorrhagic fever. This brought to 317 the total recorded casualties, with 5 deaths, as of last week. [View Report](#)

## Philippines: Typhoid Outbreak Downs at Least 37 in Bacoor

24 December – ProMed reported at least 37 people from a subdivision in Bacoor, Cavite, were confirmed to be suffering from [typhoid fever](#). David Lozada, Southern Tagalog health director, reported on Tue, 23 Dec 2003. Lozada informed Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit that 7 of the residents of the Mary Homes Subdivision in Barangay Molino are undergoing treatment at the Metro South Hospital. Most of the patients are confined at the Las Pinas District Hospital. Health officials believe contaminated water and poor food preparation caused the outbreak. Dayrit is reminding the public to be careful in preparing food, especially for large parties during Christmas and New Year celebrations. He also cautioned people against buying food from street vendors that might not be thoroughly safe. [View Report](#)

# USSOUTHCOM

## Brazil: DHF Suspected

26 December – ProMed reported according to the State Health Secretary, 2 people are sick with suspected [dengue](#) and 2 people have died with symptoms compatible with DHF in Conselheiro Pena. Specimens have been sent for laboratory confirmation. From January up to the beginning of December 2003, Conselheiro Pena has had 57 confirmed cases of dengue. From January up to the beginning of December 2003, the state of Minas Gerais has reported the circulation of types 1, 2, and 3, with 22,346 cases of dengue, 23 confirmed cases of DHF, and 3 deaths. In 2002, 61,918 cases of dengue were notified, including 68 confirmed cases of DHF and 2 deaths. [View Report](#)

## Venezuela: Dengue fever, focalized increase

26 December – ProMed reported the Venezuelan Ministry of Health and Social Development acknowledged the increase in the number of cases of [dengue](#) fever over the past 6 weeks in the capital district and in the states of Merida and Miranda, but emphasized that, at the national level, there is a marked decrease in the number of cases. Jose Mendoza, director of Epidemiology and Strategic Analysis for the Ministry noted that between January and November 2003, 23,125 cases were registered, in comparison with the 36,142 cases registered over the same period of 2002. So far in 2003, there have been 4 confirmed deaths, compared to the 9 deaths registered as the annual average in 1999 and 2002, and the 36 total deaths for the period 1989-98. [View 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/Hiupdate/>.

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