



May 12, 2023 Weekly Situational Awareness Brief

Awareness Topics

WHO declares end to Covid global public health emergency

"The spread of Covid-19 is no longer a global public health emergency, the World Health Organization declared on Friday. 'For more than a year, the pandemic has been on a downward trend with population immunity increasing from vaccination and infection, mortality decreasing, and the pressure on health systems easing,' WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a press conference in Geneva."

Public health responding as chemical disaster risks grow

"More than a month after a train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, released toxic chemicals into the community, local public health workers were still in emergency response mode following the unexpected disaster. 'I was dumbfounded when I first heard what had happened,' said Laura Fauss, MPH, environmental programs manager at the Columbiana County Health District, which serves the northeastern Ohio village."

Do Not Use Certain SD Biosensor Pilot COVID-19 At-Home Tests: FDA Safety Communication

"The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning consumers and health care providers to stop using and throw out certain lots of recalled SD Biosensor, Inc. Pilot COVID-19 At-Home Tests, distributed by Roche Diagnostics. The FDA has significant concerns of bacterial contamination in the Pilot COVID-19 At-Home Test liquid solution, provided in the test kit. Direct contact with the contaminated liquid solution may pose safety concerns and the bacterial contamination could impact the performance of the test."

Quantity of Melatonin and CBD in Melatonin Gummies Sold in the US

"Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, melatonin was used by an estimated 1.3% of children in the US, most commonly for sleep, stress, and relaxation.^{1,2} Despite the lack of high-quality evidence to support melatonin's efficacy for these indications in healthy children, use increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Calls for pediatric melatonin ingestions to US Poison Control Centers increased 530% from 2012 to 2021 and were associated with 27 795 emergency department and clinic visits, 4097 hospitalizations, 287 intensive care unit admissions, and 2 deaths."

Alzheimer's Disease in Women: How Our Understanding Continues to Evolve

"Although men and women have similar symptoms of Alzheimer's disease (AD), evidence is mounting that many aspects of the disease differ between the sexes in important ways. In June 2020, the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas collaborated with the Women's Alzheimer's Movement (WAM) — a nonprofit organization founded by philanthropist Maria Shriver — to create the WAM Prevention Center at Cleveland Clinic, the first medical clinic in the nation devoted to AD prevention, research and caregiving support expressly for women."

Rise of mpox cases in Chicago raises concern about possible summer spread

"Diagnosed cases have been "increasing slightly" in eight countries the past three weeks, some in vaccinated people, the World Health Organization said."

US backs study of safe injection sites, overdose prevention

"For the first time, the U.S. government will pay for a large study measuring whether overdoses can be prevented by so-called safe injection sites, places where people can use heroin and other illegal drugs and be revived if they take too much."

Events

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