



April 7, 2023

Weekly Situational Awareness Brief

Awareness Topics

[A new flu is spilling over from cows to people in the U.S. How worried should we be?](#)

"In 2011, a farmer in Oklahoma had a bunch of sick pigs. The animals had what looked like the flu." Just like a person with respiratory disease, the pigs had labored breathing, maybe a runny nose, cough and potentially a fever," says virologist Benjamin Hause. At the time, Hause was working at the company Newport Laboratories, which develops custom vaccines for livestock. "We would detect and isolate pathogens from animals. Then we would grow the pathogens in the lab, kill them and formulate vaccines," says Hause, who's now an executive at Cambridge Technologies, another vaccine company. The Oklahoma farmer took a few samples from the pigs' noses — a bit like how you swab your nose for an at-home COVID test. He sent the samples to Hause so he could figure out what was making the pigs sick."

Commotio Cordis Underrecognized, Undertreated Outside of Sports

“Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) due to commotio cordis occurs more frequently in non-sport-related settings than is commonly thought, resulting in lower rates of resuscitation and increased mortality, especially among young women, a new review suggests. The condition is rare, caused by an often fatal arrhythmia secondary to a blunt, nonpenetrating impact over the precordium, without direct structural damage to the heart itself. Common causes in non-sport settings include assault, motor vehicle accidents (MVs), and daily activities such as occupational accidents.”

Why Tornadoes Are Still Hard to Forecast – Even Though Storm Predictions Are Improving

“Meteorologists have gotten a lot better at forecasting the conditions that make tornadoes more likely. But predicting exactly which thunderstorms will produce a tornado and when is harder, and that’s where a lot of severe weather research is focused today. As a deadly tornado headed toward Rolling Fork, Mississippi, on March 24, 2023, forecasters saw the storm developing on radar and issued a rare “tornado emergency” warning. NOAA’s Weather Prediction and Storm Prediction centers had been warning for several days about the risk of severe weather in the region. But while forecasters can see the signs of potential tornadoes in advance, forecasting when and where tornadoes will form is still extremely difficult.”

The tragic, preventable reasons syphilis is surging among U.S. infants

“A decade ago, the United States stood on the brink of eliminating the scourge of babies born with syphilis. Now, cases are surging, a phenomenon that is underscoring deep inequities in the nation’s health-care system and reviving concerns about a disease easily controlled with routine antibiotics.”

Salmonella Outbreak Linked to Flour

“Investigators are working to identify a specific brand of flour linked to this outbreak. However, any raw (unbaked) flour can have germs, like Salmonella. Do not eat or play with uncooked flour, dough, or batter.”

It Takes an Average of 17 Years for Evidence to Change Practice—the Burgeoning Field of Implementation Science Seeks to Speed Things Up

“Colorectal cancer screening with an at-home stool test is more convenient than with a colonoscopy, but an abnormal result on the former still requires a follow-up with the latter. However, studies have shown that in safety-net health care systems, only around half of patients with an abnormal at-home stool test result get a follow-up colonoscopy within a year, University of Washington gastroenterologist Rachel Issaka, MD, MAS, noted in an interview with JAMA.”

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