



February 23, 2024 Weekly Situational Awareness Brief

Awareness Topics

HPH Cybersecurity Performance Goals

“The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) helps the Healthcare and Public Health (HPH) critical infrastructure sector prepare for and respond to cyber threats, adapt to the evolving threat landscape, and build a more resilient sector. As outlined in the HHS Healthcare Sector Cybersecurity concept paper, HHS is publishing these voluntary healthcare specific Cybersecurity Performance Goals (CPGs) to help healthcare organizations prioritize implementation of high-impact cybersecurity practices.”

US homelessness hits record levels

“Challenges in the rental market and an end to eviction protections helped drive U.S. homelessness to record levels last year, a recent federal report finds. The number of people experiencing homelessness rose to more than 653,000 in 2023, a 12% increase from 2022, according to a December report from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.”

Playing Music Tied to Better Cognition in Later Life

“Playing a musical instrument is associated with better working memory and executive function, and singing in a group is associated with better executive function, new study results showed.”

VBD National Strategy to Protect People

“Together, U.S. federal entities developed the National Public Health Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in People [PDF – 16 MB] (VBD National Strategy) to address the rising public health threat of VBDs. The VBD National Strategy includes critical federal government activities to prevent and control VBDs.

Looking Forward: Successfully implementing the VBD National Strategy depends on continued collaboration within and outside of the federal government.”

Thunderstorm Asthma and Climate Change

“On November 21, 2016, the city of Melbourne in Victoria, Australia, experienced an unprecedented and extreme weather event. The event was “thunderstorm asthma,” defined as the sudden onset of asthma symptoms in a large number of people due to a rare interaction between specific types of thunderstorm and high airborne allergen levels.”

Interactions between flu subtypes predict epidemic severity more than virus evolution

“Researchers have shed new light on how viral evolution, population immunity, and the co-circulation of other flu viruses shape seasonal flu epidemics. The research, published today as a Reviewed Preprint in eLife, explores the relationships among evolutionary and epidemiological quantities in influenza, and presents fundamental findings that substantially advance our understanding of the drivers of influenza epidemics, according to the eLife editors. The authors used a rich set of data sources to provide what the editors say is compelling evidence on the roles of genetic distance, influenza subtype dynamics, and epidemiological indicators in predicting flu epidemics. The findings highlight genetic distance and subtype interference as key factors in determining the timing and severity of annual outbreaks.”

The Great Resignation is a now misleading storyline for hospitals: Analysis

“The mass exodus of workers recorded at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic sloganized as “The Great Resignation” once applied to hospitals. But not anymore, according to an analysis published in NEJM Catalyst.”

Events

[Click Here for Current and Upcoming Events List](#)

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