



February 16, 2024 Weekly Situational Awareness Brief

Awareness Topics

New Evidence Suggests Long COVID Could Be a Brain Injury

“Brain fog is one of the most common, persistent complaints in patients with long COVID. It affects as many as 46% of patients who also deal with other cognitive concerns like memory loss and difficulty concentrating. Now, researchers believe they know why. A new study has found that these symptoms may be the result of a viral-borne brain injury that may cause cognitive and mental health issues that persist for years.”

FDA revises letter of authorization for the emergency use authorization for Paxlovid

“Today, FDA is announcing a revision to the Paxlovid emergency use authorization (EUA), stating that Paxlovid manufactured and labeled in accordance with the EUA (EUA-labeled Paxlovid) currently in U.S. distribution will remain authorized for use through the labeled or extended expiration date, as applicable, or through March 8, 2024, whichever is earlier.”

Accrediting Organization Proposed Rule Fact Sheet

“Each year, Accrediting Organizations (AOs) with a CMS-approved program survey over 9,000 accredited health care providers and suppliers participating in the Medicare/Medicaid program for compliance with health and safety requirements. These accredited facilities must meet all applicable federal participation requirements and are deemed to meet them through their CMS-approved AO accreditation.”

Man dies from mysterious 'Alaskapox' disease - first-ever victim of rare illness

“A virus first discovered in 2015 has just claimed its first victim near Alaska's largest city. An unidentified immunocompromised man died from "Alaskapox" in late January. He lived in the woods of the Kenai Peninsula by himself, and it's unclear how he contracted the virus. Alaskapox - from the same genus as smallpox and monkeypox - was first discovered in 2015 in Fairbanks and is more common in small mammals.”

Task Force Publishes 2024-2028 Priority Areas

“The President’s Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children have set priorities for 2024-2028. This comprehensive roadmap outlines initiatives across four key areas: Lead Exposures; Climate Change, Emergencies, and Disasters; Chemical Exposures; Asthma Disparities. With short- and long-term actions addressing data gaps; regulations and policies.”

Management of Food Allergies and Food-Related Anaphylaxis

“An estimated 7.6% of children and 10.8% of adults have IgE-mediated food-protein allergies in the US. IgE-mediated food allergies may cause anaphylaxis and death. A delayed, IgE-mediated allergic response to the food-carbohydrate galactose- α -1,3-galactose (alpha-gal) in mammalian meat affects an estimated 96 000 to 450 000 individuals in the US and is currently a leading cause of food-related anaphylaxis in adults.”

Transportation for People with Disabilities and Older Adults During COVID-19: Lessons for Emergency Response

“The COVID-19 pandemic left many persons with disabilities and older adults without reliable transportation to access essential goods, medical care, and social engagements. Issues of social isolation for older adults were exacerbated with the emergence of COVID-19 because transportation service was reduced.”

Nitazenes more powerful than fentanyl? What you need to know

“Fentanyl is largely fueling the deadliest overdose crisis in U.S. history, but nitazenes are 20 times more powerful. Nitazenes are a class of opioids now found in pills and powder sold on the street. And while Narcan can help reverse an overdose, it may take much more.”

Events

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