



CDC Connection:

For the Advisory Committee to the Director—December 2012

Issues and Alerts

Early Start to Current Flu Season Noted—Significant increases in [flu activity](#) have occurred, indicating an early flu season—and overlapping with [National Influenza Vaccination Week \(NIVW\)](#) from December 2–8 ([Dec 3 CDC Website](#); [Dec 3 NBC News](#)) ■

Investigation of Multistate Outbreak of Fungal Infections Continues—To date, 36 people have died from the multistate outbreak of fungal infections linked to steroid injections, which CDC continues to investigate along with state and local health departments and the Food and Drug Administration. ([Dec 10 CDC Website](#); [Nov 15 CDC Congressional Testimony](#); [Nov. 8 ABC News](#)) ■

More than half of young HIV-infected Americans are unaware of their status: Update from CDC Vital Signs—Young people between the ages of 13 and 24 represent more than a quarter of new HIV infections each year (26 percent) and most of these youth living with HIV (60 percent) are unaware they are infected: about 12,000 youth were infected with HIV in 2010. ([Nov 27 CDC Vital Signs](#)) Other recent *CDC Vital Signs* focused on [breast cancer](#) and on [teen drinking and driving](#). ■

2012 Worst Year Yet for West Nile Virus—With the 5,207 cases of West Nile virus in people, including 234 deaths, reported to CDC, 2012 may be the worst year yet for deaths and brain damage from this disease. ([Nov 19 WebMD](#); [Nov 20 CDC Website](#)) ■

Diagnosed Diabetes Dramatically Increases—Between 1995 and 2010, the prevalence of diagnosed diabetes increased by 50 percent or more in 42 states, and by 100 percent or more in 18 states, according to recently published CDC findings. ([Nov 15 MMWR](#); [Nov 15 CDC Press Release](#); [Nov 15 WebMD](#)) ■

Indoor Air Pollution Poses Health Risks at Airports that Allow Smoking—Average air pollution levels from secondhand smoke outside smoking areas in airports are five times higher and 23 times higher in designated smoking areas than air pollution levels in smoke-free airports. ([Nov 23 MMWR](#); [Nov 21 CBS News](#)) ■

Infections from CRE Bacteria Continue Proving Deadly—Since the first known case was reported in 2001, infections from [Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae](#) or CREs continue to appear primarily in hospitals and nursing homes and have now spread across the United States. ([Nov. 16 CDC Website](#); [Nov. 29 USA Today](#)) ■

President Carter Named CDC Foundation Hero—The CDC Foundation honored Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter with the 2012 CDC Foundation Hero Award “for three decades of visionary leadership focused on building international public-private partnerships to save lives, reduce suffering, and provide hope for millions of the world’s poorest people. . . .” ([Oct. 18 CDC Foundation](#); [Oct 18 Wall Street Journal](#)) ■

Six Former Directors Unite to Ask Congress to Protect CDC’s Budget—Former CDC Directors William Foege, Julie Gerberding, Jeffrey Koplan, James O. Mason, William Roper, and David Satcher wrote a letter underscoring how vital CDC’s work is to our country’s health and urging Congress to protect CDC’s budget. ([Nov 27 Politico](#))





CDC Director's Highlights

Cited in 2012 Top 50 List—Dr. Frieden is included in the recently published list “50 of the Most Powerful People in Healthcare.” ([Nov 19 Becker's Hospital Review](#)) ■ **Participated in NPR's "Not My Job"**—Dr. Frieden showed his lighter side by playing “Not My Job” on NPR's weekly hour-long quiz program [Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!](#) ([Sept 22 NPR](#)) ■ **Named Public Health Person of the Week**—CDC Director Frieden was named Person of the Week by MPH Programs List, a resource for students interested in graduate public health, public administration, public policy, and health administration programs. ([Oct 29 MPHProgramsList.com](#)) ■ **Interviewed about His Work**—Dr. Frieden answers questions about how he approaches his day-to-day work and crisis situations in a short interview segment, “5 Questions for the Boss.” ([Dec. 1 Atlanta Journal Constitution](#))

Advisory Committee to the Director Updates

Our next Advisory Committee to the Director meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2013, and will be a face-to-face meeting in Atlanta. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Our Members

Georges Benjamin's collection of almost 1,000 cartoons on healthcare inspired him to coauthor *Quest for Health Care Reform: A Satirical History*, a 212-page book featuring the works of more than 27 cartoonists, including 10 Pulitzer-Prize winners, just published by the APHA. ([Nov 6 TakePart](#)) ■ **Benjamin Chu** is also included in the recently published list “50 of the Most Powerful People in Healthcare.” ([Nov 19 Becker's Hospital Review](#)) ■ **Thomas Farley** has faced an even tougher task than usual because of the many health-related problems resulting from the damage and flooding from Hurricane Sandy ([Nov 28 New York Times](#); [Dec. 1 CBS New York](#), many other news sources) ■ **David Fleming** talks about how the annual report of King County Medical Examiner's Office helps guide policy decisions. ([Dec 1 West Seattle Herald](#)) ■ **Lynn Goldman's** blog entry on the recent meningitis outbreak calls for Congressional action. ([Nov. 13 Huffington Post](#); also see her [Oct. 24 blog on fracking](#)) ■ **Anthony Iton** received the Physicians for Social Responsibility – Los Angeles 2012 Founders Award. ([Sept 21 PSR – LA Website](#); [Sept 24 YouTube](#))

FYI: Resources

- [CDC Calendar of Events](http://www.cdc.gov/about/newsEvents/events.htm) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/about/newsEvents/events.htm>)
- [CDC Vital Signs](http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/HAI/index.html) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/HAI/index.html>)
- [CDC Tweets](http://twitter.com/CDCgov) (URL <http://twitter.com/CDCgov>)
- [Advisory Committee to the Director](http://www.cdc.gov/about/advisory/advCharter.htm) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/about/advisory/advCharter.htm>)

