

◆ HEALTH ISSUES AND ALERTS

New Reports of Multistate Outbreak of Fungal Infections Continue— To date, 50 people have died from the multistate outbreak of fungal infections linked to steroid injections, and additional deaths and illnesses are still possible during the next six months. ([March 5 CDC Website](#); [March 18 Boston Herald](#))

Related Note: FDA issued an alert about a nationwide recall of all products produced by Med Prep Consulting, after health care providers observed what was determined to be a fungus in bags of magnesium sulfate intravenous solution. ([March 18 FDA News Release](#)) ◆ **ACA Drives Increased Use of**

Preventive Health— About 71 million Americans with private health insurance plans received at least one free preventive health service—e.g. a mammogram or flu shot—during the past two years, and 34 million people in traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans received at least one free preventive health service—such as an annual wellness visit—as a result of the Affordable Care Act. ([March 18 ASPE Issue Brief](#); [March 18 US News and World Report](#)) ◆ **Lethal, Drug-resistant Bacteria Spreading in U.S. Healthcare**

Facilities: Update from CDC Vital Signs— Drug-resistant germs called [carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae](#) have become more resistant to last-resort antibiotics during the past decade and are causing more hospitalized patients to get infections that can be impossible to treat. ([March 5 CDC Vital Signs](#)) Other recent *CDC Vital Signs* focused on [binge drinking](#) and on [smoking among people with mental illness](#). ◆ **Current Flu Activity**

Remains High— In most of the United States, [flu activity](#) remains elevated but is decreasing ([March 15 CDC FluView](#)) ◆ **More U.S. Drivers Text, Talk than Western Europeans**— CDC research shows that more Americans drive distracted by cell phone use—a risk factor for driving accidents—than their European counterparts. ([March 15 MMWR](#); [March 15 Washington Post](#)) ◆ **Sequestration's Effect on HHS Workforce Not Yet Known**—HHS continues to see if it can absorb mandatory funding cuts mandated by the federal sequester without making staff take unpaid leave or cutting vital services. ([March 5 Huffington Post](#)) ◆

Patient Dies after Contracting Rabies from Organ Transplant— CDC lab testing confirmed that a patient who died of rabies in Maryland was infected through organ transplantation done more than a year ago; three other patients who had received organs from the same donor are being evaluated. ([March 15 CDC Media Statement](#); [March 15 CNN](#))

◆ **CDC Introduces New iPad App**— CDC recently released a free app that lets users determine how to handle an imaginary outbreak as they progress through the skill levels to become a “disease detective.” ([Feb 19 CDC Features](#); [March 5 PC Magazine](#)) ◆ **Diagnosis of**

Autism Jumps— As of 2012, one in 50 children aged 6 to 17 years has some form of autism, compared with one in 88 in 2007, according to a new CDC study, and the increase in the prevalence of autism appears to be better diagnoses. ([March 20 NCHS Reports](#); [March 20 US News and World Report](#))



◆ CDC DIRECTOR'S HIGHLIGHTS

CDC Director Testifies for Congress – Dr. Frieden's most recent Congressional testimony [CDC 24/7: Keeping Americans Healthy, Safe and Secure, and Competitive](#) was before the Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies. ◆ **CDC Director Issues Call to Action against Nightmare Bacteria** – CDC Director Frieden has campaigned to combat the spread of the dangerous bacteria [carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae](#), including this [March 6 interview on CBS This Morning](#). ◆ **Follow Dr. Frieden on Twitter** – [Dr. Frieden's regular "tweets"](#) now have more than 18,000 follows on Twitter. ◆ AIDS.gov spoke to Dr. Frieden in this [March 3rd video about HIV testing and linkage to care as a prevention strategy](#) following his opening plenary at the March 2013 Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. ◆ **Senior Leadership Updates** – Dr. Frieden has announced several changes in CDC's senior leadership: Tom Kenyon, MD, MPH, becomes Director of the Center for Global Health in May. Janet Collins has accepted the position of Director for the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity; and Ann O'Connor will be the Acting Associate Director for Program. Chris Portier, PhD, Director of the National Center for Environmental Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry is retiring; Robin Ikeda, MD, MPH, will be the acting director until a replacement is named.

◆ ACD UPDATES AND MEMBER NEWS

Our next Advisory Committee to the Director meeting, scheduled for April 25, 2013, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., will be in Atlanta, with a social/dinner held the night before in the Drawing Room at the Emory Conference Center Hotel. ◆ **Georges Benjamin** is among the many public health leaders whose comments on the legacy of the late C. Everett Koop appear in a [Feb. 25th Associated Press story](#). ◆ **Thomas Farley** was the keynote speaker at the opening session of the Public Health Law Research and was interviewed in Robert Wood Johnson's [Jan 17th NewPublicHealth](#). ◆ **David Fleming** is among the coauthors of the Feb. 4th article [Gun violence: A public health crisis](#). ◆ **Lynn Goldman's** latest blog entry in the Huffington Post is [Prevention of Breast Cancer: An Urgent Priority](#).

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>)

