



In this number

Second combined
newsletter **INSIGHT**
& **BIOSAFE**

Work In Progress

In The Spotlight

News flash

In The News – ECDC

How prepared is the EU for an influenza pandemic?

A new ECDC Technical Report published on February 22, 2007 reviews the state of preparedness of EU and EEA/EFTA Member States against a possible influenza pandemic. While much has been done since 2005 to improve preparedness, the report identifies a number of areas where more work needs to be done.

For the complete report please go to:

www.ecdc.eu.int/pdf/Pandemic_preparedness.pdf

According to the Financial Times of February 22, 2007 Zsuzsanna Jakab, director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, said it would take two to three years to be "much better prepared to respond", even if the current political momentum could be maintained. The article further states "There are certain issues that cannot be solved by one country, and they have to work together across borders," she said, stressing she wanted to strengthen collaboration with the EU's close neighbours - including Turkey, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and Russia - in an effort to prepare for a pandemic. For the complete article of the Financial Times please go to: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/592cb042-c21a-11db-ae23-000b5df10621.html>

Work In Progress - From the Project Managers



Mariska Zanders
&
Claudine Coenen

BIOSAFE:

The programme of the second BIOSAFE meeting of March 20 and 21, 2007 is being finalized. The first day we will discuss the progress in the project and the rational of the 'list of agents'. The second day there is a workshop on the 'Code of Practice'. There will be presentations and discussions on the 'Code of Conduct' for the EU, an update on the situation in the USA and the EU regulations regarding 'EU Classified Information'. The participants will then collectively choose the type of EU classification that is the most appropriate for the BIOSAFE project. The technical implication of this choice will be discussed and this will lead to the BIOSAFE 'code of practice'. The preliminary programme can be checked at:

http://www.nvi-vaccin.nl/nvi_projectsites/index.php?id=85

INSIGHT

The programme of the second INSIGHT workshop 'Risks threats and core principles of preparedness' of May 24 and 25, 2007 is also being finalized. The first day concentrates on 'Learning from others'. The presentations will focus on lessons from food safety, veterinary preparedness, the International Health regulations, military experience. The second day concentrates on 'Core principles of preparedness'. Preliminary results from structured interviews on core principles will be presented and discussed. These core principles will be illustrated by preparedness to two infectious diseases (tularemia and West Nile Virus) that are newly introduced in the project. The preliminary programme can be checked at:

http://www.nvi-vaccin.nl/nvi_projectsites/index.php?id=74

In The Spotlight

Statens Serum Institut (SSI)

SSI is a public enterprise operating as a market-oriented production and service enterprise. The SSI is an enterprise under the Danish Ministry of the Interior and Health, and the Institute's duties are partly integrated in the national Danish health services. SSI prevents and controls infectious diseases, congenital disorders and biological threats. Our expertise includes:

- Monitoring, advising and teaching on the incidence, prevention and treatment of infectious diseases and congenital disorders.
- Specializing in the diagnosis of infectious, autoimmune, congenital and genetic diseases.
- Ensuring the supply of vaccines, other biological products and diagnostic services through production and procurement.
- Preparedness against biological terrorism.
- Research and development in the Institute's areas of activity at an international level.

SSI aims to ensure advanced control of infectious diseases, including new infections and biological threats. The Institute also strives to be a highly regarded and recognized national and international research, production and service enterprise. For more information you can check the website at www.ssi.dk

News flash In the News – USA

How prepared is the USA for an influenza pandemic?

In a report issued in October 2006 by Trust for America's Health (TFAH) and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) concerns are raised that pandemic flu preparedness efforts are falling behind advances in science and technology. The scientific and health groups issued a set of policy recommendations that outline actions that should be taken now to better prepare the nation for a pandemic flu outbreak.

For the complete report please go to:

<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/fluscience/>