



CDC Connection: For the Advisory Committee to the Director

New Issues and Alerts

■ **Peanut Butter Source of *Salmonella* Outbreak**—As the list of foods to avoid grows, eight people have died, and more than 500 have been sickened by the multistate *Salmonella* outbreak linked to a food processor in Georgia. ([Jan 29 New York Times](#); [CDC update](#)) ■ **US Rates for Chlamydia, Syphilis Rise**—Rates of Chlamydia were 370 per 100,000 in 2007, a 7.5% increase from 2006, and reported cases of syphilis rose to 11,466, or 3.8 cases per 100,000 people, in 2007. ([Jan 14 LA Times](#); [Jan 13 CDC press release](#)) ■ **Smoking Death Rates Highest in Kentucky**—Kentucky's death rate from smoking was about 371 deaths out of every 100,000 adults aged 35 years and older—nearly 1 1/2 times higher than the national median of 263 per 100,000—Utah's rate of 138.3 deaths per 100,000 is the lowest. ([Jan 23 MMWR](#); [Jan 23 Louisville Courier-Journal](#)) ■ **Childhood Trauma Linked to Risk for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome**—A joint study from CDC and Emory University School of Medicine published in *Archives of General Psychiatry* confirms that childhood trauma is associated with a six-fold increased risk for *Chronic Fatigue Syndrome*. ([Jan 5 CDC in the News](#); [Jan 5 WebMD](#)) ■ **Daschle Emphasizes Primary Care, Prevention**—Testifying before Congress, HHS Secretary-designate Daschle stated the case for changing the focus of the nation's health care from an illness-based model to a wellness and prevention-based model by providing more resources primary care health professionals and services. ([Jan 14 American Academy of Family Physicians News Now](#)) ■ **Economic Stimulus Package**—CDC leaders are discussing ramifications for funding CDC may receive as part of the Economic Stimulus Package, which could include dollars for CDC's Buildings and Facilities and for multiple CDC programs. ([Jan 16 Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report](#)) ■ **CDC Inducted into Polio Hall of Fame**—CDC was honored for its work in eradicating polio and as a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative by its inclusion in the Polio Hall of Fame. ([Jan 23 CDC in the News](#))

Director's Highlights

■ **Besser Named Interim CDC Director**—[Richard Besser](#), MD, who has headed CDC's [Coordinating Office for Terrorism and Emergency Response](#) since its inception, was designated to serve as [CDC's acting director](#) on January 22. ([Director's Welcome](#); [Jan 23 Wall Street Journal](#)) ■ **Gimson Announces Retirement**—[William \(Bill\) Gimson](#), MBA, CDC's Chief Operating Officer, who also served as interim CDC Director before Dr. Besser's appointment to be acting director, announced his retirement to be effective March 3, 2009. He has 35 years of federal government service. ([Jan. 28 Atlanta Journal Constitution](#)) ■ **Gerberding Resigns**—Dr. Gerberding has resigned as Director of CDC as part of the transition to President Barack Obama's administration. She leaves at a time when CDC tops the [Harris Poll](#) as the top-rated federal agency. ([Jan 10 New York Times](#)) ■ **New CDC Research Data Center to Open in March**—CDC is opening a Research Data Center in Atlanta, which, with its other center in Hyattsville, will allow researchers and scientists access to CDC's data and statistics on health and well-being plus information from other federal and data resources. ([Research Data Center information](#))

Selected CDC Strategic Intents

■ **Healthiest Nation**—Former CDC Director Julie Gerberding published the editorial *Prevention is the Best Cure for Health Reform*, noting that “We are in full support of a rapidly expanding movement that includes state and local health agencies, cities, states, businesses and private citizens committed to helping America become a ‘healthiest nation’.” ([Dec 31 AJC.com](#)) ■ Note the evolution in the alliance's



name: it's now [Alliance to Make US Healthiest](#), and there is a new logo as well. Latest membership numbers are 170 organizational members and 691 individual members. ([About CDC](#); [Alliance to Make US Healthiest](#))

Biosurveillance—CDC's [Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response](#) has released its [inaugural report](#) describing CDC's role, accomplishments, challenges, and priorities—including enhancing biosurveillance systems to support rapid detection of and response to emerging public health threats—as resources decrease for terrorism preparedness and emergency response activities.

Pandemic Flu and Bioterrorism—CDC's [updated interim guidance](#) for the use of antiviral medications during the 2008–2009 influenza season notes that H1N1 viruses are becoming more resistant to oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) and suggests alternative treatments ([Full text of CDC's Interim Guidelines](#)). [Personal Stories: Why Flu Vaccination Matters](#) on [CDC TV](#) features moving stories from families who have lost a child from influenza (Released Dec 6).

Advisory Committee to the Director Updates

Details about the upcoming Advisory Committee to the Director conference call will be made available soon. ■ The next Advisory Committee to the Director meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2009.

Our Members

Cass Wheeler has started his own [consulting practice](#) after serving as CEO with the American Heart Association from 1997–2008. His retirement had been announced earlier in the year. ([July 28 AHA News Release](#)) ■ **Lewis Sullivan** recently delivered a lecture “The Role of an Academic Medical Center in Achieving Dr. King's Dream” at the University of Iowa. ([Jan 12 UI press release](#)) ■ **John R. Seffrin** received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Indiana University in Bloomington. ([Dec 31 Palladium-Item](#)) ■ **Jonathan Lord** notes that “Americans can improve the economy as well as their own health prospects by giving up a few pounds” in a fact-filled press release on the costs of obesity. ([Dec 31 MarketWatch](#))

FYI: Resources

- [CDC Mobile Site](#) (formatted for access from cell phones and other PDAs; URL: <http://m.cdc.gov/>)
- [CDC FluView](#) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>)
- [Advisory Committee to the Director](#) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/about/advisory/advCharter.htm>)
- [White House Agenda for Health Care](#) (URL = http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/health_care/)

