



To the Advisory Committee to the Director

CDC has adopted for its periodic follow ups with you the theme of trust and its three dimensions, *truth*, *transparency*, and *transaction*, as discussed with you on May 1, 2008.

New Issues and Alerts

Gardasil Vaccination—The [Food and Drug Administration](#) and CDC [in a joint statement](#) on July 22 concluded Gardasil remains safe and effective for preventing infection with the types of human papillomavirus that cause most cases of cervical cancer and genital warts and that its benefits outweigh its risks. This statement was based on review of 9,749 adverse events (as of June 30, 2008) reported through the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#): 94% were classified as

nonserious and 6% as serious events. ■ **Measles**—On August 21, [CDC reported 131 measles cases](#) occurring between January 1 and July 31, 2008, the most reported in the United States for this period in any year since 1996. ■ **Billion Annual Hospital Visits**—[CDC health care statistics](#) released on August 6, 2008, reveal that U.S. patients made an estimated 1.1 billion visits to physician offices and hospital outpatient and emergency departments in 2006, an average of four visits per person per year. ■ **NY State Fair**—From August 21–September 1, CDC staffed an agencywide exhibit at the [2008 New York State Fair](#) in Syracuse, an event attended by more than a million people. ■ **Laboratory Animal Medicine**—CDC's Laboratory Animal Medicine Residency Program received notification of approval as a recognized program from the Board of Directors of the [American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine](#). ■ **Office of Global Health**—Just before the recent clash between Russian-Georgian armies, [Stephen B. Blount](#), MD, MPH, director, CDC's [Coordinating Office for Global Health](#), was in Georgia to sign a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding to set up a [Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program](#) with its government. Despite the current conflict, the first cohort of 10 trainees is expected to be selected and to begin their training in 2008. Other partners in the collaboration, which began after a 2006 request from the Georgian Minister of Health, include the [U.S. Department of State](#) and the [U.S. Department of Defense](#). ■ **Emerging Infectious Diseases**—see [latest issue of this online journal](#).

Director's Highlights

Annual Hospital Rotation—From August 19–29, CDC Director Julie L. Gerberding, MD, MPH, spent two weeks seeing patients at [San Francisco General Hospital](#), something that she does each year. (See the [KGO TV news story here](#).) ■ **Africa Trip**—On August 13, Dr. Gerberding accompanied HHS Secretary [Michael O. Leavitt](#) to the African countries Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, and Mali where they visited projects aimed at fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; met with government representatives; toured hospitals, research centers, and clinics; and traveled to rural communities. (Read Secretary's [Leavitt's blog about this trip](#).) ■ **PEPFAR**—On July 30, Dr. Gerberding attended a White House ceremony where President Bush signed into law the five-year reauthorization of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. (Read the [White House fact sheet on PEPFAR](#).) ■ **New HIV Infection Rate Up**—The *Journal of the American Medical Association* article [Estimation of HIV Incidence in the United States](#) reported that the revised estimate for the annual number of new infections increased from 40,000 to 56,300 infections. Dr. Gerberding said the new findings were “unacceptable,” adding that new efforts must be made to lower the infection rates. “We are not effectively reaching men who have sex with men and African-Americans to lower their risk.” (See the [New York Times article](#).) ■ **CDC-TV**—A just launched Web resource, [CDC-TV](#), features videos on health, safety, and preparedness.

Selected CDC Strategic Intents

Healthiest Nation—[Casey Chosewood](#), MD, Director of CDC's [Office of Health and Safety](#), has accepted the assignment as chair of CDC's Healthiest Nation Coordinating Council, operating out of the Director's Emergency Operations Center. ■ On August 28, [World Health Organization's Commission on Social Determinants of Health](#) released its report [Closing the Gap in a Generation: Health equity through action on the social determinants of health](#). ■ During the [2008 National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing, and Media](#), [Jay Bernhardt](#), PhD, MPH, Director, National Center for Health



Marketing, generated interest in the Healthiest Nation and the [Healthiest Nation Alliance](#) through his opening remarks to nearly 1,000 attendees. ■ On July 29, the House of Representatives introduced a nonbinding **prevention and public health resolution** “expressing the sense of the House that there should be an increased Federal commitment prioritizing prevention and public health for all people in the United States.” It cited statistics on the small investment in prevention compared with expenditures for health care and on the large preventable disease burden, and urged Congress to support more funding for prevention and public health. Plans are to introduce a similar resolution in the Senate. (Read the [Trust for America’s Health press release](#).) ■ **Health in All Policies**—On July 29, CDC’s Chief Policy Officer, Anne Haddix, PhD, was a panelist for the California Health Strategies Web Forum Collaborative *Tractors, Trucks and Trains... How Federal Farm and Transportation Policies Impact Our Health* ([See supporting materials and listen to the forum here](#).) ■ **On the Horizon** ▶ [2008 ASTHO–NACCHO Joint Conference](#), September 9–12, Sacramento, CA, to focus on Healthiest Nation. ▶ Creation of an Index to Assess Community Health—workshop, September 16–17. ▶ Healthiest Nation Alliance subcommittee of [CDC Foundation](#) to hold focus group of board members and corporate friends to discuss alliance membership, September 17. ▶ Initial stakeholder’s review of *Health Protection Game*, September 25–26, Atlanta.

Biosurveillance—August 11–12, under the chairmanship of Larry Brilliant, MD, 23 of the 31 subcommittee members, including Advisory Committee to the Director members **Suzanne Delbanco** and **Kenneth Mandl**, met in the [Google.org](#) office in San Francisco. Members come from public health (7), academic (8), private sector/nongovernmental organization (7), animal health (1), international public health (1), and medicine (7) backgrounds. The subcommittee has formed these working groups: Biosurveillance Workforce of the Future; Global Disease Detection and Collaboration; Environmental Monitoring; Diagnostics and Laboratory Information Exchange; Animal, Food, and Vectors; Integrating Clinical and Public Health Reporting; Genomic Epidemiology and Digital Technologies; and Cross-Sector Collaborations for Biosurveillance Strategies. Working groups are developing recommendations to be issued in a combined report in January 2009.

Pandemic Flu and Bioterrorism—CDC has released the Pandemic Influenza Storybook for viewing on the Internet via the [Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication](#) homepage. This first edition contains 50 stories from 26 states and features three sections for the 1918 event and a separate section for 1957 stories. ■ September is National Preparedness Month. ■ **Anthrax Response Exercise**—CDC simulated a full-scale bioterrorism event in which [anthrax](#) was theoretically released in a mall in a mid-sized city. This exercise was held to evaluate CDC’s emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

Next Advisory Committee to the Director Meeting

Advisory Committee to the Director Meeting—The next meeting, scheduled for Thursday, October 30th, at CDC, will focus on the Healthiest Nation and CDC’s globalization efforts.

Our Members

[Humana Inc.](#) and nonprofit partner [Bikes Belong](#) have rolled out a healthy, cost-effective alternative to driving by making the bike-sharing program [Freewheelin](#) available at both of the upcoming Democratic and Republican National Conventions. **Jack Lord** and **Julie Gerberding** are both quoted in a widely available news release at [Forbes.com](#) and many other sources. Denver Metrics from Humana to date: 4,226 bike rides, 18,427 miles, 571,249 calories burnt, and carbon footprint reduced by 6.4 metric tons. (See [related story in NY Daily News](#).) ■ On AARP’s 50th anniversary, its Chief Operating Office, **Tom Nelson**, [joined with AARP Illinois State President Evelyn Gooden and members of the community on Chicago’s Southside](#) to unveil a new kitchen at one of the city’s oldest settlement houses, the Abraham Lincoln Centre, in honor of AARP’s founder, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus.

FYI: Resources

[CDC TV](#) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/CDCtv/>)

[CDC Data and Statistics](#) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/DataStatistics/>)

[Health Protection Goals](#) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/osi/goals/goals.html>)

[Advisory Committee to the Director](#) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/about/advisory/advCharter.htm>)

