



Biosurveillance Update

Legionellosis

According to an open letter to clinicians and scientists from Dr. Victor Yu of the University of Pittsburgh, published on ProMed, there is evidence to suggest a rise in Legionnaire's disease following heavy flooding. Given Hurricane Sandy and the related flooding issues, Dr. Yu recommends that clinicians be on the watch for legionellosis in the affected areas, specifically among the elderly and other immunocompromised patients.

Influenza

According to the World Health Organization, the ILI case rate in the United States accounts for approximately 1.2% of all cases. This is well under the average for seasonal influenza. However, the number of cases may increase in areas affected by Hurricane Sandy. Many New York families continue to operate without power and in wet and cold conditions, which can facilitate the transmission of influenza. Clinicians are reminded to recommend vaccination for influenza, especially among vulnerable populations, and report cases of ILI to the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.