

6 October 2008

## Chem-Bio News

**1. NUCLEAR TERRORISM IS NO. 1 THREAT, ELBARADEI SAYS (UPDATE1):** *"The likelihood that terrorists will detonate a nuclear weapon poses the greatest risk to world security, surpassing proliferation threats from Iran and North Korea, United Nations atomic chief Mohamed ElBaradei said."*

**2. OBAMA EYES MORE WMD DEFENSE FUNDS, ADVISER SAYS:** *"If he wins the presidency, Senator Barack Obama (D-Ill.) would significantly boost funds to prevent a nuclear, chemical or biological attack on U.S. soil, a key adviser said yesterday."*

**3. STUDY: FIRST FLU WAVE IN 1918 WAS VACCINE FOR SOME:** *"In the influenza pandemic of 1918, those who got sick in the first wave of illness were up to 94% less likely to fall ill when the second and much more severe wave struck, according to a new analysis of historical data."*

**4. S.AFRICA ON ALERT AFTER FATAL BLEEDING SICKNESS:** *"South African health authorities are on high alert after three people died in hospital from an unknown, infectious disease similar to hemorrhagic fever, health officials said."*

# CB Daily Report

## Chem-Bio News

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### **NUCLEAR TERRORISM IS NO. 1 THREAT, ELBARADEI SAYS (UPDATE1)**

By Jonathan Tirone

Bloomberg News

September 30, 2008

"The likelihood that terrorists will detonate a nuclear weapon poses the greatest risk to world security, surpassing proliferation threats from Iran and North Korea, United Nations atomic chief Mohamed ElBaradei said."

"The IAEA has recorded 18 attempts to sell bomb-grade uranium and plutonium to black-market intermediaries since 1993. During the same period, the agency has tracked more than 1,300 incidents involving less-potent nuclear material that may be used to spread radioactive contamination."

"There is a possibility that the seized material was only a sample of larger quantities available," IAEA officials who maintain the agency's Illicit Trafficking Database said Sept. 26 in a statement. "These materials continue to pose potential security risks."

### Radiological Attack

A radiological attack on Washington could inflict economic damage of as much as \$107 billion, according to Igor Khripunov, a former Soviet diplomat who runs the Center for

International Trade and Security in Athens, Georgia.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=ae.wPfK0oXfM&refer=home>

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## **OBAMA EYES MORE WMD DEFENSE FUNDS, ADVISER SAYS**

By Elaine M. Grossman  
Global Security Newswire  
October 6, 2008

“If he wins the presidency, Senator Barack Obama (D-Ill.) would significantly boost funds to prevent a nuclear, chemical or biological attack on U.S. soil, a key adviser said yesterday (see GSN, Sept. 9).

The Democratic nominee would also invest in additional planning and coordination to more effectively manage the consequences of any catastrophe that might occur, Richard Danzig, a member of Obama’s defense and foreign policy inner circle, told reporters.”

“Obama’s Republican rival for the presidency, Senator John McCain (Ariz.), in May similarly called for greater efforts to stem nuclear weapons proliferation, including a budget hike for global nuclear security efforts.

“We need to increase funding for our own nonproliferation efforts, including the Cooperative Threat Reduction programs established by the landmark Nunn-Lugar legislation, and ensure the highest possible standards of security for existing nuclear materials,” McCain said during a speech in Denver.

He also pledged, if elected, to work with Russia to “redouble our common efforts to reduce the risk that nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons may fall into the hands of terrorists or unfriendly governments” (see GSN, May 28).”

The full article can be found at: [http://www.nti.org/d\\_newswire/issues/2008\\_10\\_3.html](http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_10_3.html)

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## **STUDY: FIRST FLU WAVE IN 1918 WAS VACCINE FOR SOME**

By Robert Roos  
CIDRAP News (Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy – University of Minnesota)  
October 2, 2008

“In the influenza pandemic of 1918, those who got sick in the first wave of illness were up to 94% less likely to fall ill when the second and much more severe wave struck, according to a new analysis of historical data.

The authors, led by historian John M. Barry, sifted data mostly from US Army camps, along with some from the British navy and British cities, to conclude that infection in the first wave acted like a vaccine, conferring immunity that protected people when the second wave arrived. Barry wrote the 2004 book *The Great Influenza*, a chronicle of the pandemic.

Their analysis "strongly points to cross-protection between outbreaks of respiratory illness during spring and early summer of 1918 and the influenza pandemic wave in the fall of 1918. The cross-protection effect was estimated to range from 35% to 94% for clinical illness and from 56% to 89% for mortality," says the report, published online by the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*.

The authors say their findings suggest that when novel flu viruses emerge and initially cause a mild wave of illness, public health authorities should think twice before taking aggressive steps to limit exposure, since people infected with the virus might benefit later on if the virus grows more virulent and triggers another wave of cases."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/oct0208waves-jw.html>

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## **S.AFRICA ON ALERT AFTER FATAL BLEEDING SICKNESS**

Reuters

October 6, 2008

"South African health authorities are on high alert after three people died in hospital from an unknown, infectious disease similar to hemorrhagic fever, health officials said.

A fourth person, a cleaner, had also died but it was not clear whether that case was related to the others who all died at the Morningside Clinic in Johannesburg, the hospital's spokeswoman Melinda Pelser said on Monday."

"The South African Health Department issued an alert over the weekend after the deaths but Morningside spokeswoman Pelser said tests for existing strains of hemorrhagic fever were negative. [emphasis added]

Pelser said hospital officials were investigating an unknown flu-like disease which caused external and internal bleeding. It spreads through bodily fluids but there are no signs it is airborne.

The first death was a Zambian woman brought to Morningside for treatment. A paramedic who accompanied her later died, health authorities said."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSTRE49529E20081006>

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