UPDATES

# Health notices · Friday 27 November

3 notices from the agencies today, in plain words, each with the original linked.

## WHO notified of three US human H5N1 infections

WHO · Outbreak

If you have been in contact with infected dairy cattle (or a contaminated environment) in Yakima County, Washington, the risk of infection is described by WHO as low to moderate.

WHO says the three adult cases were reported between 16 October and 4 November 2026, and included one fatal case.

WHO reports no evidence of human-to-human transmission based on information available so far. The overall risk to the general population is assessed as low, but it may change as more data comes in.

Read the original notice

## CDC updated guidance on childhood lead poisoning prevention

CDC · Guidance

If you are a parent or caregiver of a young child, CDC says there are no safe levels of lead in a child's blood. Lead can cause lasting, disabling effects, and children under 6 are more likely to be exposed because they put objects in their mouths.

CDC notes children can be exposed by swallowing lead paint chips, contaminated food or water, or breathing in lead dust. Possible sources include chipping or peeling paint in older homes, lead pipes, and some imported items.

If you think your child was or may have been exposed, CDC says a blood lead test is the best way to determine exposure. Parents can talk to their healthcare provider about whether testing is needed; for homes, hire a certified lead inspector.

What to do

Read the original notice

- Talk to your healthcare provider to find out if a blood lead test is needed.
- Hire a certified lead inspector to test for lead in the home.

- Renters can ask their landlord to have the home inspected or to share results of recently conducted lead inspections.

## Rural counties had higher pregnancy-related death rates, 2015-2024

CDC · Guidance

This CDC report compares pregnancy-related deaths (death during pregnancy or within 1 year after) between urban and rural counties in the United States from 2015-2024.

Most pregnancy-related deaths occurred in urban counties, but the pregnancy-related mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births) was higher in rural counties across overall results and for many age and race/ethnicity groups.

Cardiovascular conditions and infection or sepsis were the most common causes. The report highlights possible needs to improve access to primary, obstetric, and specialty care in rural communities.

This does not describe a new product, alert, or change in coverage; it's meant to inform public health planning and care access. If you're pregnant or recently gave birth, seek timely care for any urgent symptoms.

What to do

Read the original notice

- The report suggests improving access to primary, obstetric, and specialty care in rural communities to help improve pregnancy outcomes.
- If you have urgent symptoms during pregnancy or within 1 year after, seek timely and appropriate care.

## Where this comes from

- WHO notified of three US human H5N1 infections

  World Health Organization - Disease Outbreak News · https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2026-DON629
- CDC updated guidance on childhood lead poisoning prevention

  Centers for Disease Control and Prevention · https://tools.cdc.gov/api/v2/resources/purls/0016P
- Rural counties had higher pregnancy-related death rates, 2015-2024

  Centers for Disease Control and Prevention · https://tools.cdc.gov/api/v2/resources/purls/002E3