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FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

CDC Budget For Core Activities Is Cut

By **JEFF NESMITH**

Cox News Service

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WASHINGTON — The core programs of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would receive nearly \$500 million less next year under President Bush's proposed federal budget than they got two years ago, according to an analysis by a nonprofit CDC advocacy group.

Karl Moeller, executive director of the Campaign for Public Health, said funding of programs for which CDC is known — such as disease control, health information services, research and bioterrorism response — would be about \$6 billion under the president's proposal.

But folded into that amount is \$158 million in emergency funding to prepare for a feared influenza pandemic, said Moeller.

If the flu money is removed, next year's CDC budget for these activities would be about \$5.8 billion compared to \$6.3 billion approved by Congress three years ago, Moeller said.

The Campaign for Public Health, which has four former CDC directors on its "board of senior advisers," was created to push for increases in the centers' budget.

Over all, the CDC budget for next year would be \$8.8 billion, about \$160 million less than the president's proposal for this fiscal year, according to figures posted on the CDC's Web page.

Cuts proposed by the president include elimination of \$99 million in grants the agency makes to state and local health departments.

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