INDEX e-WEB n°232

- A(H5N1) Human & Avian influenza – none
- “INSIDE” events:
  - CCHF – Romania
  - West Nile – Romania
  - West Nile – Serbia
  - Aedes aegypti – Palestine
- “OUTSIDE” events - none

Location: World  Event: A(H5N1) – Epizootic  Comments

No new event has been reported this week

Location: World  Event: A(H5N1) – Human  Comments

No new event has been reported this week

REPORT OF NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURRING INSIDE THE EPI SOUTH AREA
(Optional in one or several EpiSouth countries)

Location: Romania  Event: CCHF  Comments

- A study realised in 2008 and published in 2012 reports for the first time the evidence for the circulation of Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever Virus (CCHF) in Romania.
- This study took place in the district of Tulcea, Northern Dobrogea and shows that 28% of sheep were IgG positive for CCHF virus.
- The reservoir and vector of this pathogen, the tick Hyalomma marginatum, is already present in Romania.

Map 1. Tulcea, Romania

Although in humans, infection with Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever virus is usually pauci-asymptomatic, it can also lead to an haemorrhagic viral fever, sometimes associated to secondary transmission in clinical setting.

Infection among animals is asymptomatic.

Human cases of CCHF (seropositive cases and clinical cases) are regularly reported in Romania’s neighbouring countries and almost all around the Black Sea (cf. EpiSouth CCHF note). Recent cases of CCHF in Kosovo were reported in eWEB n°230 (August 2012).

The recent discovery of a seroprevalence in animals in Romania indicates the extension of the circulation zone of CCHF in Europe.
The Romanian health authorities have reported 8 cases of neuroinvasive infection with West Nile virus during this surveillance season (8 May-31 October 2012).

All cases were recorded in known “at risk area” for WNV:
- Bucharest city (3 cases),
- Ilfov district (2 cases: 1 confirmed and 1 probable),
- Ialomita district (1 case),
- Braila district (1 case)
- Giurgiu district (1 case).

The onset of illness was between 31 July and 16 August 2012, with possible exposure between 16 July 2012 and 13 August 2012. All patients were hospitalized.

One case had a severe clinical form and died.

Mean age is 66.2 years; sexe ratio is 1/1.

No case has a history of transfusions.

The patients recognized mosquitos’ bites at home and in the surroundings. They didn’t use physical or chemical protection against mosquitoes.

The local Public Health Authorities recommended population to use protective measures against mosquitos’ bites. They identified the risks to human health and notified the local City halls on its obligations regarding vectors. The National Centre for Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases informed the National Institute of Hematology for implementing the measures for donors, under Directive 2004/33/EC on blood safety and blood products from donors.

Last year, the first human case of WN Fever in Romania was reported in July (eWEB n°175). A total of 11 cases were reported in 2011, most of them in Bucharest city.

Among the 27 EpiSouth countries, 9 reported WNV circulation in human and/or equine in 2011 (cf. Note on 2010 & 2011 seasons WNV circulation in EpiSouth countries).

The Serbian health authorities reported the 6 first confirmed human cases of West Nile Fever this year. These are the first West Nile human cases ever in Serbia.

In 2009-2010, a seroprevalence survey among horses in Serbia showed an 8% seropositivity.

An equine surveillance system of West Nile was implemented for the first time in Serbia in 2011.

WN fever among humans is not a notifiable disease in Serbia.
The Palestinian health authorities reported that the mosquito specie *Aedes aegypti* was isolated this year in different areas in several districts of Palestine: Bethlehem, Ramallah, Tulkarem and Qalqilia.

- This mosquito specie was not yet isolated in Palestine.
- *Aedes aegypti* is the vector of viral infections such as dengue fever, chikungunya, yellow fever and West Nile Fever.
- *Aedes albopictus* was isolated in Palestine (West Bank), in Israel, in Lebanon and in Syria.