INDEX e-WEB n°236

- A(H5N1) Avian & Human influenza – None
- “INSIDE” events: West Nile – FYROM, Kosovo, Italy
  Malaria - Greece
- “OUTSIDE” events: Coronavirus – Saudi Arabia, England

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

Location: World

Event: A(H5N1) – Epizootic & Human

Comments

No new event has been reported this week

FYROM

Location: Kosovo

Italy

Event: West Nile

Comments

On 21th September 2012, The Institute of Public Health of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) reported to EpiSouth 3 confirmed West Nile virus cases in humans (cf. map 1). The cases are:

- 7 years old boy, living in Krusevo, with onset of symptoms on 28th August 2012, hospitalised on 30th August 2012, with no travel history.
- A 66 years old man from the village Irizari, Kumanovo, hospitalised on 7th September 2012, with no travel history.
- A 53 years old woman from Bitola, working as a medical doctor in the near village Graeshnica. She had onset of symptoms on 8th September 2012 and had a history of several one-day-visits to Paralia, Pieria in Greece, without overnight stay. So far, no WNV case has been reported from this area in Greece, while in addition, entomological data from the same area are negative for circulation of WNV. Epidemiological investigation of this case is on-going.

Map 1. Areas where WNV cases were reported in FYROM, in 2012

- In 2011, WNV were reported in humans (n=4) and equines in FYROM (cf. Note on 2010 & 2011 seasons WNV circulation).
- On 13th September 2011, it was the first time that FYROM reported WNV human cases in the country (cf. eWEB n°183).
- These cases are the first reported cases for the 2012 season.
KOSOVO

- From 20th September 2012 to 25th September 2012, the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) of Kosovo reported to EpiSouth 3 new confirmed cases were of WNV in humans (cf. map 2).

- The cases are from:
  - Pristina city (Pristina region),
  - Gjilan municipality (Prizren region),
  - Prizren municipality (Prizren region).

For all cases, ELISA test has been performed at the NIPH laboratory and IgM were found positive of WNV.

- Last week, on 19th September 2012, the NIPH of Kosovo reported 1 confirmed and 2 suspect cases of WNV in humans (cf. eweb n° 235). The details of the cases are the following:
  - One confirmed case in a 50 years old female in Gligovc city, Pristina region, with onset of symptoms on 3rd September 2012 and hospitalised on 10th September 2012. The patient died on 14th September 2012. ELISA test was performed at NIPH laboratory and IgM were found positive for WNV.
  - One suspect case in a 52 years old female in Gjakova city, Peja region. The case was reported on 5th September 2012 to the NIPH. The case died the same day she was hospitalised. There is no laboratory confirmation for this case.
  - One suspect case in a 70 years old male in Kaçanik city, Ferizaj region. The case was reported on 10th September 2012 to the NIPH. The case died on 10th September 2012. There is no laboratory confirmation for this case.

- For all cases, no travel history outside Kosovo has been reported.

In 2012, it is the first time that Kosovo is reporting WNV cases in humans.

No equine WNV case has ever been reported either in the country.
ITALY

- On 27th September 2012, the National Centre for Epidemiology, Surveillance and Health Promotion reported a total of 22 cases of WNV in humans in 3 different regions of Italy: Veneto, Sardinia and Friuli-Venezia-Giulia. (cf. map 3).

Map 3. Veneto, Sardinia, Friuli-Venezia-Giulia regions, Italy

- On 15th July 2012, the first blood donation positive for WNV was reported in Italy (cf. eWEB n° 229), from Veneto region.

- Veneto region already reported WNND human cases this year (cf. eWEB n° 229).

- It is the first time that Sardinia and Friuli-Venezia-Giulia regions reported WNV human cases in 2012. These three regions were already affected by WNV in humans last year.

- In 2010 and 2011, 3 and 14 WNV human cases were reported respectively in Italy.

- To date, within EpiSouth countries, 10 countries reported WNV cases: Croatia, FYROM, Greece, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Palestine, Romania, Serbia, and Tunisia.

- For Serbia, Croatia and Kosovo, it is the first time that WNV has been reported in humans.

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<th>Event: Malaria</th>
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- On 27th September 2012, The Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (KEELPNO) reported one new malaria *P. vivax* autochthonous cases in Greece.

- The case is located in Abdera city, Xanthi regional unit, part of the region of East Macedonia and Thrace (cf. map 4). It is the first time that this area is reporting a malaria *P. vivax* case.

- On 3rd September, KEELPNO reported 2 additional cases in two areas already affected by malaria *P. vivax* in 2012 (cf. eWEB n° 230):
  - One case in Evrotas municipality, Laconia regional unit (Peloponnese region).
  - One case in Markopoulo Mesogaia municipality, East Attica regional unit (Attica region).

- To date, a total of 9 autochthonous cases infected in 2012 has been reported in 3 different regions in Greece:
  - 4 in East Attica regional unit. The first autochthonous malaria case was reported on 18th June 2012 (cf. eWEB n° 224)
  - 4 in Evrotas municipality, Laconia regional unit, Peloponnese region.
  - 1 in Xanthi regional unit, East of Macedonia and Thrace region.

- The occurrence of new cases in Evrotas and East Attica regional units confirms the establishment of a local transmission cycle of *P. vivax* malaria in these two areas.

- The report of a *P. vivax* malaria case in a new area strongly suggests an extension of the circulation of malaria in other areas in Greece.

Map 4. Xanthi regional unit, East of Macedonia and Thrace region, Greece
**REPORT OF NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURRING OUTSIDE THE EPSOUTH AREA**
*(Occurring in one or several EpiSouth countries)*

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<th>Event: Coronavirus</th>
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<td><strong>On 22nd September 2012, 2 cases of acute respiratory syndrome with renal failure have been reported. A new coronavirus close to the one observed in bats has been identified.</strong></td>
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| o The 1st case reported by **Saudi Arabia Ministry of health** is: 
  - A 60 year-old male, hospitalised in Jeddah, in June 2012 for an acute respiratory syndrome with renal failure. He died. 
  - The laboratory analyses performed in Saudi Arabia and then in Erasmus University Medical Centre, Netherlands identified a novel coronavirus of the beta group. |
| o The 2nd case reported to **WHO**. is: 
  - A 49 year-old male, Qatari national, with onset of symptoms on 3rd September 2012 and with travel history to Saudi Arabia prior to onset of illness. 
  - On 7th September he was hospitalised in Doha, Qatar, and on 11th September in the UK. The patient is still in intensive care unit (ICU). The Health Protection Agency of the UK (HPA) conducted laboratory testing and has confirmed the presence of a novel coronavirus. |
| o Apart from their travel to Saudi Arabia, no epidemiological link was found between the two cases. |
| o The **HPA** compared information from the clinical sample collected from these 2 cases (the Qatari case and the Saudi fatal case). The comparison indicated 99.5% identity of the two strains. |
| **In addition, a 3rd suspected case was reported. The case is:** |
| o A Saudi patient who presented severe acute respiratory disease of unknown aetiology. 
  - He died after being admitted to hospital in August 2012 in the United Kingdom. 
  - He has no epidemiological link with the other cases. 
  - No sample is available to carry out further tests. Thus, this case can be neither confirmed nor denied. |
| **Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which includes viruses that cause the common cold and SARS.** |
| **To date:** |
| o No secondary cases have been reported in people in contact with these two cases. 
  - There is no evidence of human to human transmission for this new virus. 
  - Available information does not allow confirming and refuting a causal relation between an infection by this new virus and the observed clinical symptoms. |
| o According to the available information, **Saudi Arabia Ministry of Health**, **EpiSouth** and WHO do not recommend travel restrictions. |
| o However, considering the similarity of two RNA sequences, the common geographic origin and the close time of occurrence, the situation should be followed with great attention. |
| o This year, the **Hajj pilgrimage** will be held from 23rd to 28th October 2012, in Mecca. |
| o The **Saudi Arabia Ministry of health** call pilgrims who wish to perform the Hajj or Umrah rites to take the necessary vaccinations and adhere to the **MOH’s instructions**. |

Map 5. Jeddah, Saudi Arabia – Doha, Qatar.