

This weekly bulletin provides updates on threats monitored by ECDC.

## I. Executive summary

### EU Threats

#### Legionellosis - Spain - 2012 Blanes outbreak

Opening date: 20 September 2012

Latest update: 20 September 2012

An outbreak of Legionnaires' disease is affecting the Spanish town Blanes in Catalonia, on Costa Brava, involving Spanish residents and tourists from several EU member states. As of 27 September 2012, the official number of cases is 11. The media report 14 cases.

→Update of the week

No new cases have been reported since the last update.

#### Salmonella Stanley - Multistate(EU) - 2012 outbreak

Opening date: 19 July 2012

Latest update: 20 August 2012

On 9 July, Belgium reported an outbreak of *Salmonella enterica* serovar Stanley (*S. Stanley*) through the Epidemic Intelligence Information System for food and water borne diseases. Subsequently, Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Slovak Republic and Italy have reported cases of *S. Stanley* sharing the same PFGE pattern as the Belgian outbreak strain. The descriptive epidemiology indicates transmission from a persistent common source or multiple sources in the EU. Contamination early in the production chain of a widely distributed food item is a likely scenario. Food and veterinary investigations are ongoing in Member States and at EU level to identify the source of the outbreak.

→Update of the week

Since 1 August 2011, EU Member States have reported 429 cases of *S. Stanley* on the Epidemic Intelligence Information System (EPIS). Of reported cases, 169 are confirmed to have indistinguishable XbaI-PFGE patterns. The number of new cases per month has been rising progressively since April 2012. The first cases were reported in August 2011.

#### Malaria - Greece - 2012

Opening date: 31 May 2012

Latest update: 28 September 2012

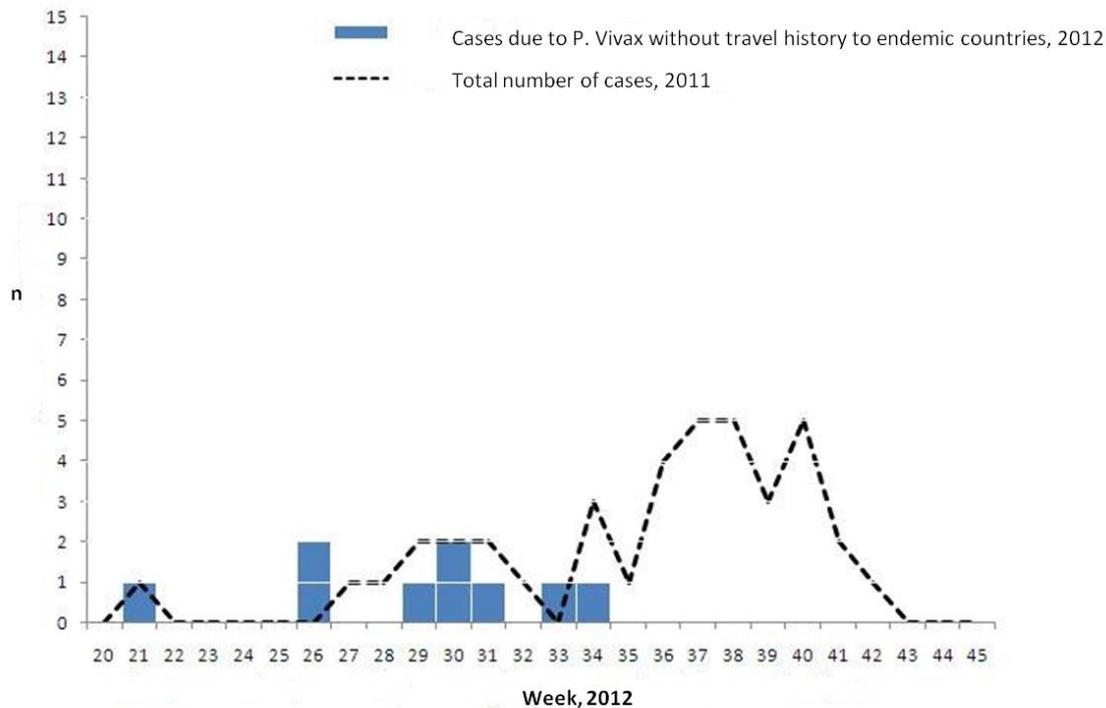
Since June 2012, nine autochthonous cases of malaria, caused by *Plasmodium vivax* infection, have been reported from Greece. Local control measures have been implemented in accordance with national guidelines.

→Update of the week

This week a new autochthonous case was reported by KEELPNO in Xanthi, a district where local cases have not been reported in recent years.

## Greece, malaria 2012: locally acquired cases by week of onset of symptoms

KEELPNO



## West Nile virus - Multistate (Europe) - Monitoring season 2012

Opening date: 21 June 2012

Latest update: 7 September 2012

## Epidemiological summary

As of 20 September 2012, 204 probable and confirmed human cases of West Nile fever (WNF) have been reported in the EU this season and 458 cases in neighbouring countries.

**EU Member States***Greece*

Between 7 July and 27 September, Greece reported 152 autochthonous WNF cases in 14 former prefectures. There have been ten WNV associated deaths. One case involves an immuno-compromised patient infected through blood transfusion.

*Hungary*

Four cases were reported by Hungary this week. The counties of Vas, Pest, and Baranya are newly affected. A total of eight cases have been reported in Hungary in 2012. Other affected counties are Csongrád, Hajdú-Bihar, Somogy and Tolna.

*Italy*

So far this year, the Italian Ministry of Health has notified 22 neuroinvasive cases of WNF - 18 in the Veneto region; two in Sardinia; and two in Friuli Venezia Giulia Region. Additionally, enhanced seasonal surveillance within the Veneto Region, including testing of patients reporting fevers and systematic screening of blood donors, has identified eight more cases of confirmed WNV infection. RNA of WNV lineage 1A was detected in several cases. So far this year, affected provinces are: Treviso, Venezia, and Vicenza in Veneto region; Oristano in Sardinia; and the Gorizia and Pordenone provinces of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region.

*Romania*

Romania have reported 14 WNF cases this year. Affected areas include: Braila county, Bucuresti municipality, Giurgiu county, Ialomita county, Iasi county, and Ilfov county.

**Neighbouring countries***Croatia*

Croatia have reported five cases of WNF in 2012 - this is the first year that human cases have been reported in Croatia. Affected areas include: Osjecko-Baranjska county, Vukovarsko-Srijemska county, and Brodsko-Posavska county.

*the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*

the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have reported four autochthonous cases of WNV in the last week (one confirmed and three probable). These are the first cases reported from FYROM for 2012. The confirmed case is from Lipkovo municipality; and the probable cases from Skopje region, Struga municipality, and Krusevo municipality.

*Kosovo\**

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Kosovo has reported one fatal case of probable WNF in 2012. The patient was from the Pristina, Kosovski region.

#### *Serbia*

To date in 2012, Serbia have reported a total of 44 probable and confirmed WNF cases, including six deaths. ECDC has previously excluded five of these cases, either due to a recent travel history or laboratory results not being consistent with recent infection. Further details are pending on the new cases reported by Serbia in the last week, therefore at present ECDC consider the occurrence of 30 WNF cases in Serbia. Known affected areas include: Grad Beograd, Juzno-Banatski district, and Sremski district.

#### *Russia*

As of 26 September, regional health authorities have reported 366 cases of WNF in Russia in 10 federal subjects including: Adygeya republic, Astrakhanskaya oblast, Belgorodskaya oblast, Lipetskaya oblast, Novosibirskaya oblast, Rostovskaya oblast, Saratovskaya oblast, Tatarstan republic, Volgogradskaya oblast, and Voronezhskaya oblast.

#### *Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory*

As of 20 September, 46 cases of WNF have been reported from Israel and two cases from the occupied Palestinian territory. Affected areas include: Central district, Haifa district, Northern district, Southern district, and Tel Aviv district; and the Ariha (Jerico) and Ramallah districts of the occupied Palestinian territory.

#### *Tunisia*

To date in 2012 Tunisia have reported four cases of WNF through the **EpiSouth network**. Affected areas include: Kebili Nord, Kebili governorate; and Zamedine and Ksar Helal, Monastir governorate.

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

**Websources:** [ECDC West Nile fever risk maps](#) | [ECDC Rapid Risk Assessment \(13 July\)](#) | [MedISys West Nile Disease](#) | [ECDC summary of the transmission season 2011](#) | [Official Journal of the EU - Notifiable Diseases](#) | [European Commission Case Definitions](#) | [EU Blood Directive](#)

## ECDC assessment

West Nile fever in humans is a notifiable disease in the EU. The implementation of control measures by the national health authorities are considered important for ensuring blood safety when human cases of West Nile fever occur. In accordance with the EU Blood Directive, efforts should be made to defer blood donations from affected areas that have ongoing virus transmission.

## Actions

On 13 July, ECDC updated its [Rapid Risk Assessment](#) concerning the epidemiological situation of West Nile virus infection in the European Union. ECDC produces weekly [West Nile fever risk maps](#) to inform blood safety authorities regarding affected areas.

## Measles - Multistate (EU) - Monitoring European outbreaks

Opening date: 9 February 2011

Latest update: 12 September 2012

### Epidemiological summary

#### **EU Member States**

No new outbreaks or updates were identified this week.

Web sources: [ECDC measles and rubella monitoring](#) | [ECDC/Euronews documentary](#) | [WHO Epidemiological Brief](#) | [MedISys Measles page](#) | [EUVAC-net ECDC](#) | [ECDC measles factsheet](#)

### ECDC assessment

Considerably fewer measles cases have been reported in 2012 than during the same period in 2011 primarily due to the dramatic decrease in the number of cases reported from France. There was no increase in the number of cases during the peak transmission season from February to June and there have been very few outbreaks detected by epidemic intelligence methods so far in 2012.

ECDC closely monitors measles transmission and outbreaks in the EU and neighbouring countries in Europe through enhanced surveillance and epidemic intelligence activities. The countries in the WHO European Region, which include all EU Member States, have committed to eliminate measles and rubella transmission by 2015. Elimination of measles requires consistent vaccination coverage above 95% with two doses of measles vaccine in all population groups, strong surveillance and effective outbreak control measures.

## Rubella - Multistate (EU) - Monitoring European outbreaks

Opening date: 7 March 2012

Latest update: 19 September 2012

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