

This weekly bulletin provides updates on threats monitored by ECDC.

I. Executive summary

EU Threats

Salmonella Stanley - Multistate outbreak (EU)

Opening date: 19 July 2012

Latest update: 20 August 2012

On 9 July, Belgium reported an outbreak of *Salmonella* Stanley through the EPIS-FWD platform. Subsequently, Austria, Czech Republic, Germany and Hungary reported cases of *S. Stanley* sharing the same PFGE pattern as the Belgian outbreak strain. The descriptive epidemiology indicates a transmission originating from a persistent common source or multiple sources in the EU that are contaminated with indistinguishable isolates.

Food and veterinary investigations are ongoing at the EU level to identify the source of the outbreak.

→ Update of the week

From 1 August 2011 to 27 August 2012, 117 confirmed cases of *S. Stanley* infections have been reported in five EU Member States in relation with a nalidixic acid resistant strain with an indistinguishable XbaI-PFGE pattern. For another 140 *S. Stanley* infections reported in these MS, the PFGE pattern is not available.

Malaria - Greece - 2012

Opening date: 31 May 2012

Latest update: 13 August 2012

Since June 2012, six 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

No additional cases were reported this week.

ECDC assessment

The Marathon and Evrotas areas are environments well suited for malaria transmission, combining humid zones and intensive agricultural activities. Climatic conditions are now considered favourable for local vector development. Frequent migration and travel patterns from endemic areas of the world provide opportunities for introduction of the parasite into the area. Also in 2011 autochthonous cases occurred in these locations. Considering the time of infections last year, it is possible that more cases will be detected in the coming months.

Actions

ECDC has been requested to provide technical support to the Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and is in close communication with them to see where this can best be provided.

ECDC published an [epidemiological update](#).

Greece is currently implementing a "Strategic work programme for malaria control in Greece 2012-2015".

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

Opening date: 21 June 2012

Latest update: 31 August 2012

Epidemiological summary

This season, as of 30 August 2012, 115 probable and confirmed human cases of West Nile fever (WNF) have been reported in the EU and 224 cases in neighbouring countries.

EU Member States

Greece

Between 7 July and 28 August, Greece reported 106 autochthonous (38 confirmed, 68 probable) WNF cases, and the following affected prefectures: Achaia (three cases), Aitolokarmania (two cases), Attiki (43 cases), Chalkidiki (two cases), Evvoia (one case), Imathia (one case), Kavala (12 cases), Pella (one case), Samos (two cases), Thessaloniki (four cases) and Xanthi (31 cases). Pella prefecture is newly affected this week. For three cases, the probable area of infection could not be determined. [One additional case](#) involves an immuno-compromised patient infected through blood transfusion, where both blood collection and transfusion took place before the first WNF case of the year was detected. A WNV strain of lineage 2, similar to the strain of 2010, has been found in mosquitoes.

Italy

On 3 August, Italy notified an asymptomatic case of West Nile virus (WNV) infection in a resident of Venezia province. The case was identified by systematic screening of blood donors in previously affected provinces in the Veneto region. According to a [report in Eurosurveillance](#), RNA of WNV lineage 1A was detected in this case. No cases have been reported since.

Romania

As of 29 August, Romania has reported eight WNF cases (seven confirmed, one probable) this year. Affected areas are: Braila district (one case), Bucharest city (three cases), Giurgiu district (one case), Ialomita district (one case) and Ilfov district (two cases). Giurgiu and Ialomita districts are newly affected this week.

Neighbouring countries

Serbia

On 17 August, the Serbian health authorities communicated four recent autochthonous cases of WNF in Serbia, in Grad Beograd (Belgrade city, one probable case) and Juzno-Banatski district (one confirmed and two probable cases). These are the first human cases of West Nile fever reported in Serbia, but in 2009-2010, [serological evidence](#) was found of WNV activity in horses. Further cases are under investigation.

Russia

As of 30 August, [federal](#) and regional health authorities have reported 202 cases of WNF in Russia: two in Adygeya Republic, 43 in [Astrakhanskaya Oblast](#), one in [Lipetskaya Oblast](#) (excluding two imported cases), one in Novosibirskaya Oblast, 13 in [Rostovskaya Oblast](#), two in Tatarstan Republic, 129 in [Volgogradskaya Oblast](#), 11 in [Voronezhskaya Oblast](#). Voronezhskaya Oblast is newly affected this week.

Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory

As of 14 August, [Israel](#) has reported 17 cases (seven confirmed, 10 probable) of WNF. This includes two cases in the occupied Palestinian territory, of which one was previously also reported by the [Palestinian Authority through EpiSouth](#). Affected areas are the Centre (five cases), Haifa (two cases), Northern (two cases), Southern (one case) and Tel Aviv (five cases) districts in Israel, and Ariha (Jericho, one case) and Ramallah and al-Bireh (one case) governorates in the West Bank. Northern, Southern and Tel Aviv districts, as well as the Ramallah and al-Bireh governorate are newly affected areas this week.

Tunisia

On 16 August, [EpiSouth](#) reported the first case of WNF in Tunisia this year, in Moknine municipality, in Monastir governorate. No new cases have been reported this week.

Rest of the World

United States of America (US)

[CDC](#) reports that the US is experiencing the largest number of WNF cases at this point of the season, since the arrival of the virus in 1999. As of 28 August, 1 590 human cases have been reported this year. This includes 889 (56%) neuroinvasive cases and 66 fatalities. Although viral circulation this year has been shown for 48 states, only six states (Texas, South Dakota, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Michigan) account for over 70 percent of human cases. Almost half of all cases have been reported from Texas alone.

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: 29 August 2012

Epidemiological summary

EU Member States

UK – update

Source: [HPA](#)

HPA has published an update on the current measles situation. The number of laboratory confirmed cases of measles with onset dates to the end of June 2012 has reached 964 in England and Wales compared with 497, 84 and 786 cases in the same periods of 2011, 2010, and 2009 respectively. The majority of cases in 2012 have been from the North West (associated with the outbreak in Liverpool and Merseyside) and the South East regions. Several clusters and outbreaks are linked to the travelling communities and are of genotype D4 and genotype B3. A leaflet has been produced and is being uploaded onto websites aimed at the traveller community.

Portugal

Source: [the media](#)

There was a small cluster of measles involving three people reported in Portugal during 2012. The index case came from China. An additional case was reported imported from the UK. As Portugal has a high coverage (95%) there was no further spread of the outbreak.

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

ECDC assessment