

This weekly bulletin provides updates on threats monitored by ECDC.

## I. Executive summary

### EU Threats

#### Malaria - Greece - 2012

Opening date: 31 May 2012

Latest update: 7 September 2012

Since June 2012, eight 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 autochthonous cases were reported since the last update.

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

Opening date: 9 February 2011

Latest update: 12 September 2012

Measles, a highly transmissible vaccine-preventable disease, is still endemic in many countries of Europe due to a decrease in the uptake of immunisation. More than 30 000 cases were reported in EU Member States in each of the last two years. However, so far in 2012, the number of outbreaks and reported cases in the Member States are significantly lower than during 2010 and 2011. As of 31 July, 5 037 cases of measles were reported to The European Surveillance System (TESSy) in 2012. France, Italy, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom accounted for 91% of the reported cases.

→Update of the week

No new outbreaks were detected in EU Member States since the last update.

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

Opening date: 7 March 2012

Latest update: 1 August 2012

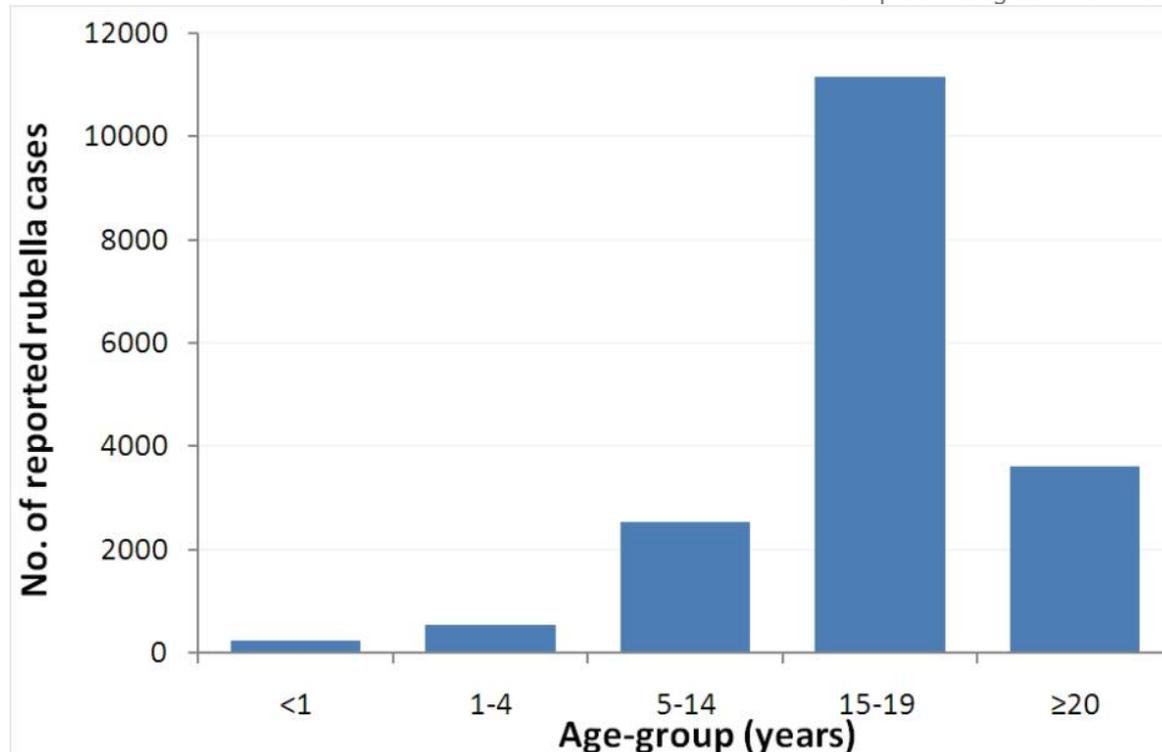
Rubella, caused by the rubella virus and commonly known as German measles, is a usually mild and self-limiting disease and infection which often passes unnoticed. The main reason for immunising against rubella is the high risk of congenital malformations associated with rubella infection during pregnancy. All EU Member States recommend vaccination against rubella with at least two doses of vaccine for both boys and girls. The vaccine is given at the same intervals as measles vaccine as part of the MMR vaccine.

→Update of the week

No new outbreaks were detected in EU Member States during the past week.

## Age distribution of reported rubella cases in the WHO European Region

WHO Epidemiological Brief 26 - September 2012



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

Opening date: 21 June 2012

Latest update: 7 September 2012

### Epidemiological summary

As of 13 September 2012, 157 probable and confirmed human cases of West Nile fever (WNF) have been reported in the EU this season and 367 cases in neighbouring countries.

#### EU Member States

##### Greece

Between 7 July and 13 September, Greece reported 129 autochthonous WNF cases (43 confirmed, 86 probable), in 13 former prefectures. Drama is a newly affected prefecture for this week. [One case](#) involves an immuno-compromised patient infected through blood transfusion. A WNV strain of lineage 2, similar to the strain of 2010, has been found in mosquitoes.

##### Hungary

On 6 September, Hungary reported the first two confirmed cases of WNF this year, in Hajdú-Bihar and Csongrád counties. No new cases have been notified this week.

##### Italy

So far this year, the Italian Ministry of Health has notified five neuroinvasive cases of WNF in the Veneto 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 (one case), Venezia (ten cases), and Vicenza (two cases). Vicenza province is newly affected this week.

##### Romania

As of 11 September, Romania has reported 13 WNF cases (12 confirmed, one probable) this year. Bucharest municipality and five districts have been affected so far.

#### Neighbouring countries

##### Croatia

This week, Croatian health authorities notified the presence of three probable autochthonous cases of WNF, in Osijek-Baranja and Vukovar-Syrmia counties. These cases represent the first ever reported human cases of WNF from Croatia.

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### Serbia

This week, Serbian health authorities communicated a total of 35 probable and confirmed WNF cases in Serbia. Previously, ECDC had excluded five of the Serbian cases, either due to a recent travel history or laboratory results not being consistent with recent infection. Therefore, ECDC considers the presence of 30 cases in Serbia. Grad Beograd (Belgrade City), Juzno-Banatski district, Podunavski district, Severno-Banatski district, and Sremski district are affected areas. The latter three are newly affected this week.

### Russia

As of 5 September, regional health authorities have reported 316 cases of WNF in Russia in 10 federal subjects.

### 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](#). Five districts in Israel and two governorates in the West Bank are affected. No new cases have been reported 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.

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.

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

Opening date: 19 July 2012

Latest update: 20 August 2012

### Epidemiological summary

From 1 August 2011 to 5 September 2012, EU Member States have reported 402 cases of *S. Stanley* on the Epidemic Intelligence Information System (EPIS), 144 of which confirmed as nalidixic acid resistant and with an indistinguishable XbaI-PFGE pattern. The number of cases rose progressively and continuously each month from April to August 2012.

Retrospective investigations have revealed that the first cases with the outbreak strain (PFGE profile) were notified in Hungary in August 2011. This was followed by an increase of new cases in January 2012 and a second peak in May 2012.

The median age among probable and confirmed cases is 17 years (range 0 to 87 years) 53% of whom are male. No cases have been reported travelling outside the EU/EEA countries prior to infection.

In Belgium, all the cases are reported from the northern part of the country while the majority of the regions in Austria, Germany, Czech Republic and Hungary have reported cases.

### ECDC assessment

The outbreak of *S. Stanley* infections reported in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany and Hungary in 2012 is not related to international travel. As cases do not have travel history outside the EU within their period of potential exposure, it strongly suggests a multistate outbreak with exposure currently taking place in the EU. The descriptive epidemiology and the microbiological evidence indicate a transmission originating from a persistent common source or multiple sources in the EU that are contaminated with a single clone of *S. Stanley*. The most recent cases have onset of disease in August; therefore, the