

The objective of the bulletin is to report new health events occurring outside and inside EpiSouth area that have potential implications on EpiSouth population. It does not aim to provide an exhaustive review of international alerts. Since 2006, The French public health Institute (InVS) is issuing an online epidemic intelligence bulletin (Bulletin hebdomadaire International - BHI). In order to limit duplication and to make this already verified information available to a larger audience, information relating to health events of interest for EpiSouth population are translated and integrated in the relevant e-web sections. Despite all verifications, WP6 team would not be responsible for potential errors. The recipient is responsible for the cautious use of this information. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is liable for the use that may be made of the information contained in this report. Data maps and commentary used in this document do not imply any opinion of EpiSouth countries or its partners on the legal status of the countries and territories shown or concerning their borders.

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- **A(H5N1) Avian influenza – None**
- **A(H5N1) Human influenza – None**
- **“INSIDE” events:** Rabies – France, ex Morocco
Dysgeusia - Europe
West Nile Virus – Greece
- **“OUTSIDE” events: none**

Location: World	Event: A(H5N1) – Epizootic	Comments
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No new area reported this week

Location: World	Event: A(H5N1) –Human	Comments
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No new human case reported this week

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

Location: France ex Morocco	Event: Rabies	Comments
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- On 9th August 2011, the French local health authorities of Western Vendée department in France (cf. map 1) reported a case of rabies in a 3-month old puppy illegally introduced in France from Morocco on 1st August 2011.
- The young dog was put in quarantine at the veterinarian on 6th August after behaviour disorder and aggressiveness and died on 7th August 2011.
- In France, epidemiological investigation and contact tracing identified all contacts and exposed persons:
 - 6 family members and the veterinary
 - 17 relatives
 - Other domestic animals (dogs and cats)
- All are currently being examined for individual risk assessment, and eventual post-exposure treatment.
- In Morocco, Health authorities including the EpiSouth focal point have been informed and people in contact with the dog in Morocco are being investigated.

- France has been officially rabies-free since February 2010.
- There is no risk of rabies exportation from France to the EpiSouth or neighbouring countries.
- In France, the last imported rabid dogs were identified in November 2008 in a dog imported from Spain and in February 2008 in a dog imported from Morocco (cf. [eWEB n°35](#)).

Map 1. Vendée department, France.



- Since March 2011, The EU [Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed \(RASFF\)](#) reported, dysgeusia cases and taste disturbance caused by pine nuts consumption.
- Several European countries reported contaminated pine nuts: Malta, Denmark, Ireland, Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy, and France.
- For instance, in France, since January 2011, 194 dysgeusia cases were reported to the *Institut de Veille Sanitaire* (French Institute of Public Health), in persons who consumed pine nuts produced by different companies.
- According to EU authorities, these pine nuts originated from China and were exported in Italy, Germany, Malta, Netherlands, Slovakia and Poland.
- Certain batches of this product were found to have a toxin contamination.

- Dysgeusia is a persistent abnormal taste. It can be described as bad, metallic, salty, foul or rancid. In some people with dysgeusia, the sense of smell can also be altered. Dysgeusia is relatively common and can have numerous causes, many of which are temporary.
- However, taste disorders are not a benign, as they may result, especially in elderly, in serious deficiencies and aggravate certain diseases (hypertension, diabetes).
- In October 2010, the occurrence of dysgeusia following the consumption of pine nuts imported from Asia had already been investigated and a report was released by the [European toxicovigilance network](#).
- The consumption of pine nuts is frequent in North African and Middle-East countries, known to be used with tea (cf. Figure 1).

Figure 1. Pine nuts and mint tea.



- From 26th July to 10th August 2011, 22 laboratory confirmed cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) infection have been reported by the Greek Centre for Disease Control and Prevention ([KEELPNO](#)), of which 18 presented with neuro-invasive disease and 4 with mild symptoms (cf. figure 2).
- Since last week, 15 additional neuro-invasive cases have been reported (cf. [eWEB n° 176](#)), with:
 - 3 more in Central Macedonia region
 - 3 more in Thessaly region
 - 5 more in Attica region (cf. table 1 and map 2)

So far, no death has been reported.

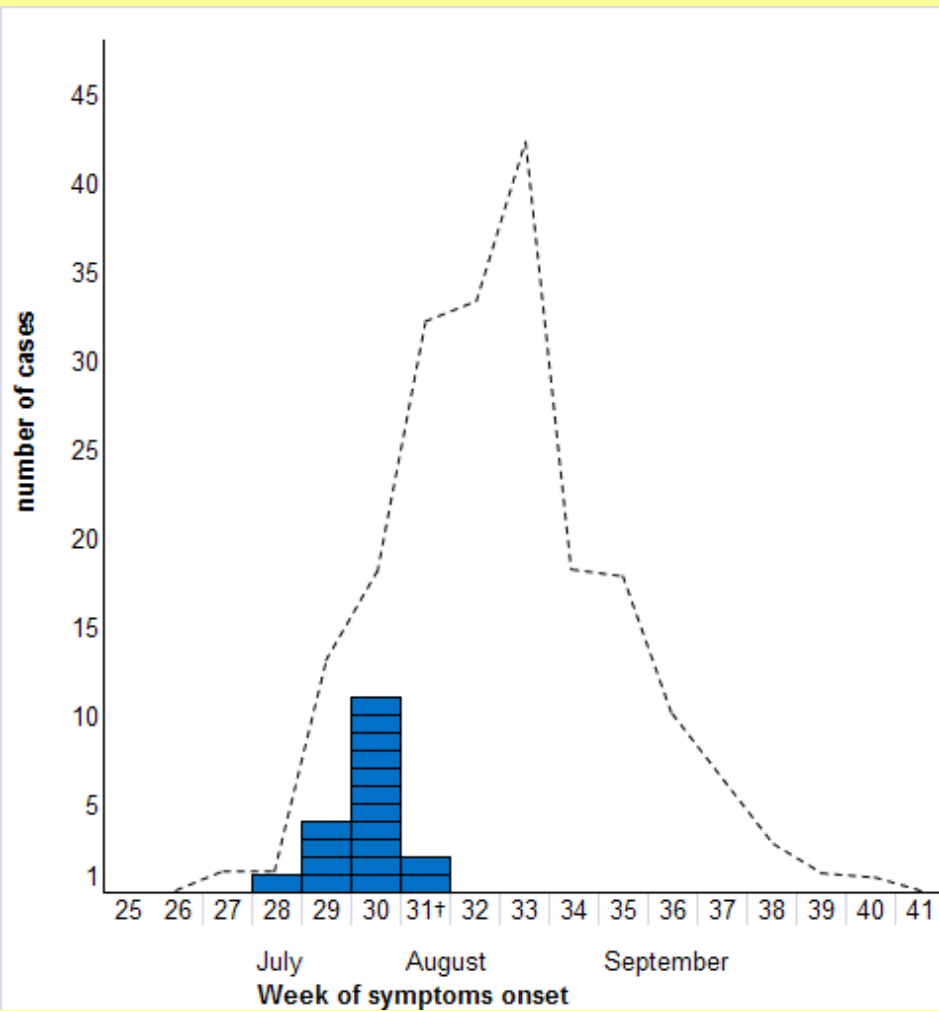
Table 1. Number of WN Neuro-invasive disease cases and incidence by place of residence, Greece. Period 2011, until 10th August 2011 (16:00), source [KEELPNO](#).

Regional Unit of Residence	Number of cases	Incidence per 100.000 population *
Karditsa	3	2,60
East Attica	6	1,50
Imathia	2	1,40
Larissa	3	1,05
Trikala	1	0,76
Serres	1	0,53
Thessaloniki	2	0,17
Total Greece	18	0,16

*calculated based on population data from the Hellenic Statistical Authority (estimates for 2008).

- According to [KEELPNO](#), after the first outbreak of WNV infection in Greece in the summer of 2010 (mainly in Central Macedonia), it is expected that cases of WNV infection will also present this year, in the same region as well as in regions not affected during 2010.
- Sporadic cases of WNV infection have been reported until 10th August 2011 from Central Macedonia and Thessaly, regions affected in 2010, but also from East Attica, which is a new area of WNV circulation.
- During 2011 a number of countries in the European WHO Region have reported WNV infection cases in humans (Romania, Russia and Israel, cf. [eWEB n°175](#)).
- Epidemiological surveillance, systematic and early mosquito control and personal protective measures against mosquito bites are the most appropriate measures for the control of the disease.
- In Greece, last year, 257 cases of WNV (including 31 deaths) were reported in Greece (cf. [EpiSouth WNV note](#)).

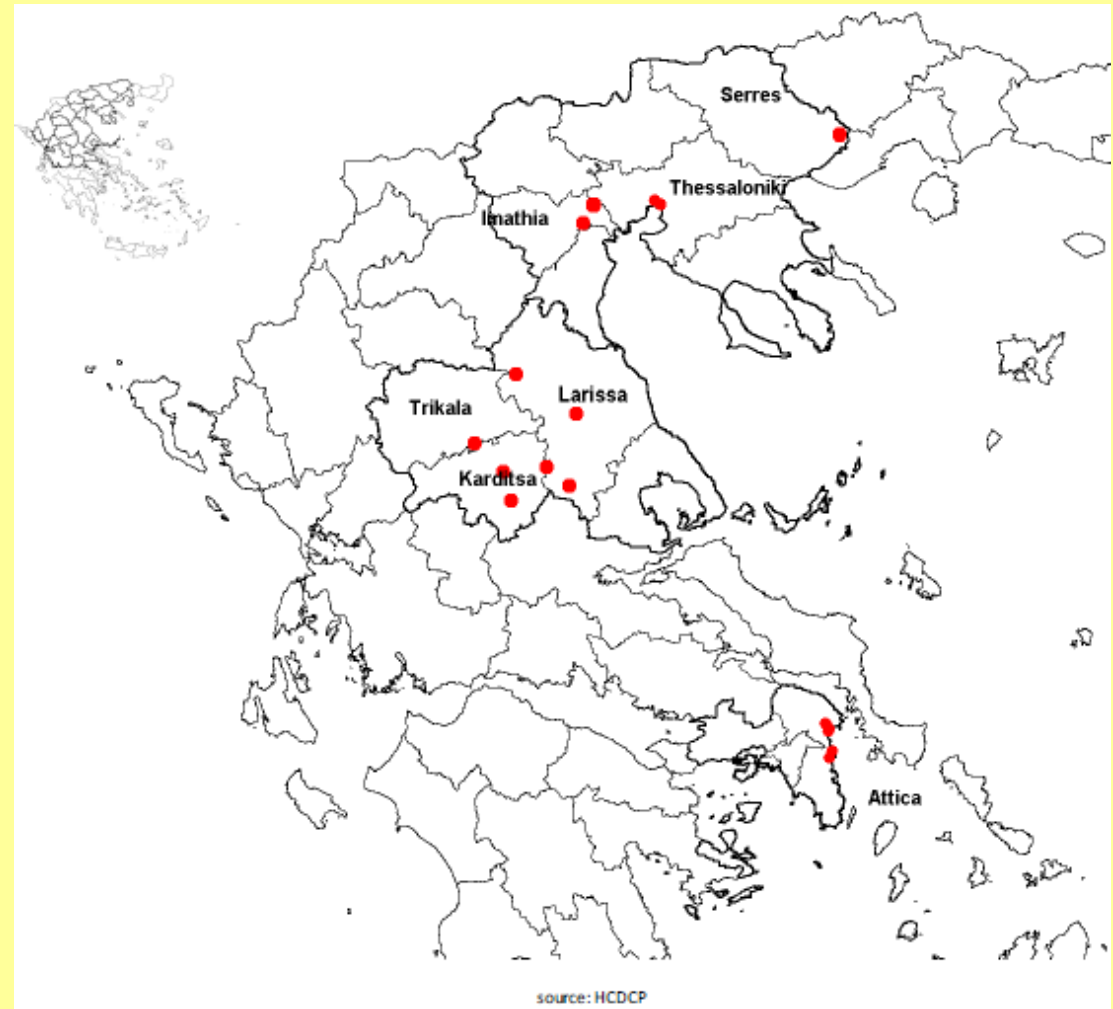
Figure 2. Number of laboratory confirmed WN neuro-invasive disease cases by week of symptom onset, Greece. Period 2011, until 10th August 2011 (16:00), source KEELPNO



NB: The dotted line represents the number of WNNND cases reported in 2010. Each blue box represents one case reported in period 2011.

† Week 31/2011 is not complete and includes cases reported until Wednesday 10.08.2011 (16.00).

Map 2. Place of residence of WN neuro-invasive disease cases, Greece. Period 2011, until 10th August 2011 (16:00), source KEELPNO



NB: Each red dot represents one WNV neuro-invasive case.