



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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  - **Novel Influenza A(H3N2) recombinant virus – USA**

<b>Location:</b> World	<b>Event:</b> A(H5N1) – Epizootic and Human	<b>Comments</b>
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No new event has been reported this week.

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

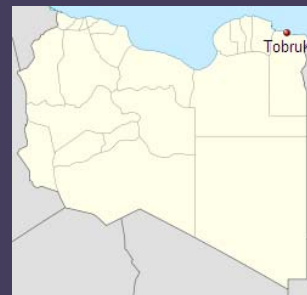
<b>Location:</b> Libya	<b>Event:</b> Plague	<b>Comments</b>
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- On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2011, an outbreak of plague in Tobruk, Libya, was reported through Promed (non official) with more than 23 cases, including pneumonic plague cases.
- No evidence of confirmed cases of plague in Libya has been found through epidemic intelligence.
- The national health authorities of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya **refuted this information and sent the following information:**

“According to the national committee for plague control in Libya and the feedback we obtained from plague laboratories and the local hospital in Tubrok, **there have been no confirmed cases recorded this year.**”

Furthermore, laboratory technicians and doctors in Tubrok have gained good experience from dealing with previous outbreaks and are well trained on diagnosis and case management thus mortality is very unlikely to occur anyway.”

Map 1. Tobruk, Libya



- Apart from some foci, North Africa is no longer considered as endemic for plague (cf. map 2).
- The last outbreak of plague reported in the country was in 2009, with 12 cases (cf. [eWEB n° 65](#) and [Eurosurveillance article](#), 2009)

**Map 2. Map of the Mediterranean region, including locations where plague cases have been reported since 1945 (source: [Eurosurveillance](#), International Department / INVS)**



**Former Yugoslav Republic of  
Location: Macedonia, Ukraine**

**Event: West Nile Virus**

**Comments**

#### **FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

- On 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011, cases of West Nile virus have been reported to OIE in horses and birds, in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in two different areas: Skopje and Negotino (cf. map 4).
- A total of 4 human cases of WNV have already been reported in the country in September and October 2011 (cf. [eWEB n° 183](#) and [188](#)).

**Map 4. Skopje and Negotino, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**



The reporting of WNV cases in horses and birds was not unexpected given that human cases were already reported.

#### **UKRAINE**

- On 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011, 3 human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) which were identified between January and September have been reported in Donetsk oblast in Ukraine (cf. map 3).
- Some of the cases may have travel history.
- In addition, on 11th November 2011, 2 human cases of WNV have been reported in Mykolayivs'ka oblast and 3 in Zaporiz'ka oblast (cf. map 3).
- It is the first time West Nile infections in humans have been reported in Ukraine during the 2011 season. The last human cases reported in Ukraine were in 2010 and are reported since 2006 at least.

**Map 3. Ukraine**



Donetsk oblast is located at the border with Russia and is very close to Volgograd oblast, known to be a nesting area for birds. Volgograd oblast has reported several human cases of WNV, notably in 2011.

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

Location: USA

Event: Influenza A(H3N2)  
recombinant virus

Comments

- On 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011, the [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) confirmed three cases of swine-origin triple reassortant influenza A(H3N2) (S-OtrH3N2) virus infection in children in two counties in Iowa.
  - None of the children were hospitalised and all were mild or self-limited cases
  - All were in contact with one another and none had a known exposure with swine
  - 2 suspected cases having had contacts with the first case have been identified.
  - No evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission of this (S-OtrH3N2) virus is available.
- This virus, an influenza A(H3N2) recombinant virus, had also been detected in 2011 in recent months in three states (cf. map 5): in Pennsylvania (3 cases), Maine (2 cases), Indiana (2 cases) and contains components of human, avian, H1N1 and swine influenza (cf. Figure 1).

Map 5. Indiana, Iowa, Maine and Pennsylvania states, US.



- Since 2005, in total, 31 influenza swine influenza cases were diagnosed in the U.S. including 18 swine A(H3N2) infections which include the ten 2011 last cases which are due to novel A(H3N2) recombinant virus.
- In 2011 (since July), a total of 10 human cases infections with (S-OtrH3N2) viruses have been identified in the United States. 3 of these 10 reported cases have been hospitalised.
- All first seven cases were mild and exposure or close contact with swine was documented.
- The lack of documented exposure to swine in the 3 last cases in Iowa suggests that limited human-to-human transmission of this influenza A(H3N2) recombinant virus might have occurred.
- The US health authorities enhanced their surveillance and their diagnostic testing for respiratory specimens.
- Investigations are ongoing to further document the Iowa cluster.

Figure 1. Swine H3N2 triple reassortant viruses,= (source: [CDC](#))

