

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.

The EpiSouth-Plus Project is cofunded by the European Union DG-SANCO/EAHC and EuropeAid together with the participating national partner Institutions. The financial support of the Italian Ministry of Health and ECDC is also acknowledged. Yet, the contents of this bulletin can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

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- A(H5N1) Avian influenza – Bhutan
- A(H5N1) Human influenza – None
- “INSIDE” events:
 - Ciguatera – Canary Islands
- “OUTSIDE” events: none

Location: Bhutan

Event: A(H5N1) – Epizootic

Comments

- On April 20th 2012, the Ministry of Agriculture in Bhutan reported to [OIE](#) a new foci of A(H5N1) infection in poultry in Mongar district (cf. map 1).
- The last A(H5N1) avian outbreak in Bhutan was reported in January 2012 in Chukha district, in the South West of the country (cf. [eWEB n°199](#)).

- To date, no human A(H5N1) case has ever been reported in the country.
- The occurrence of A(H5N1) avian influenza epizootic in the area is not unexpected in Bhutan. The country is surrounded by China and several other areas in India reported to be enzootic for A(H5N1) avian influenza (cf. [eWEB n°198](#)).

Map 1. Mongar district, Bhutan



Location: World

Event: A(H5N1)
– Human

Comments

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)

| Location: Canary Island | Event: Ciguatera | <u>Comments</u> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since January 2012, 16 cases of ciguatera have been reported by the Canary Island health authorities (Spanish autonomous community). • Among these 16 cases, 6 occurred since the beginning of April in Lanzarote island (cf. map 2), following the ingestion of contaminated fish in a local restaurant. • Ciguatera has been described for the first time on the coast of West Africa in 2004, during an epidemic occurring in the Canaries. Two other outbreaks with human cases have been reported in 2009. • Since 2009, a surveillance system for ciguatera including both human and food surveillance (searching for toxins in fish) has been implemented in the Canaries. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ciguatera is due to the ingestion of a toxin (ciguatoxin) produced by a unicellular algae. Fishes get contaminated by consuming plankton which contains this alga. • Ciguatoxin is accumulating in the fish's body and its concentration increases according to the food chain level (higher concentration in carnivorous fishes). • More than 400 species of tropical reef fish can be potentially concerned, including species commonly eaten (grouper, moray, etc). Fishes, even contaminated, remain healthy in appearance and the cooking does not destroy the toxin. • Ciguatera is endemic in most of the tropical and sub-tropical regions (Caribbean, Pacific, Indian Ocean). • In the hours following the ingestion of contaminated fish, ciguatoxin causes digestive problems (vomiting, diarrhoea). Neurological symptoms may occur: tiredness, muscle pain, itching, tingling and reverse hot and cold sensations. Severe forms (cardiovascular problems, respiratory depression, hypovolemic shock, etc.) may occur. Lethality is low (CFR <0.1%). Symptoms may persist for up to four weeks after ingestion. • Detection of ciguatoxin has to be done in contaminated fish (it is not possible to test patients). • A possible contamination of visitors cannot be excluded considering the current holiday period and the proximity of the Canaries to EpiSouth countries such as Morocco. |

Map 2. Lanzarote, the Canary Islands

