

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.

INDEX e-WEB n°246

- **A(H5N1) Human & Avian influenza - None**
- **“INSIDE” events: Novel Coronavirus – Jordan**
- **“OUTSIDE” events: Novel Coronavirus – Saudi Arabia, Qatar**

Location: World	Event: A(H5N1) –Human & Epizootic	Comments
-----------------	-----------------------------------	----------

No new event has been reported this week

REPORT OF NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURRING INSIDE THE EPISOUTH AREA

Location: Jordan	Event: Novel Coronavirus	Comments
------------------	--------------------------	----------

- On 30th of November 2012, 3 new human cases of infection due to the novel coronavirus have been reported to WHO:
 - 2 cases were confirmed in Jordan and 1 case was confirmed in Saudi Arabia which belongs to the same family cluster reported to WHO on 23rd of November.
- As of 30th of November 2012, cases have been reported in 3 countries of the Middle-East (cf. Map 1):

– Saudi Arabia :

A total of 5 confirmed cases have been reported from Saudi Arabia. The first two are not linked to each other; one of these has died. Three other confirmed cases are epidemiologically linked and occurred in one family living within the same household; two of these have died.

– Qatar :

A total of 2 confirmed cases have been reported from Qatar with no epidemiological link. Both are now recovering.

– Jordan

A total of two cases from Jordan have been confirmed in November 2012 but occurred in April 2012. At that time, a cluster of severe pneumonia cases occurred in the country and all samples had tested negative for known coronaviruses and other respiratory viruses. In October

- Since September 2012, a total of 9 cases including 5 deaths have been reported by 3 countries.
- To date, all confirmed cases come from Saudi Arabia, Qatar or Jordan.
- The sequencing of the strain of the first case confirmed in the Erasmus Medical Center (Rotterdam, Netherland) indicates that the novel coronavirus is close to the coronavirus found in bats. The novel coronavirus is distantly related to the SARS coronavirus (SARS-CoV).
- To date:
 - Knowledge on the novel coronavirus (potential reservoir, factors of exposure, routes of transmission, geographical distribution, incubation period) is very limited.
 - Clinical presentation of cases included severe acute respiratory infection as pneumonia and also acute renal failure for some of them.
 - For some cases, there is very little information on diagnostic tests performed to exclude other potential respiratory pathogens.
 - The two clusters (Saudi Arabia, Jordan) raise the possibility of limited human-to-human transmission or, alternatively, exposure to a common source. Ongoing investigation may or may not be able to distinguish between these possibilities.
 - At this point, the most likely source of the virus could be zoonotic or environmental with accidental transmission to human.

2012, after the discovery of the novel coronavirus, stored samples were sent by MOH Jordan to NAMRU-3. In November 2012 NAMRU-3 provided laboratory results that confirmed two cases of infection with the novel coronavirus.

- The situation should be carefully monitored.

Map 1. Location of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Jordan

