

**USACHPPM**  
**HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO) UPDATE**

29 August 2002

The HIO Update provides information regarding global medical and veterinary issues of interest to the United States (US) Army. The update does not attempt to analyze the information regarding potential strategic or tactical impact to the US Army and as such, should not be regarded as a medical intelligence product. Medical intelligence products are available at <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/>. The information in the HIO Update should provide an increased awareness of current and emerging health-related issues.

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## HOT ISSUES

### Allograft Tissue Recall – [FDA](#)

On 21 August, the FDA announced that it had recalled all distributed human allograft tissues, except allograft heart valves, that were processed by Cryolife since 3 October. The recall was issued after FDA discovered that Cryolife had not fully implemented corrective actions to eliminate documented fungal and bacterial contamination. Allograft heart valves are not being recalled because there exists no satisfactory alternative device. In this situation, the benefit of these devices outweighs the risk associated with the current manufacturing deficiencies. FDA recommends that patients who have had a recent implant be carefully monitored for both fungal and bacterial infections. FDA also recommends using alternative products when available or discussing the increased risks with prospective patients for heart valve allografts. [\[View report\]](#)

### Anthrax and Lysin Treatment / Detector – Rockefeller University / [DARPA](#)

On 22 August, *The New York Times* summarized a report in *Nature* in which a special enzyme, called a lysin, was isolated from a virus that preys on the anthrax bacterium. The virus uses the lysin to destroy the anthrax cell wall from the inside, but the enzyme is equally effective from the outside of the bacterium. Doses of lysin injected into mice that were infected with *Bacillus cereus* saved 13 of 19 mice from a certain death. More research remains to be done before the enzyme could be used as a drug. The scientists at Rockefeller University have also developed a prototype of a lysin-based anthrax detector. The prototype is a hand-held device that accepts an air filtrate or environmental sample. The anthrax spores are first made to germinate from their protective coat, and then the lysin is applied to the emerging bacteria, making them spill out their contents. An ingredient of the ruptured cells then activates a sample of a firefly enzyme, luciferase, and the flashes of light are amplified for detection. The lysin-based method can detect a sample of 2,500 spores in 10 minutes or as few as 100 spores after an hour's reaction time. The researchers are now working on lysins from viruses that attack bacteria that cause cholera and plague. A government lab is now repeating

the Rockefeller experiments using the Ames strain of anthrax bacteria. The Rockefeller experiments were funded by DARPA. The report is Schuch R, Nelson D, and Fischetti VA. A bacteriolytic agent that detects and kills *Bacillus anthracis*. Nature 418; 884-89 (22 August 2002). [[View The New York Times report](#)]

### **Anthrax Investigation – Florida**

On 26 August, Reuters reported that the [FBI](#) would apply new techniques to a probe of the AMI building in Boca Raton, Florida. The investigation is expected to last two weeks. The AMI building has been closed since it was abruptly evacuated in October 2001. According to the report, FBI officials believe it is possible a letter that carried the anthrax into the AMI building is still there. Additionally, the FBI wants to collect large quantities of spores in the building to chemically characterize them with anthrax spores found in letters to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle and Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy. [[View report](#)]

### **Biological Defense Homeland Security Support Program – [DoD](#)**

On 27 August, the DoD announced a new program to support homeland security called the Biological Defense Homeland Security Support Program. The program consists of two separate efforts: the Biological Defense Initiative (BDI) to be executed by the [DTRA](#) and the National Capital Region (NCR) demonstration to be executed by the Program Executive Office for Chemical/Biological Defense. The BDI objectives are to develop and deploy two prototype urban monitoring systems by June 2004 and demonstrate a potential model for a national capability. DTRA will establish a testbed using equipment deployed in Albuquerque. The NCR demonstration objectives are to expand the currently operational aerosol monitoring system in the NCR and integrate the information into an expanded over-arching bio-surveillance network called [ESSENCE II](#). This expanded capability integrates both military and civilian health care and other non-traditional medical indicators to allow for early warning of acts of bioterrorism. Data collected from ESSENCE II will be used to determine the best methods and procedures for initiating similar urban bio-surveillance systems. This expanded capability will be operational by the end of fiscal 2003. [[View report](#)]

### **Chemical Agent Destruction – Russia**

On 24 August, the *Washington Post* reported that the ceremonial opening of a chemical agent destruction facility occurred in Gorny, Russia this past week. Slated to begin in December and continue for two and one-half years, the Russians will reportedly use the plant to destroy an estimated 1,200 tons of lewisite, or arsine, an arsenic-based gas, and yperite, or mustard gas. These chemicals are Russia's oldest chemical arms, and many of them have been sitting in steel barrels that are less than one-half inch thick since the early 1950's. The chemicals stored here, while lethal, are not in weapons form and represent only a small part of the 40,000 metric tons stockpiled by Russia in six other sites around the country. Two other factories meant to destroy far more dangerous nerve gases are nowhere near completion and may never be built if the US

continues to withhold hundreds of millions of dollars because Russia has not complied with congressional conditions. [[View report](#)]

### **Enriched Uranium Transfer –Yugoslavia to Russia**

On 22 August, the *Washington Post* reported Project Vinca was completed successfully in which over 100 pounds of highly enriched uranium in about 5,000 rods was transferred from a research reactor near downtown Belgrade, Yugoslavia (Serbia) to Dmitrovgrad, Russia, where it will be “blended down” into low enriched uranium for use as commercial reactor fuel. The quantity was sufficient to produce two and one-half nuclear weapons. Project Vinca was the result of cooperation among the governments of the US, Russia, and Yugoslavia in an effort to prevent terrorists from acquiring [WMD](#). [[View report](#)]

### **Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) – [USPSTF](#)**

The USPSTF recently posted systematic evidence reviews and a summary of the evidence for using HRT to treat symptoms of menopause and to prevent chronic conditions such as osteoporosis. These reviews will aid the Task Force in updating its recommendations on HRT scheduled for release in fall 2002. [[View reports](#)]

### **Malarone™ Safety Data – [FDA](#)**

On 12 August, the FDA posted an approval letter for revisions to the Malarone™ package insert, to add information related to the pharmacokinetics of Malarone™ in special populations (geriatric, hepatic impairment) and prophylactic use of Malarone™ in non-immune travelers. Results from studies comparing adverse events in controlled clinical trials of mefloquine and Malarone™ and chloroquine/proguanil and Malarone™ are included in Table 3. [[View updated insert](#) (changes indicated); [View approval letter](#)]

### **Mold and Asthma – [BMJ](#)**

On 26 August, Reuters Health summarized a study published in *BMJ* that found a link between asthma severity and two types of mold: *Alternaria alternata* and *Cladosporium herbarum*. The same association to illness severity was not seen for cat dander or grass pollen. Severe asthma is characterized by permanently impaired lung function and frequent asthma attacks. The report found having sensitivity to a type of house dust mite was also associated with increased asthma severity. The researchers concluded that patients with severe asthma should be encouraged to decrease exposure by avoiding indoor conditions that facilitate the growth of molds. [[View report](#)]

### **Skeletal Imaging Device – [UK](#)**

On 24 August, the BBC reported that a biomechanical engineering firm developed a skeletal imaging device in a project involving the University of Worcester. Patients go to a laboratory for their scans where up to 40 reflective sensors are placed on their body at

the shoulders, elbows, hips, knees, and ankles. Seven infrared cameras capture the light reflected back from the sensors as the person carries out the relevant sporting activity. The 3-D skeleton generated provides computer images that can be rotated and viewed from any angle to allow movement analysis. In addition to identifying injuries, the images of a professional sportsperson could be compared to amateurs to see how people were risking injury. The goal of the program is to eventually have preventive analyses before the occurrence of injury. [[View report](#)]

### **Solar Freeze – [UN Earth Summit](#)**

On 27 August, the *Bangkok Post* reported that a prototype of the Solar Freeze, a sun-powered refrigerator invented by a South African teenager, was on display at the UN Earth Summit in Johannesburg. The product is expected to benefit the world's two billion poorest people and will likely have broad applications. [[View report](#)]

### **TRICARE Benefits – [DoD](#)**

Under the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act, TRICARE will now cover physical examinations required for school enrollment, as they are recognized as preventive services. The new benefit applies to all TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries ages 5 through 11. It does not cover sports physicals. The effective date for the benefit was 30 October 2000. TRICARE will reimburse beneficiaries with receipts for school physicals received since 30 October 2000. [[View report](#)]

### **West Nile Virus and Outdoor Workers – [NIOSH](#)**

NIOSH recently posted a website devoted to WNV in relation to occupational exposure. Work environments at highest risk were outdoor sites near stagnant pools, ponds, watering troughs, irrigation ditches, rain barrels, manure lagoons, or any other stagnant bodies of water. Preventive measures and recommendations are included on the website. [[View report](#)]

### **Worker Training for [WMD](#) Incidents – [NIH](#)**

On 23 August, the NIH reported that a public health workshop report recommended that the federal government should help train emergency personnel and provide updated safety guidelines, so workers are better protected against hazards such as those faced at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Specifically the report recommended first response personnel, such as police and firefighters, need to be trained in and provided with appropriate protective gear, particularly respiratory protection. The report, "*Learning from Disasters: Weapons of Mass Destruction Preparedness Through Worker Training*," summarizes the finding of a NIH Worker Education and Training Program technical workshop that brought together national experts involved in the recent terrorist attacks with those providing the emergency response and cleanup around WMD. [[View report](#)]

## **USCENTCOM**

### **Acute Neurological Syndrome – Sudan**

On 21 August, [AFMIC](#) reported an outbreak of encephalitis-like syndrome involving 16 cases (four deaths), mostly in young children, in Sudan. The cases are reportedly less responsive to antibiotics and more severe than meningitis cases that were recently reported. The [WHO](#) is investigating the outbreak. [[View report](#); requires registration]

## **USEUCOM**

### **Diarrheal Outbreak – Yugoslavia**

On 26 August, ProMED reported that health authorities announced an epidemic of unknown origin with symptoms that include fever, diarrhea, and muscle pain. Thus far 218 patients were admitted to local hospitals. The incidence is highest among children 10 years old or younger. The Institute for Public Health reportedly isolated coliform bacteria from the water, and the Waterworks was closed. [[View report](#)]

### **Flooding – Germany and Czech Republic**

On 24 August, the [BMJ](#) reported that the health ministry of Saxony, Germany recommended that people should not drink tap water in the worst affected cities, such as Dresden. The Czech government will vaccinate about 65,000 children against hepatitis A, which can spread when sewage systems are damaged and infected feces enter drinking water. The Czech Republic has asked the government to provide \$3.4 million for other public health measures after the floods, including testing of drinking water and distribution of water disinfectant. [[View report](#)]

### **Flooding – Mali**

On 22 August, [IRIN](#) reported that torrential rain and floods in late July and early August destroyed 8,917 houses and made 30,000 people homeless in various parts of Mali. All eight administrative regions suffered losses in terms of property and cattle, but the worst hit were Tombouctou and Gao. In the locality of Goundam, Tombouctou region, two people died, along with some 1,209 cattle and 6,612 sheep and goats. The entire harvest was reportedly destroyed. Vector-borne, waterborne, and foodborne diseases will likely be a concern as floodwaters recede. [[View report](#)]

### **Hepatitis C Guidelines for Healthcare Workers (HCWs) – England**

On 22 August, Eurosurveillance Weekly reported that the Department of Health in England issued new guidance on the management of hepatitis C infected HCWs. Previous guidance in the [UK](#) recommended that HCWs infected with hepatitis C should be restricted from undertaking exposure prone procedures (EPPs) only if they had been associated with transmission of infection to a patient. Since these recommendations

were made, there have been five documented incidents in England and Wales, one in Spain, and two in Germany in which infected HCWs have transmitted hepatitis C infection to patients during EPPs. As a result, the UK recommendations have been strengthened such that it is now recommended that all HCWs who know they are hepatitis C virus RNA positive should not perform EPPs. HCWs who are known to have antibodies to hepatitis C virus and who carry out EPPs should be tested for hepatitis C virus RNA. Hepatitis C infected HCWs who have received antiviral treatment and remain hepatitis C virus RNA negative six months after cessation of treatment may return to performing EPPs, but will require a further check six months later to show they remain hepatitis C virus RNA negative. Routine testing for hepatitis C of all HCWs who currently perform EPPs is not recommended. [[View report](#)]

### **Influenza – Madagascar**

On 23 August, the [WHO](#) reported that the influenza outbreak in Madagascar has extended to five out of six provinces, the exception being Antsiranana province in the northeast. The total number of reported cases is now 22,646 with 671 deaths. The Ministry of Health is now applying a standard case definition that may in part increase case reports. Preliminary findings indicate that the high mortality rates may be due in part to the lack of access to health care and to very poor nutrition in the affected districts. To date, influenza A (H3N2) viruses have been isolated. [[View report](#)]

### **Meningococcal Disease (MCD) – Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania**

On 23 August, the [WHO](#) reported the Ministry of Health of Burundi had reported 269 cases and 30 deaths (11% [CFR](#)) in Ngozi, Muyinga, and Kirundo provinces from 6 July. *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup A has been confirmed in six out of eight samples tested. A vaccination campaign is planned for the entire Muyinga province and for the affected areas in Ngozi and Kirundo provinces, where the outbreak has stabilized. Previous media reports have had conflicting reports about the outbreak in Burundi. The Rwandan Ministry of Health has reported 111 cases and 20 deaths in Butare province from 24 June and 62 cases and seven deaths in Kibungo province from 31 July. A vaccination campaign has begun in Butare, and one is planned for Kibungo. The WHO has received reported of 90 suspect cases (four deaths) of MCD in two camps, Nduta and Karago in Kibondo district from 1 July. [[View report](#)]

### **Shigellosis – Spain**

On 24 August, the [BMJ](#) reported that an outbreak of *Shigella sonnei* has affected 670 people among the population of 6,600 in the town of Santa Maria de Palautordera. The outbreak has been linked to consumption of drinking water that may have been contaminated after heavy rains caused floods in Catalonia during the first week of August. Although no one has died, 20 patients have been admitted to a nearby hospital with dysentery and bloody diarrhea. [[View report](#)]

## USJFCOM

### Acute Diarrheal Syndrome – Russia

On 21 August, [AFMIC](#) reported an outbreak of acute diarrhea involving 700 cases in flood-ravaged areas of southwest Russia. Public health officials have quarantined recreation compounds until 1 September, distributed chlorine powder to disinfect water, and began local vaccinations for hepatitis A, leptospirosis, typhoid fever, and tetanus primarily in the suburbs of Novorossiysk. [[View report](#); requires registration]

### Dipyrrone Usage – California

On 21 August, the California Department of Health Services warned consumers that dipyrrone (metamizole) and products containing the drug can cause potentially fatal health problems and should not be consumed. Dipyrrone commonly is used for pain relief and as an anti-inflammatory drug. Dipyrrone has been known to cause a serious adverse reaction called agranulocytosis, a decrease in the number of white blood cells, which in turn may cause lesions of the throat and gastrointestinal tract. Dipyrrone has been sold illegally throughout California in products labeled Neo-Melubrina, Conmel, Magnopyrol, and Prodolina F, with sales reported at markets, gift shops, bakeries, swap meets, and other retail establishments. In the Latino community, dipyrrone is also sold in combination products labeled Buscapina-composition and Dolo-Neurobion. In the Asian Community, it is sold in the patent medicine Zhong Gan-Ling. [[View report](#)]

### *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, Shellfish – New York

On 23 August, the New York health commissioner issued a statewide advisory to all hospitals alerting them to potentially increased numbers of *Vibrio* infections in New York. State and local health officials are investigating a cluster of eight *V. parahaemolyticus* infections in state residents who consumed shellfish one or two days prior to becoming sick. Two additional cases have also occurred among Connecticut and New Jersey residents. Preliminary information indicates that the shellfish may have been harvested from a number of different sites in the Northeastern US coastal waters. The common clinical manifestation is self-limited gastroenteritis, but infections may result in septicemia that can be life threatening. The concentration of *V. parahaemolyticus* in seawater increases with rising water temperature and corresponds with seasonal, sporadically occurring cases in warmer months. [[View report](#)]

### West Nile Virus Surveillance – US

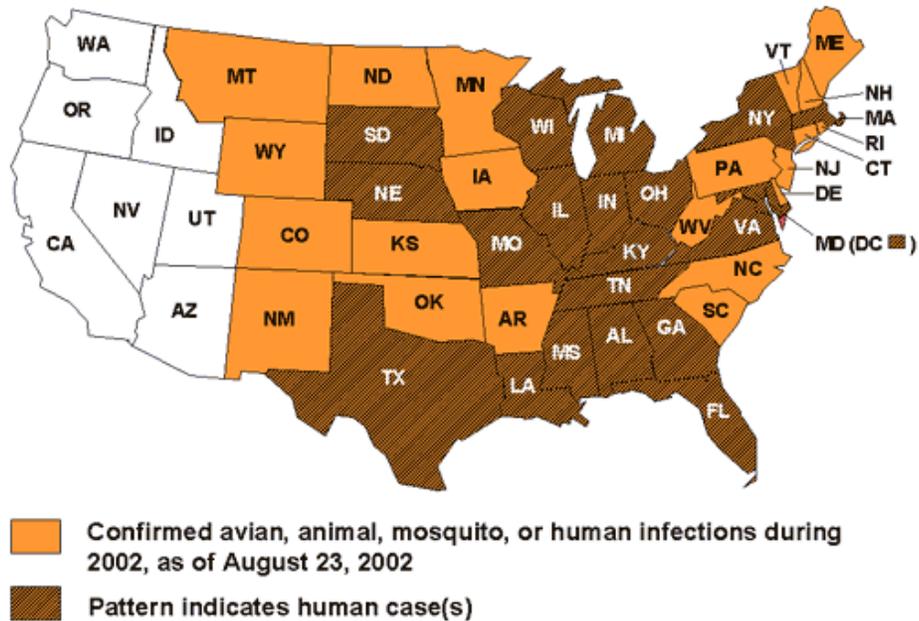
On 26 August, the [CDC](#) reported the below-listed human cases totals for 2002 that have been reported as of that date to Arbonet or compiled in direct communication with state/local health officials. WNV has now been reported for the first time in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico (see map below).

State	Total Confirmed/	Total	Cases	Deaths
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	Probable Human Cases	Deaths	Since Last Report	Since Last Report
Alabama	5		2	
District of Columbia	1			
Florida	1			
Georgia	6	2	6	2
Illinois	42	2	33	1
Indiana	6		5	
Kentucky	1	1	1	1
Louisiana	171	8	24	
Maryland	1		1	
Massachusetts	1			
Michigan	13	1	13	1
Mississippi	91	3	36	1
Missouri	15		10	
Nebraska	1		1	
New York	4		3	
Ohio	23	2	21	2
South Dakota	3		3	
Tennessee	3		3	
Texas	34	1	9	1
Virginia	1		1	
Wisconsin	2		2	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>9</b>

Human Case Totals of WNV for 2002 reported to the CDC as of 19 August 2002 as compared to last report of 12 August.

### West Nile Virus in the United States, 2002



## **West Nile Virus (WNV) Trial Therapy - US**

On 21 August, CNN reported the [FDA](#) has cleared the way for the first treatment trial using Intron A (interferon) for hospitalized patients with WNV. The lead researcher is Dr. James Rahal, director of infectious diseases at New York Hospital in Queens. The drug is FDA-approved for the treatment of hepatitis C. Researchers hope to enroll 40 patients as soon as possible. All patients age 50 and over in geographical areas with at least two confirmed cases of WNV will be eligible for the trial if they are hospitalized with meningitis. If blood tests confirm that a patient does not have WNV, then the Intron A treatment will be stopped immediately. Patients under 50 with a confirmed diagnosis of WNV will also be eligible, but they usually recover on their own without treatment and are less likely to progress beyond meningitis. The amount of Intron A given to WNV patients is a much lower dose than that given for long-term treatment of hepatitis C. [\[View report\]](#)

## **USPACOM**

### **[BSE](#) – Japan**

On 22 August, ProMED posted an Associated Press report on a new case of suspect BSE that would be Japan's fifth case if confirmed. The six-year-old Holstein cow tested positive for the disease during a regular inspection by health officials in Atsugi city, west of Tokyo. In September 2001, Japan became the first country to find BSE outside of Europe. Two other cows tested positive in November 2001, and a fourth case was confirmed in May 2002. Since regular screening of all cattle bound for human consumption began in October 2001, 95 cows have had positive tests, but only three of those tests were confirmed in follow-up examinations. All of the first four cases in Japan were fed with a calf milk-replacer from a common source. A Japanese delegation recently visited the Netherlands concerning the animal fat included in milk-replacers used in Japan; the results of the visit have not been disclosed. [\[View report\]](#)

### **Dengue Fever – Bangladesh**

On 21 August, ProMED reported that the [WHO](#) has termed the current dengue outbreak in Bangladesh an epidemic, as 2,363 persons are hospitalized and 33 persons dead during the past six weeks ending 18 August. The dengue threat will reportedly diminish in October when the influence of the monsoon ends. [\[View report\]](#)

### **Dengue Fever – Taiwan**

On 21 August, ProMED reported that 850 dengue cases have been reported in the city and county of Kaohsiung, three in Pingtung, and one each in Taipei city, Taipei County, Taoyuan County, Taichung City, Taichung County and Chiayi County. All the patients in cases occurring outside Kaohsiung – except for the one in Taipei City – had all

traveled to Kaohsiung, where they were likely infected. The case in Taipei City is the city's first domestic case of dengue fever in a woman aged between 20 and 30. The woman sought medical treatment on 30 July after visiting the offshore island of Penghu from 12-15 July. No cases of dengue fever had previously been reported from Penghu. The districts where the woman lived and worked were sprayed with pesticides, and none of the 169 residents in the two districts who underwent random blood tests were found to have the disease. The current epidemic is reportedly the worst since 1988, when more than 4,000 people were infected with dengue fever. [[View report](#)]

### **Flooding – Myanmar**

On 22 August, the [IFRC](#) reported that heavy rain and strong winds caused by a storm formed in the South China Sea seriously affected the southeastern region of Myanmar last week. According to the report, concerns exist about diarrhea, waterborne diseases, and influenza after the floodwaters recede. [[View report](#)]

### **Influenza – New Zealand**

On 23 August, the [WHO](#) reported that influenza activity has remained at epidemic levels during July but has declined from widespread to regional levels since the second week of August. The Eastern Bay of Plenty remains the most affected area. Outbreaks have been associated with influenza A (H3N2), but influenza B was also co-circulating. To date, no influenza A (H1N1) has been isolated. [[View report](#)]

### **Ross River Virus – Australia**

On 20 August, News.com.au reported a record number of Ross River virus cases are being seen this year in Tasmania, primarily in the Clarence municipality. Thus far in 2002, 188 people have been infected compared to 13 last year, eight in 2000, 67 in 1999, nine in 1998, and the previous record of 74 cases in 1996. The increased cases are being blamed on high rainfall in Tasmania last spring and summer. Symptoms usually last for two to four weeks and in the large majority of the cases are gone in three months. In a small minority of cases in which patients experience severe arthritic aches and pains around the joints, it could take 18 months for a full recovery. [[View report](#)]

### **Toxic Jellyfish – Thailand**

On 25 August, ProMED reported that two tourists were fatally stung by jellyfish while swimming earlier this month in the waters off Koh Pha Ngan island in Thailand. The deaths on the island, which is known for hosting all-night rave parties, have prompted local authorities to warn tourists against swimming in the sea during the monsoon season, when the deadly jellyfish are frequently washed toward the beach by rough seas. [[View report](#)]

## **Wildfires and Haze – Indonesia**

On 19 August, NASA reported that haze from scores of fires is thick over the Indonesian island of Borneo. The region has recurrent trouble with smoke and pollutants from wildfires, which are often the result of slash-and-burn agriculture. In addition to being a health hazard, the smoke can disrupt air traffic, as it did recently in Malaysia, on the northwest portion of Borneo. [[View report](#)]

## **USSOUTHCOM**

### **Dengue Fever – Costa Rica**

On 21 August, [AFMIC](#) reported a doubling in dengue fever cases outside San Jose compared to 2001, which resulted in the opening of a new wing for dengue patients in area hospitals. [[View report](#); requires registration]

### **Dengue Fever – Guatemala**

On 21 August, ProMED reported that dengue cases in Guatemala were continuing to rise as of 12 August when two new cases of [DHF](#) and 29 cases of dengue fever were reported, bringing the total number of cases this year to 53 for DHF and 2,065 for dengue fever. The Ministry reported that 34 suspect cases were also undergoing laboratory tests for confirmation. [[View report](#)]

### **Dengue Fever – Mexico**

On 21 August, ProMED reported 12 Mexican states have issued health alerts after five people died from [DHF](#) in recent weeks. The country has recorded 2,300 cases of dengue fever this year, 300 of which were DHF. Ministry officials noted that despite the gravity of the situation, the problem is not as serious as it was in 1998, when 50,000 cases of dengue fever were reported in Mexico. [[View report](#)]

### **Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever – Puerto Rico**

On 26 August, ProMED reported that health authorities suspect that a 15-year-old female resident of the southwestern municipality of Lajas could be the island's first 2002 fatality from [DHF](#). Blood samples arrived at the CDC on 20 August for analysis. [[View report](#)]

### **Dengue Fever – Trinidad and Tobago**

On 21 August, [AFMIC](#) reported an ongoing outbreak of dengue fever in Trinidad and Tobago since January 2002 as well as a "mystery virus" that mimics dengue but might not be transmitted by mosquitoes. Reported cases of dengue fever are more than double those for the same period over the last two years. Dengue serotypes 2 and 3 have been reported. [[View report](#); requires registration]

## **Flooding – Mexico**

On 21 August, [AFMIC](#) reported an increased risk of vector-borne, waterborne, and foodborne disease associated with flooding in Mexico. Torrential rains since 14 August resulted in the bursting of the Ventanillas dam and subsequent flooding in the San Luis Potosi region. [[View report](#); requires registration]

Please contact the below-listed POC for suggested improvements and/or comments regarding this report. This report is also available on the USACHPPM website at <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/Hioupdate/>.

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## ACRONYMS

ACIP - Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices  
AFMIC - Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center  
AFIS – American Forces Information Service  
AP – Associated Press  
ATP – Adenosine Tri-phosphate  
ATSDR – Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
AVIP - Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program  
BCG - Bacille Calmette-Guerin Vaccine against Tuberculosis  
BMJ – British Medical Journal  
BSE – Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy  
CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
CDR – Communicable Disease Report (England)  
CFR – Case Fatality Rate  
DARPA – Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency; <http://www.darpa.mil/>  
DENIX – Defense Environmental Network & Information eXchange [sic]  
DHHS – Department of Health and Human Services  
DoD - Department of Defense  
DOE – Department of Energy  
DOS – Department of State  
DTRA – Defense Threat Reduction Agency  
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency  
ESSENCE – Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics  
EU – European Union  
FBI – Federal Bureau of Investigation  
FDA – Food and Drug Administration  
GPS – Global Positioning System  
HIV/AIDS – Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome  
IDP – Internally Displaced Persons  
IFRC – International Federal of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
IND – Investigational New Drug  
IRIN - Integrated Regional Information Networks, part of the [UN](#) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).  
JAMA – Journal of the American Medical Association  
NEJM – New England Journal of Medicine  
NGO - Non-Governmental Organization  
NIH – National Institutes of Health  
NIOSH – National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
OCHA – United Nation’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs  
OIE – World Organisation [sic] for Animal Health  
OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
PNAS – Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences  
SCIEH – Scottish Centre [sic] for Infection and Environmental Health  
TB – Tuberculosis  
TSE – Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy  
UK – United Kingdom – England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales  
UN – United Nations  
UPI – United Press International  
USAMRIID - United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases  
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture  
USPSTF – United States Preventive Services Task Force  
vCJD - variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease  
VOA – Voice of America, an international multimedia broadcasting service funded by the US Government  
WHO – World Health Organization  
WMD – Weapons of Mass Destruction