

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

6 June 2002

The HIO Update provides information regarding global medical and veterinary issues of interest to the United States (US) Army. The HIO 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.

HOT ISSUES .....	2
Anthrax Toxin Protection - Recombinant Antibody Fragments.....	2
Blood Donation Screening Updates - US .....	2
Blooborne Pathogens - OSHA Revised Fact Sheets.....	2
Counterterrorism Study - National Academies.....	3
Plague Treatments - FDA.....	3
Respirators for First Responders - NIOSH.....	3
Smallpox Forums - CDC .....	4
Smallpox Research - CDC.....	4
Terrorism Pocket Guides - Veterans Administration .....	4
Updated Fact Sheets - WHO .....	4
USCENTCOM .....	5
BSE - Israel.....	5
Cholera - Afghanistan.....	5
Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) - Iran.....	5
Cutaneous Leishmaniasis (CL) - Afghanistan.....	5
Malaria - Afghanistan.....	6
Undiagnosed Deaths - Pakistan .....	6
Unexploded Ordinance (UXO) and Environmental Damage - Afghanistan .....	6
USEUCOM .....	6
BSE - Poland .....	6
Bubonic Plague - Malawi and Mozambique .....	7
Cryptosporidiosis Outbreak - Ireland .....	7
HIV/AIDS - Zimbabwe .....	7
Norwalk-like Virus (NLV) Outbreak - London Hospital .....	8
Nurse Prescribers - UK.....	8
Pesticide Contamination - Mali .....	8
USJFCOM.....	8
Air Contaminants - World Trade Center (WTC) Disaster Site .....	8
Avian Influenza - Virginia.....	9
Influenza B - Oregon .....	9
Mass Casualty (MASCAL) Exercise - New Mexico.....	9
New Drug and Biological Product Regulation Amendments - FDA.....	9
Nursing Shortage - US.....	10
Salmonellosis Investigation Concluded - Texas.....	10
Veterinary Drug Recall - US .....	10

West Nile Virus - Louisiana, Texas Next? .....	10
USPACOM.....	11
Cholera - Hong Kong .....	11
Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) - South Korea .....	11
Neonatal Hepatitis B Vaccine - China.....	11
USSOUTHCOM .....	11
Avian Influenza - Chile .....	11
Dengue Fever - Venezuela .....	12
Flooding - Central America.....	12
Flooding - Haiti and Jamaica.....	12
ACRONYMNS .....	14

## HOT ISSUES

### **Anthrax Toxin Protection - Recombinant Antibody Fragments**

The June issue of Nature Biotechnology reports that a group of scientists have engineered a panel of toxin-neutralizing antibodies that compete with the cellular receptor for binding of the protective antigen of anthrax in both an *in vitro* cell culture assay and in an *in vivo* rat model. The authors reported that these antibodies may have therapeutic value in alleviating symptoms of anthrax toxin in infected individuals for medium-term prophylaxis to infection. The article is at Maynard JA, Maassen CBM, Leppla SH, Brasky K, Patterson JL, Iverson BL, and Georgiou G. Protection against anthrax toxin by recombinant antibody fragments correlates with antigen affinity. Nature Biotechnology 20, 597-600 (2002). A media review is at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/health/newsid\\_2018000/2018665.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/health/newsid_2018000/2018665.stm).

### **Blood Donation Screening Updates - US**

On 31 May, Cable News Network (CNN) reported on a concern from blood donation centers about an estimated loss of more than 300,000 blood donations as a result of [FDA's](#) stricter limitations on blood donors that screen for potential [BSE](#) exposure, which went into effect on 31 May. The new requirements prevent people from donating blood if they have (1) lived in France for five years or more beginning in 1980, (2) visited or lived in Britain for three months or more between 1980 and 1996, (3) received a blood transfusion in Britain during or after 1980, or (4) current or former military personnel and their dependents who spent six months or more on military bases in northern Europe from 1980-1990 or in southern Europe from 1980-1996. The report is at <http://www.cnn.com/2002/HEALTH/05/31/new.blood.rules.reut/index.html>.

### **Blooborne Pathogens - [OSHA](#) Revised Fact Sheets**

On 31 May, OSHA announced a newly revised Bloodborne Pathogens fact sheet that explains what bloodborne pathogens are, protections offered by OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogen standard, and steps employers can take to protect their workers. The fact sheets are at [http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data\\_BloodborneFacts/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_BloodborneFacts/index.html).

## Counterterrorism Study - National Academies

On 29 May, the National Academies announced that it expects to complete the first phase of its science and technology counterterrorism study in late June. The first phase addresses risks and research needs in key areas of vulnerability: human, animal, and agricultural health systems; toxic chemicals and explosive materials; nuclear and radiological hazards; information technology; transportation and distribution systems; energy systems; cities and fixed infrastructure; people; and interdependent systems.

The press release is at

[http://www4.nationalacademies.org/news.nsf/\(ByDocID\)/2673CD106339341785256BC800706404?OpenDocument](http://www4.nationalacademies.org/news.nsf/(ByDocID)/2673CD106339341785256BC800706404?OpenDocument)

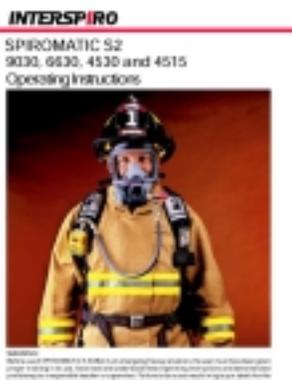
## Plague Treatments - [FDA](#)

On 30 May, the FDA posted a notice in the Federal Register announcing the expected availability of FY 2002 funds for awarding grants to support clinical trials on the safety and effectiveness of drug products for the treatment of human plague (bubonic, pneumonic, meningitic, or septicemic) caused by *Yersinia pestis*. The grant program is part of FDA's counter-terrorism efforts. The notice is at

<http://www.fda.gov/OHRMS/DOCKETS/98fr/053002e.pdf>.

## Respirators for First Responders - [NIOSH](#)

On 3 June, the NIOSH issued its first approval of respirators for occupational use by emergency responders against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear agents. NIOSH approved Spiromatic Models 9030, 6630, and 4530, manufactured by Interspiro USA Inc., Branford, Connecticut. The respirators are a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) that provide users with air from a pressurized cylinder or tank carried on the back. The approval signifies that the products are expected to protect firefighters and other responders from chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear exposures in the line of duty. The report is at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/interspup.html>.



## **Smallpox Forums - [CDC](#)**

On 30 May, the CDC announced that public forums would be held on 6, 8, and 11 June to provide health professionals and the general public with information about smallpox and smallpox vaccine, and to solicit comments on the use of smallpox vaccine before and after a potential smallpox outbreak or bioterrorist attack. The National Academy of Science (NAS) will hold a scientific forum on 15 June in Washington DC to obtain input from scientists, clinicians, and other about the options for smallpox vaccine use. The NAS Forum will be broadcast live (audio only) on the Internet at <http://www.iom.edu/iom/iomhome.nsf/18ace18eb695f74c85256691007102f5/60515167fc6d0ffe85256a1500627d81?OpenDocument>. The [ACIP](#) will then meet in Atlanta on 19-20 June to formulate recommendations to be presented to the CDC and [DHHS](#). The news release is at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/smallpox/News.htm>.

## **Smallpox Research - [CDC](#)**

On 2 June, the *Washington Post* reported that the CDC would dedicate one of its two maximum-containment laboratories to smallpox-only research for an indefinite period. According to the report, the CDC took this step reluctantly since it reduces the capacity to study other highly lethal diseases such as Ebola. The decision was reportedly made to speed the race to create an arsenal of protection beyond the current vaccine that is today's only defense. Some of the research will focus on: (1) creation of a gene-based test that could detect smallpox infection days before the characteristic rash, possibly allowing quarantine before the person is contagious; *in vitro* studies were accurate at spotting four copies of a viral gene in blood; (2) further development of an experimental smallpox test that is capable of diagnosing a new mutant version of the related *Vaccinia* virus that could prove crucial in pinpointing the source of an outbreak; (3) completion of gene mapping and hunting for a safer vaccine and new drug targets. The report is at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A46413-2002Jun2.html>.

## **Terrorism Pocket Guides - Veterans Administration**

The Veterans Administration recently posted pocket guides on (1) Biological Terrorism, (2) Terrorism with Ionizing Radiation, and (3) Chemical Terrorism, which are available at [http://www.oqp.med.va.gov/cpg/BCR/BCR\\_Base.htm](http://www.oqp.med.va.gov/cpg/BCR/BCR_Base.htm).

## **Updated Fact Sheets - [WHO](#)**

The WHO recently released two updated fact sheets: poliomyelitis and non-polio enteroviruses. The ten polio-endemic countries are divided into areas with high-intensity transmission (India, Pakistan/Afghanistan, and Nigeria/Niger) or low-intensity transmission (Somalia/Sudan/Ethiopia, Angola, and Egypt). Enteroviruses are found worldwide and humans are the only known natural hosts. Transmission is increased by poor hygiene and overcrowded living conditions. These viruses are resistant to many disinfectants but remain susceptible to chlorinated bleach or iodized disinfectants. Enteroviruses can result in the closing of schools or childcare facilities in order to

reduce transmission especially among young children. The poliomyelitis fact sheet is at <http://www.who.int/inf-fs/en/fact114.html>, and the non-polio enterovirus fact sheet is at <http://www.who.int/inf-fs/en/fact174.html>.

## **USCENTCOM**

### **BSE - Israel**

On 4 June, the *Jerusalem Post* announced that a 10-year old Holstein cow born in Beit She'an and raised in the Golan Heights area died earlier in the week from symptoms suggestive of BSE. According to ProMED-mail, the Chief Veterinary Officer of Israel stated that confirmatory results were positive for BSE on 4 June. The cohorts (3) of the deceased cow and her two living progeny have been put under quarantine pending destruction. The slaughter of bovines older than 30 months throughout Israel was banned since the preliminary diagnosis. A planned BSE-control action scheme is being put into operation, which includes testing of all slaughtered cattle over 30 months of age and destruction of all specified risk material. Israel banned mammal meat-and-bone meal from the [UK](#) in 1988 and from all countries in 1990. The reports are at <http://www.jpost.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=JPost/A/JPArticle/Full&cid=1022691079156> and [http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:244576::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAG E,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1000,18410](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:244576::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAG E,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,18410).

### **Cholera - Afghanistan**

On 26 May, the [WHO](#) announced that Inter-Agency Cholera Task Forces have been put in place in Kabul, Faizabad, Mazar, Herat, and Jalalabad due to increasing concerns about cholera outbreaks with the onset of warm weather during the summer months. Lack of latrines and safe drinking water are particular concerns. The task forces conduct preventive activities such as health education, chlorination of shallow well and water sources, disease surveillance, transport of lab specimens to confirm outbreak(s), and preparation of medical supplies. Malnourished children are particularly prone to death from diarrhea. Outbreak season in Afghanistan is mid-June through the end of August. The WHO states that half of Afghanistan's children have stunted growth due to malnutrition. The report is at <http://www.who.int/disasters/repo/7758.doc>.

### **Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) - Iran**

On 30 May, [AFMIC](#) reported that warmer weather will likely lead to an increase in cases of CCHF in Iran. The report is at <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/> (requires registration).

### **Cutaneous Leishmaniasis (CL) - Afghanistan**

On 22 May, the [WHO](#) reported an estimated 200,000 cases of CL in Kabul. The WHO predicts that repatriation efforts and movement of IDPs will likely increase the incidence of this disease within the coming months. CL has been endemic in Afghanistan for

several years with foci of zoonotic (animal reservoir to human) transmission mainly in the northern provinces and anthroponotic (human to human) transmission usually in large cities. The WHO is collaborating with other agencies to form an emergency action plan to control the spread of CL in Kabul by the end of 2003. Priority interventions include provision of impregnated bednets, early treatment of cases with first line drugs, recruitment and training of intervention teams, and health education. The report is at <http://www.who.int/disease-outbreak-news/n2002/may/22may2002.html>.

### **Malaria - Afghanistan**

On 28 May, the British Broadcasting Council (BBC) News reported that an Iranian radio station announced that an outbreak of malaria was occurring in the Balkhab in the northern province of Sar-e Pol Province in Afghanistan. According to the report, deaths had occurred. No further information was provided.

### **Undiagnosed Deaths - Pakistan**

On 21, 25, and 30 May, ProMED-mail reported on an outbreak of an unknown etiology resulting in 35 cases with 10 deaths in the village of Malik, which is 10 kilometers from Moro near the Indus River. Symptoms include a blackening of the patient's hands and feet followed by swelling of the head, severe fever, and death. According to the reports the "classic" causes of epidemic gangrene are ergotism and typhus. The reports can all be accessed at

[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:243573::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAGE,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1010,18370](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:243573::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,18370).

### **Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Environmental Damage - Afghanistan**

On 4 June, the [UN OCHA](#) reported that an Afghanistan [NGO](#), an implementing partner of the UN's mine-action programme [sic], would conduct a three-month survey to determine areas affected by UXO in Kabul, the southern province of Kandahar, the northern provinces of Konduz and Mazar-e-Sharif, and Paktia in the east. The survey will include an environmental damage assessment caused by the UXO and will identify mines in areas that were previously inaccessible during the ongoing civil war in Afghanistan. According to the report, Afghanistan is one of the most heavily mined countries in the world, with up to 300 people dying from UXO and mines every month. The report is at <http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=28120>.

## **USEUCOM**

### **[BSE](#) - Poland**

On 31 May, the [OIE](#) clarified information regarding the destruction of three cows during an investigation into the first BSE case detected in Poland on 4 May. Because the identification and registration system in Poland has not been finalized, Polish authorities decided to perform genetic tests to confirm the relationship between two animals kept in

the same pen with the cow diagnosed with BSE and another cow thought to be the mother. The tests revealed no relationship with the two cohort animals but did confirm the relationship with the cow considered to be the mother of the case. The investigation will continue to establish the genealogy of the case and a feed history. The report is at [http://www.oie.int/eng/info/hebdo/AIS\\_69.HTM](http://www.oie.int/eng/info/hebdo/AIS_69.HTM) - Sec0.

### **Bubonic Plague - Malawi and Mozambique**

On 31 May, the [UN OCHA](#) reported that Malawi's existing health challenges of cholera, malnutrition, malaria, and [HIV/AIDS](#) have been joined by 71 cases of bubonic plague reported in the far south of the country since April. Outbreaks of bubonic plague have occurred in the Nsanje district, the southernmost part of the country, since 1994 with the number of cases peaking at 304 in 1999. However, there were no reported cases for the two years before April. According to the report, bubonic plague has also been reported in Mozambique, resulting in cross-border collaboration. The report is at <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/480fa8736b88bbc3c12564f6004c8ad5/65c64abc437a44be49256bcd000b30cd?OpenDocument>.

### **Cryptosporidiosis Outbreak - Ireland**

On 30 May, the Eurosurveillance Weekly reported the first outbreak of cryptosporidiosis associated with a public water supply. The outbreak was identified when the Department of Public Health noted that the number of cases reported by a laboratory had increased to 13 cases in April-May from a background of one to two cases per month. The contaminated water source was a spring-fed lake serving a population of about 25,000. The water was chlorinated but not filtered. The area surrounding the lake is predominantly farmland. *Cryptosporidium* oocysts were detected in one domestic tap sample, two filtered samples from the lake, and environmental samples taken at a number of farms in the area. Meteorological data revealed a period of dry weather followed by very heavy rains, which would have facilitated the ingress of animal excrement into the lake. The outbreak remains ongoing. Water testing is continuing and remedial measures for farming practices are being undertaken. The local authority is planning to implement a filtration system. The report is at [http://www.eurosurv.org/2002/pfp/020530\\_pfp.htm](http://www.eurosurv.org/2002/pfp/020530_pfp.htm).

### **[HIV/AIDS](#) - Zimbabwe**

On 28 May, the [UN OCHA](#) reported the Zimbabwe government had declared a state of emergency, effective for six months, due to HIV/AIDS. The declaration will allow the government and other authorized people to make or use any patented drug used in the treatment of HIV/AIDS or HIV/AIDS-related conditions. According to the report, confusion exists regarding which specific drugs were targeted for importation and/or manufacture. The report is at <http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=27998>.

## **Norwalk-like Virus (NLV) Outbreak - London Hospital**

On 30 May, the [CDR Weekly](#) reported an outbreak of NLV from a district general hospital in northeast London. Four cases were identified on 21 May with cases increasing by 10-15 new cases per day. NLV was identified by electron microscopy in three of the early cases. Over 80 patients and 70 staff were affected across 13 different wards, including an elderly care ward and an intensive care treatment unit. The Emergency Department was closed temporarily. Symptoms included mild-to-moderate diarrhea and vomiting lasting 24-48 hours. A prominent symptom is projectile vomiting, which can lead to widespread environmental contamination and indirect but rapid person-to-person spread. According to the report, NLV is the most common cause of infectious intestinal disease in the [UK](#), Netherlands, and the US. The report is at [http://www.phls.co.uk/publications/CDR Weekly/PDF files/2002/cdr2202.pdf](http://www.phls.co.uk/publications/CDR%20Weekly/PDF%20files/2002/cdr2202.pdf).

## **Nurse Prescribers - [UK](#)**

On 30 May, the BBC News reported that the first group of UK supplementary nurse prescribers would be fully qualified by the end of the year. The nurses will be able to prescribe treatments for long-term conditions such as asthma and diabetes as well as hormone replacement therapy and anti-coagulation treatment. The report is at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/health/newsid\\_2016000/2016110.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/health/newsid_2016000/2016110.stm).

## **Pesticide Contamination - Mali**

On 27 May, the [UN OCHA](#) reported that no human activity is possible at Gao Poudriere and at a site near the village of Tin-essako in northern Mali due to expired pesticide contamination of 20,000 metric tons of earth. The areas have reportedly been walled in and their soil covered with a film of plastic to prevent water runoff from contaminating other areas. Annefice, a polluted well near Gao Poudriere, has been closed since 1998. According to the report, the dieldrin content at Gao Poudriere is 1,190 mg/kg of earth. Dieldrin is a restricted use insecticide because it accumulates in animal tissues. The report is at <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.asp?ReportID=27978>.

## **USJFCOM**

### **Air Contaminants - World Trade Center (WTC) Disaster Site**

On 31 May, the [CDC](#) reported that workers at the WTC site were not exposed to hazardous levels of toxic air contaminants (such as asbestos and silica dust) during 18 September - 4 October rescue and recovery operations after the 11 September terrorist attack. High exposures to carbon monoxide (CO) and cadmium during specific job tasks were found. One torch cutter was overexposed to cadmium; another worker was overexposed to CO while cutting metal beams with an oxy-acetylene torch or a gasoline-powered saw; and two more were possibly overexposed to CO. [NIOSH](#) has issued guidelines for addressing a variety of occupational safety and health hazards at

similar disaster sites, which is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/emhaz2.html>. The report is at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5121a1.htm>.

### **Avian Influenza - Virginia**

On 24 May, *Newsleader.com* reported that a spokesperson for the Virginia Department of Agriculture stated that the average number of farms quarantined per week had dropped from between four and 11 during the past few months to 2.5 during the past week. The comment was made at the first farm out of at least 165 farms to refuse a depopulation order. Reporters described strict biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of the virus, which can be carried by wind, vehicles, birds, or people. The report is at <http://www.newsleader.com/news/stories/20020524/topstories/370752.html>.

### **Influenza B - Oregon**

On 24 May, the Oregon Department of Human Services announced that influenza B was identified as the source of illness among schoolchildren in Klamath County. The influenza B cases were discovered as part of a public health investigation into higher-than-average levels of absenteeism in a few Klamath County schools. The specific strain of influenza B is not yet known. Public health officials are not recommending vaccination based on inconclusive testing, the fact that influenza B typically causes mild illness, and the fact that cases of influenza B/Victoria lineage were identified in the US during the 2001-02 influenza season. The 2001-02 influenza vaccine B component is expected to provide lower levels of protection against viruses of the influenza B/Victoria lineage. The report is at <http://www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/news/2002/0524acd.htm>.

### **Mass Casualty (MASCAL) Exercise - New Mexico**

On 28 May, the Central and Northern Regional Trauma Advisory Councils of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Region I announced that a MASCAL exercise would occur from 3-9 June and involve 13 counties of central and northern New Mexico. EMS Region I contains over 50% of the state's population and handles over 80% of the 911 response calls. The exercise will use the Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment (START) system. START uses a standard process for the classification of patients, using color-coded tags associated with the severity of the injury or illness. The debriefing will evaluate successful and best practices, as well as identify areas for performance and process improvement. The report is at <http://www.health.state.nm.us/press/05-28-02Triage.htm>.

### **New Drug and Biological Product Regulation Amendments - [FDA](#)**

On 30 May, the FDA announced that a final rule, which was published in the Federal Register on 31 May, would help improve the nation's ability to respond to emergencies, including terrorist events. Under this new rule, certain new drug and biological products used to reduce or prevent the toxicity of chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear substances may be approved for use in humans based on evidence of effectiveness

derived only from appropriate animal studies and any additional supporting data. Products evaluated for effectiveness under this new rule will be evaluated for safety under preexisting requirements for establishing the safety of new drug and biological products. The report is at <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2002/NEW00811.html>.

### **Nursing Shortage - US**

On 4 June, the [DHHS](#) announced a series of grants totaling more than \$30 million to help ease the shortage of nurses across the country. The grants will help pay for education and to increase the number of nurses with advanced degrees. The DHHS Secretary had identified the nursing shortage as a critical national priority early in his tenure. The report is at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2002pres/20020604.html>.

### **Salmonellosis Investigation Concluded - Texas**

On 29 May, the Texas Department of Health announced that it had ended an eight-week long investigation of a salmonellosis outbreak in people who had consumed food or beverages at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel in Dallas in March and April. The investigation found that a hotel food-service worker who did not have symptoms of the illness but who later tested positive might have been the source of the outbreak. The food most commonly consumed by those who tested positive for salmonellosis was salsa, which was made in the hotel. Some 50 people were confirmed to have salmonellosis and 650 people from all 50 states reported having had symptoms consistent with the illness. Nine other food service employees also became ill and tested positive for *Salmonella*. Preventive countermeasures taken during the outbreak included serving bottled water, purchasing commercially prepared ice, temporarily relocating the main banquet food preparation to a secondary kitchen, and requiring food handlers to show negative tests for *Salmonella* before being allowed to work. The report is at [http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/news/b\\_new417.htm](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/news/b_new417.htm).

### **Veterinary Drug Recall - US**

On 31 May, the [FDA](#) announced a nationwide recall of Miracle Leg Paint<sup>®</sup> for horses because the product contains a mercuric chloride blistering agent, a poison to animals and humans. All products remaining on the market are subject to this recall. Consumers and veterinarians who have purchased this veterinary drug are advised to not use it but to instead destroy the product by contacting their local waste management services. The product was distributed nationwide to veterinarians, dealers, and consumers. The report is at [http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/equine05\\_02.html](http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/equine05_02.html).

### **West Nile Virus - Louisiana, Texas Next?**

On 26 May, ProMED-mail reported the third equine death in Louisiana for this year occurred earlier this month. Although no cases in humans or animals have been found in Texas, a health official reportedly said infection was "imminent." The report is at

[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:244750::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK PAGE,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1010,18333](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:244750::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,18333).

## **USPACOM**

### **Cholera - Hong Kong**

On 23 May, the Hong Kong Department of Health announced the confirmation of the first cholera case for 2002. An 81-year-old woman living in Kwun Tong had diarrhea on 12 May and was admitted to the hospital on 22 May. A total of 38 confirmed cholera cases were reported in Hong Kong last year (2001) of which 25 were considered locally-acquired. The report is at <http://www.info.gov.hk/dh/new/bulletin/02-05-23e.htm>.

### **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) - South Korea**

On 3 June, NineMSN reported that South Korea had confirmed a new case of FMD in pigs at a farm in Pyongtaek, 70 kilometers south of Seoul. According to the report 1,551 pigs were ordered destroyed on the 13th farm to be hit by the epizootic. The new case was outside the quarantine cordon around the other 12 farms. Quarantine authorities have already slaughtered more than 120,000 animals since the first case was reported on 2 May. Pyongtaek is 30 kilometers south of Suwon, one of 10 South Korean cities holding World Cup matches. The European Union has warned football fans to be careful about their movements to avoid spreading the outbreak. The report is at [http://news.ninemsn.com.au/Health/story\\_32915.asp](http://news.ninemsn.com.au/Health/story_32915.asp).

### **Neonatal Hepatitis B Vaccine - China**

On 1 June, the *New York Times* reported that China plans to vaccinate all newborns against hepatitis B within the next five years. According to the report, about 60% of Chinese people will get the hepatitis B virus, and 10% will become chronic sufferers. Liver cancer, although rare in the US, is the leading cause of cancer deaths in China. [UN](#) studies have demonstrated that 1/3 of Chinese children have contracted hepatitis B by the time they are five years old. Funding for the program will include money to purchase vaccines, train health care workers, and provide 500 million syringes with a disabling device to prevent reuse. A major route of transmission is through the reuse of syringes. The report is at (requires free registration) <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/06/02/international/asia/02HEPA.html>.

## **USSOUTHCOM**

### **Avian Influenza - Chile**

On 31 May, the [OIE](#) reported that the Department of Animal Protection in Chile had detected a higher than normal mortality rate among hens in a hen breeding farm in the Province of San Antonio, Fifth Region (Valparaíso). Preliminary results indicate serological evidence of avian influenza infection using [ELISA](#) and [AGID](#). Pending tests

will determine if the virus strain involved has the virulence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). This is the first time that positive serology of avian influenza has ever been detected in Chile. Since January 2000, more than 70,000 serological tests have been performed with negative results. The report is at [http://www.oie.int/eng/info/hebdo/AIS\\_69.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/info/hebdo/AIS_69.htm).

### **Dengue Fever - Venezuela**

On 4 June, ProMED-mail reported that the Venezuelan health authorities have issued an epidemiological alert in several regions of the country due to a dramatic increase in the number of cases of several infectious diseases, e.g., malaria, measles, and dengue fever. According to the report the situation regarding dengue fever is particularly alarming with 18,330 cases reported in the whole country of which 9% have dengue hemorrhagic fever. The number of cases reported represents an increase of 7,784 cases (73.8%) compared to the same period last year. The states most severely affected are Zulia (6,542), Lara (2,002), Merida (1,893), and Tachira (1,135). The report is at [http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:244804::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAG E,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1000,18395](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:244804::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAG E,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,18395).

### **Flooding - Central America**

On 31 May, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies reported significant flooding in Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. In Costa Rica, an estimated 8,000 families have been affected with 600 houses damaged, one bridge destroyed, and 6,000 people evacuated of which 4,800 remain in shelters. Wells have been contaminated and rural aqueducts destroyed. The province of Limón was most severely affected. In Honduras floods and landslides have affected 13 communities of which three have been totally cut off by floodwaters. The departments of Olancho, Francisco Morazán, El Paraíso, and Valle are most severely affected. In Nicaragua the government declared a status of yellow alert and launched a request for international assistance after torrential rain flooded hundreds of homes and damaged roads and bridges. Approximately 9,000 people have been affected of which 2,000 people have been evacuated, mostly in Managua and on the Pacific coast. In Panama, flooding and landslides occurred in Bocas del Toro, several districts of Panama City, and in San Miguelito where a total of 1,500 people are affected. Weather forecasts called for rain to continue. A Nicaraguan health official predicted an increase in illness as stagnant pools of water serve as a breeding ground for the vectors of dengue and malaria. The reports are at [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?rpts02/cmflooding3.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts02/cmflooding3.pdf) and <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/c29326f284670bd3c1256bca0046c910?OpenDocument>.

### **Flooding - Haiti and Jamaica**

On 31 May, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies reported torrential rains had produced flash floods over the southern part of Haiti

resulting in 12 deaths and 20 missing persons. Housing and infrastructure were severely damaged with loss of cattle and crops. Some roads remain impassable. A state of emergency will likely be declared in the south of the country. In Jamaica, at least seven people died and 240 were evacuated after seven days of heavy rain, which caused flooding and landslides particularly in the south and east of the country. At least 145 persons will require emergency shelter for at least three months due to severe damage to the agricultural and poultry sectors. Flooding can increase the threat of vectorborne diseases. The report is at [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?rpts02/jamfl1.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts02/jamfl1.pdf).

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/Hiupdate/>.

POC: Barbara E. Davis, DVM, MPH/MCHB-CS-OHD/584-7663  
<mailto:Barbara.Davis1@APG.amedd.army.mil>

## ACRONYMNS

ACIP - Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices  
AFMIC - Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center  
AFPS – American Forces Press Service  
AGID - Agar Gel Immunodiffusion  
AVIP - Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program  
BMJ - British Medical Journal  
BSE – Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy  
CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
CDR – Communicable Disease Report (England)  
DARPA – Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the central research/development organization for the DoD  
DHHS – Department of Health and Human Services  
DoD - Department of Defense  
DOE – Department of Energy  
DOS – Department of State  
DOT – Department of Transportation  
EISS – European Influenza Surveillance Scheme  
ELISA - Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay  
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency  
ESSENCE – Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics  
FDA – Food and Drug Administration  
FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FMD – Foot and Mouth Disease  
FSIS – Food Safety Inspection Service  
GAO – US General Accounting Office  
HIV/AIDS – Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome  
IAEA - International Atomic Energy Agency  
IDP – Internally Displaced Persons  
ICRC – International Committee of the Red Cross  
IRCS – International Red Cross Society'  
MOU - Memorandum of Understanding  
MSDS - Material Safety Data Sheet  
NAS – National Academy of Sciences  
NGO - Non-Governmental Organization  
NIH – National Institutes of Health  
NIOSH – National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
NRC – Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
OCHA - Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs  
OIE – World Organisation [sic] for Animal Health  
OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
PAHO - Pan American Health Organization  
PCR – Polymerase Chain Reaction  
PPE - Personal Protective Equipment  
TB – Tuberculosis  
UK – United Kingdom – England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales  
UN – United Nations  
UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
USAID - United States Agency for International Development  
USAMRIID - United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases  
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture  
USPS - United States Postal Service  
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