

12 July 2019

# Army Public Health Weekly Update

Army Public Health Center



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## U.S. MILITARY

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### Air Force Medical Service unveils new model for active duty care

2 July- In an effort to return more Airmen to duty quicker, the Air Force is rolling out a new medical model to restore the overall readiness of our military. Under the new Air Force Medical Reform model, dedicated provider care teams will be aligned to an Operational Medical Readiness Squadron primarily focused on proactively treating active duty Airmen and improving their availability to support the warfighting mission. Care for non-active duty patients, primarily the families of service members and military retirees, will be handled by separate provider teams aligned to a Health Care Operations Squadron. "This new structure optimizes both functions and allows us to return airmen back to full mission capability as quickly as possible without decrementing care to our beneficiaries," said Air Force Lt. Col. Robert Corby, chief of Medical Manpower and Personnel, Office of the Air Force Surgeon General. "Restructuring where care is delivered lets our providers focus on each group to improve the quality of care, create efficiencies, and most importantly, get injured or ill Airmen back into the fight more quickly." The model is based on a pilot the 366th Medical Group, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho began in summer 2018. The group reorganized into two squadrons with the goal of returning Airmen to duty as quickly as possible. The pilot initially launched as part a wing-wide initiative for the 366th Fighter Wing. Since the initial rollout, the 366th MDG has seen promising results. "We had more than 400 Airmen on the base who were considered "non-mission capable" when we launched in March 2018," said Air Force Col. Steven Ward, the 366th MDG commander. "In six months, we reduced that number by nearly one-fourth. Our provider teams focused relentlessly on getting Airmen back into the fight." Provider teams were able to holistically treat Airmen instead of waiting for an Airman to seek out care. They visit with Airmen in their duty locations to understand the personal and workplace challenges they face, and partner with unit leaders to proactively manage Airmen's care and minimize downtime.

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## GLOBAL

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### Air pollution ages your lungs faster and increases your risk of COPD, study says

8 July- Air pollution does a lot more damage to our lungs than scientists realized, according to a new study in Monday's European Respiratory Journal. Researchers found it ages lungs more quickly and putting us at higher risk of COPD. Your lung function declines as a part of natural aging, but this study found that exposure to particulate matter pollution ages your lungs even faster -- and the more pollution you're exposed to, the quicker your lungs age.

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## Hexavalent Chromium Sampling Strategy

Army policy mandates the use of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH®) Threshold Limit Values (TLVs®) as the Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) criteria when the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) is less protective or when no OSHA PEL exists. As a result, industrial hygienists must ensure that air sampling exposure assessments align with the particle size-selective sampling methodology (i.e., inhalable, thoracic, and respirable) delineated in the applicable OSHA standard and/or Army policy.



The study found that for each additional 5 micrograms per cubic meter of particle pollution a person was exposed to on average annually, the lungs showed an equivalent of two years of aging, and a real reduction in lung function. Particle pollution is the mix of solid and liquid droplets in the air, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency. It can come in the form of dirt, dust, soot or smoke. It comes from coal- and natural gas-fired plants, cars, agriculture, unpaved roads and construction sites. For people living with air that has more than 10 micrograms per cubic meter of particle pollution, the situation was much worse. Among that group in the most polluted areas, the number of COPD cases was four times higher than if a person lived with smokers, and half that of people who had been smokers. COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, is a term used to describe lung diseases that block airflow and make it difficult to breathe. It's the third leading cause of death in the world. Although many with COPD smoked at one point in their lives, it can also be genetic, and it can be caused by a person's environment. [CNN](#)

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## Are sugary drinks causing cancer?

11 July- Sugary drinks - including fruit juice and fizzy pop - may increase the risk of cancer, French scientists say. The link was suggested by a study, published in the British Medical Journal that followed more than 100,000 people for five years. The team at Université Sorbonne Paris Cité speculate that the impact of blood sugar levels may be to blame. However, the research is far from definitive proof and experts have called for more research. [BBC News](#)

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## As Ebola rages on, DRC sees more displaced people

8 July- As the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) approaches a year of active Ebola transmission in North Kivu and Ituri provinces and case counts climb each day, renewed violence in the region has led to a sharp increase in displaced persons, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). "Humanitarian actors urgently need access to provide assistance and prevent further massive displacement. We are increasingly concerned that rising displacement creates fertile ground for the spread of disease—most worryingly Ebola—in Ituri province," said Fabien Sambussy, IOM chief of mission in the DRC. The displacement stems from political violence in the region, which the IOM said had been mostly controlled for the past 16 years. In recent weeks, 160 people have been killed in conflicts, and an estimated 400,000 persons are currently displaced throughout Ituri province. Thousands of internally displaced Congolese are housed in a makeshift camp close to Bunia, which has seen recent Ebola transmission. Within the past month, the outbreak has seen its first cases cross international borders, with two cases confirmed in Uganda. Over the weekend the Ugandan ministry of health said it is no longer following case contacts and declared their country Ebola-free after 21 days of no new cases. [CIDRAP](#)

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**The Surgeon  
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The Surgeon General Weekly Read Book is available with articles classified up to the **SECRET** level on the APHC SIPRNet site:

<https://intelshare.intelink.sgov.gov/sites/medcom-g2/SitePages/Home.aspx>

To access this version, you will need a **SECRET** clearance and a SIPRNet account.

## Los Angeles measles: 12th case reported in a UCLA employee

11 July- Los Angeles County health officials report investigating the county's 12th measles case of the year in a University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) employee. Health officials are looking to identify others who may be at risk for measles and have been exposed to this individual. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health says other people may have been exposed to measles since public locations were visited by a person with measles while infectious. Potential public exposure location and times include: 7/2/19 & 7/3/19, Court of Sciences Student Center on UCLA Campus (Food court; also known as The Bomb Shelter), 617 Charles E. Young Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90095, 9:00 – 11:30 AM There is no known current risk related to measles that exists at this venue at this time. This case is not related to the previous measles exposure at UCLA. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## Researchers successfully eliminate HIV from mice genome using CRISPR

3 July- Scientists have successfully removed HIV-1 DNA from mice genome, marking a huge milestone in the search for a cure to the HIV infection in humans. To achieve this feat, researchers from the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University and the University of Nebraska Medical Center used the gene editing tool CRISPR-Cas9 in combination with an experimental drug to clear out the virus from the animal genomes. It's an innovative technique that may be the path to finding a cure for the deadly infection, although further research will likely be necessary moving forward. "Our study shows that treatment to suppress HIV replication and gene editing therapy, when given sequentially, can eliminate HIV from cells and organs of infected animals," said study author Kamel Khalili, PhD in a press release. [Tech Times](#)

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## Space radiation doesn't seem to be causing astronauts to die from cancer, study finds

5 July- Outer space is a notoriously harsh environment, exposing astronauts to high levels of radiation. And radiation exposure can increase cancer and heart disease rates in earthbound humans. But a new study has some good news: Space radiation doesn't seem to increase astronauts' risk of death from cancer or heart disease, at least not at the doses they experienced during historical missions. Still, longer missions — such a mission to Mars — will likely come with much greater radiation doses that could pose larger health risks, the authors said. Space travel exposes the body to higher levels of ionizing radiation than those typically experienced on Earth. And at high doses, that radiation has been tied not just to cancer and heart disease, but to a host of other health problems as well. Previous studies haven't found a link between space travel and an increased risk of death from cancer or

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heart disease; but since relatively few people have traveled to space, these studies may have been too small to detect such a link, the authors said. [Live Science](#)

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## Teens less likely to use cannabis when it's legal, US study finds

9 July- Researchers at Montana State University looked at health surveys of US high school pupils between 1993 and 2017. While overall use of the drug among young people went up in the US, teen use declined by nearly 10% in states where recreational use was legalised. Some 33 states have legalised medical cannabis, while 10 states have also legalised recreational use. Cannabis use remains illegal in all states for people under the age of 18. Lead author of the study Mark Anderson told the Associated Press that the study, published in the medical journal *Jama Paediatrics*, "should help to quell some concerns that use among teens will actually go up". [BBC](#)

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## The promises and pitfalls of gene sequencing for newborns

8 July- Sequencing a person's DNA is now a routine task. That reality has left doctors looking for ways to put the technology to work. A decade ago, a top federal scientist said, "Whether you like it or not, a complete sequencing of newborns is not far away." Dr. Francis Collins, who made that statement, has been head of the National Institutes of Health for the intervening decade. But his prophecy hasn't come to pass, for both scientific and practical reasons. Scientists have found that, so far, a complete genetic readout would be a poor substitute for the traditional blood test that babies get at birth to screen for diseases. Even when genetic testing provides useful information, it also can raise unsettling questions. One of the big concerns about running gene scans on newborns is how families will receive and make sense of the results. [NPR](#)

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## Trump proposes ways to improve care for kidney disease and increase transplants

10 July- President Trump issued a sweeping set of proposals aimed at improving medical care for the tens of millions of Americans who have kidney disease, a long-overlooked condition that kills more people than breast cancer. "This is a first, second and third step. It's more than just a first step," Mr. Trump said in a speech Wednesday, which was attended by patients, advocates and industry executives. Mr. Trump signed an executive order directing federal agencies to educate and treat people with early forms of kidney disease, to make kidney transplants easier to get, and to shift the financial incentives for clinics and doctors away from the existing system that relies heavily on dialysis. "The result will be more and

faster transplants for those in need," said Mr. Trump, who also said his administration would work to encourage the development of new treatments like artificial kidneys...The president set an ambitious goal to remake how Americans with kidney disease get treated, by aggressively seeking to lower the costs by encouraging in-home dialysis and organ donation. Both options are seen as better treatment for patients than clinic-based dialysis. However, transforming the area may prove daunting, and many previous efforts have fallen short. About 37 million adults have chronic kidney disease, or about 15 percent of American adults. Medicare, the federal health insurance program, covers about half a million people with end-stage kidney disease and spends disproportionately on their care. Although they are just 1 percent of Medicare beneficiaries, they account for 7 percent of the program's medical claims, some \$35 billion. The total cost to Medicare for kidney care each year exceeds \$100 billion. [The New York Times](#)

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## **UK offers HPV vaccines to boys, aims to stop 100,000 cancer cases**

8 July- Some 100,000 cases of cancer could be prevented in Britain in the next 40 years by a vaccine against the human papillomavirus (HPV) that causes cancers of the cervix, mouth, anus and genitals, UK health officials said on Tuesday. Announcing the extension of a vaccination program to cover boys as well as girls, experts at Public Health England (PHE) said the immunization plan would prevent around 64,000 cervical cancers and nearly 50,000 non-cervical cancers by 2058. This would be 50 years after the introduction of the HPV vaccination program in Britain - which began in girls in 2008 - when people who were vaccinated as teenagers might otherwise begin to develop HPV-related cancers, PHE said in a statement. HPV is a sexually transmitted virus linked to more than 99% of cervical cancers, as well as 90% of anal cancers, about 70% of vaginal and vulvar cancers and more than 60% of penile cancers. PHE said that from September this year boys aged 12 and 13 in Britain will be offered the shots as part of a government health program. Since UK girls began getting the HPV vaccine in 2008, studies have shown that infections with some key types of the virus have fallen by 86% in 16 to 21 year-olds in England. A Scottish study also showed the vaccine had reduced pre-cancerous cervical disease in women by up to 71%. Robin Weiss, a professor of viral oncology at University College London, said the extension of the HPV program "should be a win-win situation". "The HPV vaccine has enjoyed 10 years of success in protecting girls from acquiring cervical cancer as women," he said in an emailed comment. "It appears clear ... that vaccinated boys will themselves benefit from not getting cancer of the penis, anus, and a diminished risk of head and neck cancer." [Reuters](#)

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## Vaginal bacteria linked to ovarian cancer

10 July- Having too few "friendly" vaginal bacteria may increase a woman's chance of ovarian cancer, and swabs can be used to spot this, say researchers. The team, led by University College London, hope the finding could be used to identify women at high risk of the cancer, which has no screening test. However, they say that more work is needed to explore this. It is too soon to recommend women should be given protective doses of the good bacteria, they say. The work, which is published in the Lancet Oncology, was funded by money from the government's tampon tax, as well as grants from the EU and the Eve Appeal charity. [BBC News](#)

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## INFLUENZA

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### CDC: Flu View - Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report

2018-2019 Influenza Season Week 26 ending June 29, 2019:

-U.S. Virologic Surveillance: WHO and NREVSS collaborating laboratories, which include both public health and clinical laboratories located in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the District of Columbia, report to CDC the total number of respiratory specimens tested for influenza and the number positive for influenza by virus type. In addition, public health laboratories also report the influenza A subtype (H1 or H3) and influenza B lineage information of the viruses they test and the age or age group of the persons from whom the specimens were collected.

-Pneumonia and Influenza (P&I) Mortality Surveillance: Based on National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) mortality surveillance data available on July 3, 2019, 5.0% of the deaths occurring during the week ending June 22, 2019 (week 25) were due to P&I. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 6.0% for week 25.

-Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality: Three influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC during week 26. All three deaths were associated with an influenza A virus for which no subtyping was performed. A total of 122 influenza-associated pediatric deaths occurring during the 2018-2019 season have been reported to CDC. [CDC](#)

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## WHO: Influenza Update

08 July 2019 - Update number 345, based on data up to 23 June 2019:

-In the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, influenza detections continued to increase or remained elevated in most areas. The 2019 influenza season has started earlier than previous years in Australia, Chile, South Africa and New Zealand.

-Influenza A(H3N2) viruses predominated in Oceania and South Africa.

-Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses predominated in temperate South America.

-In Southern Asia and South East Asia, influenza activity was low across reporting countries, except Myanmar where an increase in influenza A(H1N1) was reported.

-In the Caribbean, Central American countries, and the tropical countries of South America, influenza and RSV activity were low in general, with exception of Costa Rica and Panama where influenza A viruses activity was high

-In Northern, Eastern, West and Middle Africa, influenza activity was low across reporting countries.

-In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere influenza activity returned to inter-seasonal level in most countries.

-Worldwide, seasonal influenza A viruses accounted for the majority of detections. [WHO top of page...](#)

### VETERINARY/FOOD SAFETY

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## Pig ear recall follows multistate, multidrug-resistant Salmonella outbreak

4 July- At least one recall has followed the July 3 announcement that federal and state officials are investigating contaminated pig ear dog treats that are likely responsible for a multistate, multidrug-resistant Salmonella outbreak. More products could be recalled. Pet Supplies Plus has recalled all of its bulk pig ear products from stores in more than 30 states, according to a notice posted by the Food and Drug Administration. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is working with the FDA and several state agencies on the outbreak investigation. Testing by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development revealed that aging bulk pig ear product in one Pet Supplies Plus store tested positive for Salmonella. However, MDARD testing did not turn up any of the outbreak strain of Salmonella, which is multi-drug resistant. [Food Safety News](#)

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## **Raw milk cheese recalled because of risk of *Listeria monocytogenes***

8 July- A Canadian company is recalling cheese made with raw, unpasteurized milk because of potential contamination with *Listeria monocytogenes* bacteria. The company, Les Dépendances in Quebec, initiated the recall of Dongé brand Coulommiers raw milk cheese, according to a recall notice posted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The agency did not report what quantity of cheese is subject to the recall. Les Dépendances distributed the cheese to retailers. "This product may have been sold cut in half or in quarters. Consumers who are unsure if they have purchased the affected product are advised to contact their retailer," according to the notice. "Consumers should not consume the recalled product." The CFIA is conducting a food safety investigation, which may lead to the recall of other products, according to the agency's notice. Consumers who have Dongé brand Coulommiers raw milk cheese in 500-gram packages can determine whether it is subject to the recall by checking the label for the UPC number 8 31014 41211 0, a best-before date of July 12, 2019, and the lot number MA010419CO. [Food Safety News](#)

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## **The treats you're feeding your dog may be making you or your family sick, CDC says**

8 July- Could the treats you're feeding your dog be making you or your family sick? The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says yes. The CDC reported Wednesday that it and the Food and Drug Administration are investigating an outbreak of salmonella across 13 states -- and it's been linked to contact with pig ear dog treats. Forty-five people across California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Wisconsin have been infected. Twelve have been hospitalized. In CDC interviews with 38 of those infected, 34 said they had been in contact with a dog before getting sick. Separately, 17 people of 24 interviewed reported contact with pig ear dog treats or dogs fed those treats. Officials from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development sampled the pig ears for salmonella. They have identified some strains in the treats, but it is unclear whether those are the same strains causing the infection. The CDC recommends that people always wash hands when handling pet food or treats, store pet food away from human food, and never let pets lick mouths, faces or open wounds. [CNN](#)

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## **Walmart, Wonder, 7-Eleven, other brands of buns recalled for plastic bits**

10 July- Several well-known national brands of hamburger and hot dog buns, as well as lesser-known regional brands, are under recall by Flowers Foods Inc. because pieces of hard plastic present a choking hazard. The mega-baker issued the recall specifically because of

"plastic pieces found in products," according to the company's recall notice posted with the Food and Drug Administration. In addition to the buns, Flowers Foods is recalling other bakery products. See the list below for the dozens of products included in the recall. The recall notice does not include any product photographs. The Thomasville, GA, company "is one of the largest producers of fresh packaged bakery foods in the United States with 2018 sales of \$4 billion," the recall notice says. Flowers Foods distributed the buns and other implicated bakery products in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. "Consumption of product may cause a choking hazard," according to the company's notice. "The products being recalled were distributed to retail customers under a variety of brand names. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## WELLNESS

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### Mind and body benefit from two hours in nature each week

1 July- People who spent at least two hours outside—either all at once or totaled over several shorter visits—were more likely to report good health and psychological well-being. Jason G. Goldman reports. By now it's almost common knowledge that spending time in nature is good for you. Areas with more trees tend to be less polluted, so spending time there allows you to breathe easier. Spending time outdoors has been linked with reduced blood pressure and stress, and seems to motivate people to exercise more. "So it'll come as no surprise that there's research showing that spending time in nature is good. I mean, that's been known for millennia. There's dozens of papers showing that." University of Exeter Medical School researcher Mathew P. White. "We get this idea, patients are coming to us and they're saying, 'doctor, how long should I spend?' and the doctor is saying, 'I don't really know.'" So White and his team decided to find out by using data collected from nearly 20,000 people in England through the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey. And their answer? Two hours a week. People who spent at least that much time amid nature—either all at once or totaled over several shorter visits—were more likely to report good health and psychological well-being than those with no nature exposure. Remarkably, the researchers found that less than two hours offered no significant benefits. So what's so special about two hours? "I have absolutely no idea. Really. We didn't have an a priori guess at what this would be, this threshold. It emerged. And I'd be lying if I said we predicted this. I don't know." Even more noteworthy, the two-hour benchmark applied to men and women, to older and younger folks, to people from different ethnic backgrounds, occupational groups, and socioeconomic levels and so on. Even people with long-term illnesses or disabilities benefited from time spent in nature—as long as it was at least 120 minutes per week. The study is in the journal *Scientific Reports*. [Matthew P. White et al., Spending at least 120 minutes a week in nature is associated with good health and wellbeing] While the findings are based on a tremendous number of people, White cautions

that it's really just a correlation. Nobody knows why or how nature has this benefit or even if the findings will stand up to more rigorous investigation. [Scientific American](#)

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## Supplements and diets for heart health show limited proof of benefit

8 July- Millions of Americans use dietary supplements and a variety of diets to protect their heart health. But a large new analysis found that there was strikingly little proof from rigorous studies that supplements and some widely recommended diets have the power to prevent heart disease. The new research, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, reviewed data from hundreds of clinical trials involving almost a million people and found that only a few of 16 popular supplements and just one of the eight diets evaluated had any noticeable effect on cardiovascular outcomes. Folic acid, reduced salt diets and omega-3 fatty acids, the kind found in fish oil, showed some benefits. But the evidence was fairly weak. And at least one showed evidence of harm: Taking calcium with vitamin D increased the risk of stroke, possibly because it increases blood clotting and hardening of the arteries. The findings are likely to elicit controversy and continued debate. But the researchers said one clear message from their analysis was that the more than half of Americans who use dietary supplements should be wary of claims that multivitamins and other supplements will improve their heart health. [The New York Times](#)

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### USAFRICOM

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## Dengue outbreak in the Ivory Coast

8 July- An outbreak of dengue fever has been ongoing in Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) since January 2019, with the upscale urban districts of Abidjan city being the most affected, according to the World Health Organization. Between 1 January and 25 June 2019, a total of 1,853 suspected dengue fever cases were reported, including two deaths (case fatality ratio 0.1 percent), with Abidjan accounting for 96 percent (1,776) of all reported suspected cases. Of the total cases reported, 195 have been laboratory confirmed by polymerase chain reaction, of which 48 percent (93) isolated dengue virus serotype 1 (DENV-1) and 26 (13 percent) were DENV-3. Cocody-Bingerville and Abobo East districts in Abidjan accounted for 59 percent (115) and 23 percent (44) of the total confirmed cases, respectively. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## Iran reports dozens of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever cases since March

10 July- The Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) virus has been the cause of 100-plus human infections in Iran annually since it was first reported about a decade ago. This calendar year in Iran (which begins in March), the Ministry of Health has reported 54 CCHF cases, including five deaths, The Tehran Times reports. Behzad Amiri, head of zoonotic diseases department at the Ministry of Health noted the disease incidence is especially high over warm seasons because the ticks become more active. According to WHO, CCHF is a widespread disease caused by a tick-borne virus (Nairovirus) of the Bunyaviridae family. The CCHF virus causes severe viral hemorrhagic fever outbreaks, with a case fatality rate of 10–40%. CCHF is endemic in Africa, the Balkans, the Middle East and Asian countries south of the 50th parallel north – the geographical limit of the principal tick vector. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## Pakistan reports five additional wild poliovirus cases, Angola sees second outbreak

6 July- Five additional wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases have been confirmed in Pakistan this past week, according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Two cases were reported from Torghar district, two from Bannu district, and one from North Waziristan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Year-to-date, Pakistan has recorded 32 WPV1 cases. In all of 2018, only 12 cases were identified. Globally, 42 WPV1 cases have been reported during the first half of the year. In Central Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) saw an additional case of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) in Kasai province, Kamonia district. Lastly, Angola reported their second cVDPV2 outbreak this year. This one was in Kuvango district, Huila province. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## Iceland reports 4 STEC infections in Árnessýsla county children

4 July- Iceland health officials have reported four pediatric Shiga-toxin-producing E. Coli (STEC) cases. Officials say all the children are from the capital of Reykjavik; however, all have probably been infected in Árnessýsla county or, more specifically, in Bláskógabyggð. The source of the infection is unknown at this time. The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority and the South Iceland Health Inspectorate are now working to analyze the origin of the

infections and stop further spread. Health officials say individuals who have been in Árnessýsla (Bláskógabyggð) in the past 2-3 weeks and sickened with bloody diarrhea are encouraged to seek medical advice so that they can check whether they have been infected with STEC. The symptoms of STEC infections vary for each person but often include severe stomach cramps, diarrhea (often bloody), and vomiting. If there is fever, it usually is not very high (less than 101°F/less than 38.5°C). Most people get better within 5–7 days. Some infections are very mild, but others are severe or even life-threatening. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## **USINDOPACOM**

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### **Dengue skyrockets in Dhaka in June**

7 July- The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) in Dhaka has reported a dramatic increase in dengue fever in June–1713 cases, up from 193 cases in May. This is much more cases that were reported in the month of June in recent years–2018 (295), 2017 (267) and 2016 (254). Since June 1 through July 4, more than 2,000 cases have been reported in Dhaka City. At least three fatalities have been recorded since the beginning of the year. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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### **India: Japanese encephalitis deaths near 50 in Assam**

7 July- In a follow-up on the Japanese encephalitis (JE) outbreak in Assam, India, government officials are now reporting some 190 cases and 49 deaths, as of July 5, according to local media. All districts of Assam, except Kokrajhar district, are currently affected by JE. This has prompted Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to put medical staff leaves on hold until Sept. 30. “Unauthorized absence from the place of posting even after duty hours will be treated seriously amounting to criminal dereliction of duty,” he said. The Minister said that the situation was under close watch and all preventive measures were being taken. “The vaccination for JE through the routine immunization for children is currently going on regularly. Realizing the importance of adult vaccination was done in 20 districts during 2016-17 where the coverage was about 68 per cent,” he said adding that there is a need for adult vaccination mop up to prevent the outbreak in all the remaining districts. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## Singapore dengue cases up 4x last year, topping 6000

7 July- The number of dengue fever cases in Singapore continues to rise with officials reporting about 500 cases during the most recent week. In fact, the National Environmental Agency (NEA) says a total of 6,117 dengue cases were reported this year during the first six months, more than four times the 1,379 dengue cases seen in the same period last year. The total today stands at 6600, which is more than the total for both 2017 and 2018. This goes hand in hand with the increasing mosquito population in the city-state. Gravitrap surveillance system deployed by NEA has shown a 56 per cent increase in *Aedes aegypti* mosquito population in May 2019 compared to March 2019. NEA says a national collective effort is critical to prevent dengue cases from rising further, particularly in the warmer months of the summer to October. Every individual, whether living in a cluster or not, needs to take action to prevent more people from being infected with the dengue virus. NEA urges all members of the public and stakeholders to take immediate action to eradicate potential mosquito breeding habitats and step up housekeeping measures in their respective premises. All residents are strongly encouraged to cooperate with NEA officers and facilitate their checks and indoor misting in their homes. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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### USNORTHCOM

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## U.S.: Arizona- West Nile Virus heats-up

10 July- According to the Arizona Department of Health (ADH), the number of human West Nile Virus cases has already surpassed 2018's total of 24 cases. The ADH reported as of July 5, 2019, there were 27 West Nile Virus (WNV) cases in Maricopa County, which includes the city of Phoenix, Arizona. This new data indicates Maricopa County, with a population of just 4.3 million, has reported 69 percent of the WNV cases during 2019. As of July 9, 2019, a total of 39 human cases of WNV disease have been reported to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). [Precision Vaccinations](#)

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## U.S.: Michigan Legionella cases up

7 July- Michigan state health officials are reporting an increase in legionellosis cases this year. According to the latest data, there have been 140 confirmed cases of legionellosis reported in 38 counties compared to 135 confirmed cases during the same timeframe in 2018. This increase corresponds with national increases in legionellosis. Legionellosis is most common in the summer and early fall when warming, stagnant waters present the best environment for bacterial growth in water systems. Confirmed cases include 19 in Oakland County, 16 in Wayne County, 13 in Macomb County, 11 in Genesee County and 10 cases each in the City of Detroit and Kent County. "With warmer days now here, we want everyone to be aware of Legionnaire's disease, especially if they may be at higher risk for illness," said



Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief deputy director for health. "We also want all healthcare providers to remain vigilant and test and treat appropriately." Legionnaires' disease is a form of pneumonia caused by the Legionella bacteria. It can be very serious and even cause death. Most cases can be successfully treated with antibiotics and healthy people usually recover from the infection. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## **U.S.: Seattle Washington- 1 dead, 5 infected after mold infestation at Seattle Children's Hospital**

4 July- A mold infestation at Seattle Children's Hospital in Washington state has left at least one person dead and five others infected, hospital officials said. The hospital closed its 14 operating rooms in May after Aspergillus — a common type of mold — was detected in the facility during a routine check. Around 1,000 surgeries have been rescheduled or moved, and the hospital said the families of thousands of children who had recently undergone procedures were being contacted. On Wednesday, the hospital confirmed to Fox News that one patient was dead because of potentially dangerous mold. A public relations manager for the hospital said three patients were infected because of the mold last year, and three were infected this year. "The six patients who developed Aspergillus infections were at higher risk of infection due to the types of procedures they had," Alyse Bernal, the manager, said. "We are deeply saddened that one of the patients died after developing an infection in 2018." [Fox News](#)

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## **U.S.: Texas- More anthrax cases reported**

9 July- In a follow-up on the animal anthrax situation in the Lone Star State, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) has received reports of additional cases. The first anthrax case of the year was confirmed in one captive antelope on a premises in Uvalde County on June 19, 2019. Since that time, anthrax was confirmed in goats on a new Uvalde County premises on June 24, one Sutton County horse was confirmed to have anthrax on July 3, and cattle were confirmed to have anthrax on a separate Sutton County premises on July 4. Officials say all the premises have been placed under quarantine and producers were advised on vaccinating exposed animals and the proper disposal of affected carcasses. "It is common to see an increase in anthrax cases after periods of wet, cool weather, followed by hot, dry conditions," said Dr. Andy Schwartz, TAHC Executive Director. "During these conditions, animals ingest the anthrax bacteria when they consume contaminated grass and hay, or inhale the spores. Outbreaks usually end when cooler weather arrives." There is an effective anthrax vaccine available for use in susceptible livestock (includes but is not limited to, swine, equine, sheep, goats, cattle, wildlife, etc.) in high risk areas. According to the Merck Veterinary Manual, Anthrax is a zoonotic disease caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. Anthrax is most common in wild and domestic animals but can also be seen in humans exposed to tissue from infected animals, contaminated animal

products or directly to B anthracis spores under certain conditions. [Outbreak News Today](#)  
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## USSOUTHCOM

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### Diphtheria in Venezuela 2019: Outbreak ongoing

9 July- In an update on the diphtheria outbreak in Venezuela, the outbreak that began three years ago is ongoing. According to data from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) (computer translated), Venezuela has reported 324 diphtheria cases since the beginning of the year, including 15 fatalities. To date, nine federal entities, 10 municipalities, and 14 parishes are affected by the outbreak. Since July 2016, Venezuela has seen a total of 2,897 suspected cases, which 1721 were confirmed. In that period, 286 deaths have been recorded. Cases have been reported among all age groups. The incidence rate among children under 15-year-olds is 4 cases per 100,000 population, among 15 to 40-year-olds is 3 cases per 100,000 population, and among persons over 40-year-olds is 1 case per 100,000 population, the UN agency reports. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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