

17 May 2019

Army Public Health Weekly Update

Army Public Health Center



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U.S. MILITARY

Marine sergeant dies a few days after collapsing during a unit run in North Carolina

14 May- A Marine died on Saturday after collapsing during a unit run held days prior at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, according to Marine officials. Aid was "rendered on-site immediately" to Sgt. Mark A Bryant after he collapsed May 7 during a run with Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force – Southern Command, according to Maj. Matthew Mallalieu, a spokesman with the task force. Bryant was transported by life flight to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, North Carolina, where he passed away on Saturday, Mallalieu said. "We are deeply saddened to confirm the death of Sergeant Mark Bryant," Mallalieu said. The incident is currently under investigation. Bryant entered the Marine Corps on Jan. 5, 2009, and was assigned to the Southern Command task force, according to his service record. Previously, he served with Combat Logistics Regiment 4, 4th Marine Logistics Group, and a reserve unit based out of Kansas City, Missouri. [Marine Corps Times](#)

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GLOBAL

4 measles cases reported in Washington

15 May- Washington state health officials are reporting four additional confirmed measles cases in three counties. Two measles cases were reported in King County and one each in Snohomish and Pierce Counties. While the exact exposure information for the new cases is not yet known, all spent time in SeaTac airport during their likely time of exposure or infectiousness. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Breast cancer death risk falls with low-fat diet

15 May- Women who consumed a balanced diet and reduced fat intake did not significantly lower their risk of developing breast cancer but were less likely to die of breast cancer, data from the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) showed. As previously reported, women assigned to a low-fat diet had 8% fewer breast cancers as compared with women who consumed a more traditional high-fat diet, but the difference did not achieve statistical significance. A trend toward fewer breast cancer deaths emerged during the intervention period, which had a median duration of 8.5 years. Among patients who developed breast cancer, all-cause mortality was significantly lower in the intervention group (HR 0.64, 95% CI 0.45-0.95), reported Rowan Chlebowski, MD, PhD, of Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Torrance, California. After almost 20 years of follow-up, data for the 49,000 study participants showed

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**Residential Indoor
Mold and Residential
Mold Air Sample
Results What Do
They Mean?**

The term "mold" is used to refer to fungi that are naturally occurring in the environment. Molds are found in virtually every environment and can be detected, both indoors and outdoors, year round. Mold growth is encouraged by warm and humid conditions.



a statistically significant 21% reduction in the risk of dying of breast cancer in the intervention group versus the control group, whose participants consumed a traditional high-fat diet. Among women who developed breast cancer, those assigned to the low-fat diet had a 15% lower risk of death from any cause during the follow-up period, also a significant difference. [Med Page Today](#)

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Cancer: Breakthrough treatments to target drug resistance

16 May- The world's first drugs designed to stop cancer cells becoming resistant to treatment could be available within the next decade, scientists have said. A £75m investment to develop the drugs has been announced by the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR). Chief executive Prof Paul Workman said cancer's ability to adapt to drugs is the biggest challenge in treatment. The new drugs could make cancer a "manageable" disease in the long term and "more often curable", he said. Researchers say existing treatments such as chemotherapy sometimes fail because the deadliest cancer cells adapt and survive, causing the patient to relapse. Prof Workman said: "Cancer's ability to adapt, evolve and become drug resistant was the cause of the vast majority of deaths from the disease and the biggest challenge we face in overcoming it." [BBC News](#)

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Chemo-induced heart failure responds to CRT

12 May- Cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT) improved heart function and outcomes for patients with chemotherapy-induced cardiomyopathy, the MADIT-CHIC study showed. Left ventricular ejection fraction (EF) improved a relative 38% over 6 months after implantation (a 10.6-percentage point absolute increase over baseline), reported Jagmeet Singh, MD, DPhil, of Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, at the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS) meeting. Benefits accrued similarly across subgroups by gender, age, QRS longer or shorter than 150 ms, New York Heart Association class II or III, and EF ≤ 25 or $> 25\%$. Only one out of the 30 patients treated in the study didn't have a significant improvement in EF, Singh noted at an HRS press conference. Other echocardiographic characteristics also significantly improved with CRT implantation. [Med Page Today](#)

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Doctors are less likely to screen cancer patients later in the day: Study

14 May- A new study suggests that physicians are less likely to schedule cancer screenings for patients during the latter part of the day. Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania sought to understand how the time of day can influence doctors' behavior when providing cancer screenings. They examined medical data collected from 33 primary care practices in

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<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.

Pennsylvania and New Jersey between 2014 and 2016. This included eligible screenings for nearly 19,000 breast cancer and 33,000 colorectal cancer patients. [Tech Times](#)

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Health officials confirm cases of canine Brucellosis in Iowa

13 May- An infectious disease known to transfer from dogs to humans has been detected in several canines in Iowa, according to local health officials. State veterinarian Dr. Jeff Kaisand announced that they have found cases of canine Brucellosis in dogs at a commercial breeding facility in Marion County. The disease is caused by the Brucella canis bacteria, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While the infection primarily affects dogs, it has been shown to transfer to humans as well. [Tech Times](#)

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Kentucky hepatitis A death count rises to 57

16 May- Kentucky continues to report outbreak cases of hepatitis A as the state has reported the most cases of any in the US. Through May 4, 4,621 outbreak cases have been recorded, including 2,233 people that required hospitalization since mid-2017. In addition, 57 deaths have been linked to the viral infection have been reported, accounting for approximately 1/3 of hepatitis A fatalities nationally. To date, 22 states have declared outbreaks since 2016. Since that time, more than 17,000 cases reported and at least 170 deaths as a result of hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection have been reported. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Majority of sunscreens tested would flunk proposed FDA safety tests, report says

15 May- Nearly two-thirds of all sunscreens evaluated by the Environmental Working Group would not pass safety tests proposed by the US Food and Drug Administration, the consumer advocacy group announced Wednesday. The group released its analysis as part of its 2019 Guide to Sunscreens, a yearly report on sunscreen safety that the nonprofit began in 2006. The group said it analyzed the ingredients and performance of more than 1,300 products with sun protection factor, or SPF; 750 of those are marketed as beach and sport sunscreens. The analysis involves only a fraction of the sunscreen products sold in the United States today, which the FDA estimates to number over 12,000. The report said that over 60% of the products tested did not offer adequate sun protection or contained potentially harmful chemicals. The Environmental Working Group has reported similar results in the past. What makes this year's report different, said Director of Healthy Living Science Nneka Leiba, is that the 2019 products were judged using FDA safety guidelines proposed in February. "Even though we've come up with similar results in our guide before,

comparing it to the FDA's actual proposed standards is really strong," Leiba said. "So the fact that 60% of the market seemingly wouldn't be considered safe and effective by the FDA is a huge deal." [CNN](#)

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Measles case aboard Church of Scientology-owned cruise ship quarantines 28 people

13 May- A case of the measles was confirmed aboard a Church of Scientology-owned ship in Curacao, leaving 28 people quarantined. Health officials in Curacao, an island country in the Dutch Caribbean, announced Saturday that the group of 17 crew members and 11 passengers must stay aboard until Monday because they're still at risk of contracting measles after a female crew member contracted the disease. Dr. Izzy Gerstenbluth, an epidemiologist with the Public Health of Curacao, told reporters that the rest of the 318 people who were, in total, on the ship, are free to leave, as "they are not a threat to anyone anymore, and they cannot become sick anymore." [Fox News](#)

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Stem cell treatments flourish with little evidence that they work

13 May- A surgeon recommended a hip replacement, but Kenneth Cevoli said no thanks. "They're really quick to try to give you fake joints and make a bunch of money off you," he said. At 71, Mr. Cevoli, a high-school guidance counselor in Teterboro, N.J., coaches cross country, teaches mogul skiing, surfs and works summers as a lifeguard on Cape Cod. Despite pain in his left hip and knee, he questioned the need for major surgery, worrying it would sideline him for too long. Instead, he tried an increasingly popular treatment, in which stem cells are extracted from a patient's own bone marrow and injected into worn or injured joints to promote healing. Many people have become captivated by the idea of using stem cells to fix their damaged joints, and some claim to have been helped. But there is no clear evidence that these treatments work, and their safety has yet to be established. Most researchers, including those at the National Institutes of Health, think that efforts to sell therapies involving adult stem cells, which can develop into different types of cells to replenish tissue, have gotten way ahead of the science. Even so, hundreds of clinics have popped up around the country to meet the demand. Some of the clinics also inject joints with platelet-rich plasma, a solution of platelets extracted from the patient's own blood. A few employers have even agreed to provide insurance coverage for the treatments. [The New York Times](#)

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Tickborne diseases continuing education from the CDC

13 May- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created a first-of-its-kind education module to help clinicians recognize and diagnose Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF). This is important information since RMSF is a serious and sometimes fatal disease. "Rocky Mountain spotted fever can be deadly if not treated early, yet cases often go unrecognized because the signs and symptoms are similar to those of many other diseases," said CDC Director Robert R. Redfield, M.D., in a press release on May 13, 2019. "With tickborne diseases on the rise in the U.S., this training will better equip healthcare providers to identify, diagnose, and treat this potentially fatal disease." [Precision Vaccinations](#)

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U.S. measles outbreak grows with 75 new cases, mostly in New York

13 May- U.S. health authorities recorded 75 new cases of the measles in the latest week, mostly in New York state, bringing the nationwide total to 839 cases in the country's worst outbreak of the virus since 1994, federal health officials said on Monday. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported a 9.8% increase in measles cases as of May 10, a resurgence that public health officials have attributed to the spread of misinformation about the measles vaccine. Data are updated every Monday. In New York, 66 cases were reported according to CDC spokesman Jason McDonald, with 41 in New York City and 25 in Rockland County, about 40 miles (64 km) north of New York city. Health experts say the virus has spread mostly among school-age children whose parents declined to give them the vaccine, which confers immunity to the disease. A vocal fringe of U.S. parents, some in New York ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities, cite concerns that the vaccine may cause autism. Medical science has debunked those concerns. While the 2019 outbreak has spread rapidly within New York, the virus has not spread to any additional states since the previous week, when Pennsylvania became the latest state to confirm at least one case. Experts warn that the outbreak is not over as the number of cases approaches the 1994 total of 958. That was the highest number since 1992, when the CDC recorded 2,126 cases. [Reuters](#)

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WHO issues first advice on dementia: Exercise and don't smoke

14 May- The World Health Organization published its first guidelines on the prevention and management of dementia on Tuesday, putting physical activity at the top of its list of recommendations for preventing cognitive decline. Stopping smoking, a healthy diet and avoiding harmful use of alcohol were also among the recommendations of the WHO's report, entitled "Risk reduction of cognitive decline and dementia". Treatment for hypertension, high cholesterol and diabetes also lowers the risks, the report said. Neerja

Chowdhary, a WHO expert, said that the study had not looked at smoking marijuana and did not include environmental factors, although there was some evidence of a link with pollution, and there was too little evidence of a link with poor sleep to include it in the recommendations. Vitamins and supplements were not useful and could even be harmful if taken in high doses, she said. But there was less evidence that cognitive training or social activity would stave off the onset of dementia, and insufficient evidence that antidepressant medicines or hearing aids could help. [Reuters](#)

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INFLUENZA

AFHSB: DoD Seasonal Influenza Surveillance Summary

Seasonal Influenza Surveillance Summary - Week 18

NORTHCOM-Influenza activity remained minimal to low across NORTHCOM with only five states with low activity.

EUCOM-Influenza activity remained minimal across EUCOM.

PACOM-Influenza activity was minimal across PACOM.

CENTCOM-Influenza activity was minimal in CENTCOM countries with available data, except for Afghanistan which had low activity.

AFRICOM-In Djibouti, influenza activity remained minimal.

SOUTHCOM-Influenza activity in Honduras and Cuba was minimal. [DHA -Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch](#)[top of page...](#)

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

2018-2019 Influenza Season Week 18 ending May 4, 2019:

-Viral Surveillance: The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza viruses in clinical laboratories decreased. During the most recent three weeks, influenza A(H3) viruses were reported more frequently than influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses nationally.

-Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality: The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the system-specific epidemic threshold in the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Mortality Surveillance System.

-Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths: Five influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC during week 18. [CDC](#)

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ECDC: Flu News Europe

Week 18/2019 (29 April- 05 May 2019)

-For week 18/2019, all countries reporting ILI or ARI thresholds reported activity at baseline levels, indicating that the influenza season is coming to an end in Europe.

-Few countries reported influenza detections. From 105 sentinel specimens tested there were only 4 detections.

-For week 18/2019, the specimens (n=78) from patients with severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) that were tested for influenza viruses gave 6.4% positivity and 80% of all viruses detected were type A.

-Pooled data from 23 Member States and areas reporting to the EuroMOMO project indicated that all-cause mortality remained at levels expected for this time of year. [European Center for Disease Prevention and Control/WHO](#)

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WHO: Influenza Update

13 May 2019 - Update number 341, based on data up to 28 April 2019:

-In North America and Europe, influenza activity was low overall.

-In North Africa, influenza detections were low across reporting countries.

-In Western Asia, influenza activity decreased overall, with exception of Saudi Arabia where activity remained elevated.

-In East Asia, although decreasing influenza activity was reported in some countries.

-In Southern Asia, influenza activity was low overall.

-In the Caribbean, Central American countries, and the tropical countries of South America, influenza and RSV activity were low in general.

-In West and Middle Africa, influenza activity was low across reporting countries. Influenza activity continued to be reported from Eastern Africa although in decreasing trend with predominantly influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 followed by A(H3N2) detections.

-In the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, influenza detections increased in southern Australia and South Africa. The influenza activity in South America remained at inter-seasonal levels.

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

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Chili ingredient likely caused large restaurant-related outbreak

14 May- A chipotle chili product was the most likely vehicle of infection in the largest recorded norovirus restaurant outbreak in the United Kingdom, according to researchers. During October and November 2016, more than 1,000 customers and staff reported gastroenteritis after eating at 23 different locations of the Wahaca restaurant group in the U.K. Norovirus genogroup II.6 (GII.6) was identified from 30 of 48 samples from staff. The outbreak coincided with a new menu launch, according to the study published in the journal *Eurosurveillance*. "We recommend that multi-branch restaurants with central suppliers and kitchens are vigilant to the possibility of contaminated ingredients entering their supply chain and the potential for rapid spread of pathogens. Food business operators should ensure that appropriate hazard analysis and critical control point processes are in place, particularly for new ingredients and ready-to-eat foods and consider the potential for cross-contamination within preparation areas in risk assessments," the researchers wrote. [Food Safety News](#)

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E. coli count nears 200 as outbreak hits 10 states; ground beef implicated

13 May- As of today, another 19 patients have been added to the toll in an E. coli outbreak traced to ground beef, bringing the total number of people with laboratory-confirmed infections to almost 200. First announced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on April 5, the outbreak has grown from 72 people in five states to 196 people across 10 states. Two companies have recalled ground beef in relation to the outbreak. Almost 80 percent of the victims specifically recall eating ground beef in the days before becoming sick. Disease detectives from several states, the CDC and the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) continue to collect samples from ground beef and from lab test samples of patients. The multistate investigation began on March 28 when officials in Kentucky and Georgia notified CDC of the outbreak, according to the agency's updated food safety alert. [Food Safety News](#)

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Publix recalls Biltmore brand smoked salmon for Listeria risk

13 May- State tests by Florida inspectors spurred officials with the Publix grocery store chain to recall Biltmore branded smoked salmon because of the risk of Listeria monocytogenes. The implicated fish was not sold in GreenWise stores, according to the

recall notice on the Publix website. As of May 12, the recall notice had not been posted by the Food and Drug Administration. Seven Seas International LLC USA of St. Petersburg, FL, supplied Publix with the sockeye salmon..."Customers who have additional questions or concerns may contact Seven Seas International LLC USA at 888-627-5668 or visit their website at www.7sius.com."To determine whether they have the recalled salmon in their homes, consumers should look for the following label information:

-Product Name: Biltmore Smoked Sockeye Salmon

-GTIN #: 007-36211-88774

-Lot Code/Best By Date: 41 CM/May 23 2019 [Food Safety News](#)

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Researchers analyze human diseases from bushmeat; cultural practices in play

16 May- Researchers have taken a step toward estimating the risk of disease transmission from wild meat consumption. The team, including members of the Wildlife Conservation Society, have presented a framework to quantify the risk of zoonotic disease transmission in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Laos) bushmeat system and help improve understanding of the disease risk from such products. The conceptual model takes into account conservation, food safety, food security, culture and traditions. The team also conducted surveys of wildlife vendors and consumers as well as direct observations aimed at filling information gaps identified during development of the model. Zoonotic diseases, or zoonoses, are caused by infections that spread between animals and people. A recent example is two people in Mongolia dying from the plague after eating raw marmot meat. Bubonic plague is caused by the *Yersinia Pestis* bacteria. People infected with zoonotic diseases can transmit the infections to other humans, depending on the pathogen. Every year in the United States and Canada, people contract infections from handling and eating wild game such as rabbits, deer, birds and wild pigs. Some of the infections can be avoided by use of proper slaughter, dressing and cooking techniques. [Food Safety News](#)

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WELLNESS

Exercise boosts function in older CKD patients

12 May- Chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients with comorbidities gained some benefits from exercise training, researchers reported here. In the AWARD (Aerobics, Weights, and Renal Disease) trial, the peak VO₂ was about 17 mL/kg/min for both the exercise and education groups, but at 6 months, there was an improvement of about 10% of the mean VO₂ for the exercise group, and little change in the health education group. The difference between the group was statistically significant (P=0.03), according to Stephen Seliger, MD, of the University of Maryland in Baltimore, and Daniel Weiner, MD, of Tufts University in

Boston. However, at 12 months, the VO₂ peak did not reach statistical significance (P=0.3) due to a lot of patients dropping out. The overall treatment-by-time interaction trended toward significance, but not by conventional definition (P=0.08), Seliger said at the National Kidney Foundation Spring Clinical Meeting. At baseline, the 6-Minute Walk Test (6MWT) was about 1,300 feet for both groups. Performance on the 6MWT improved significantly in the exercise group, but did not change for the health education group. The differences between the groups was statistically significant at 6 months (P=0.047) and 12 months (P=0.02), Seliger emphasized. [Med Page Today](#)

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Sleep paralysis: Causes, symptoms & treatment

10 May- A myriad of factors, including substance use, genetic factors, a history of trauma, a psychiatric diagnosis and poor physical health and sleep quality, may increase the risk of developing sleep paralysis, according to a 2018 review. The frequency and severity of episodes has also been linked to anxiety-like symptoms and sleep deprivation. "This may explain why [sleep paralysis] comes in waves or bouts," Denis told Live Science. "Episodes might coincide with a period of stress." There is no set treatment for sleep paralysis, but doctors usually direct diagnosed patients to improve their sleep schedule and maintain a better bedtime routine. In more extreme cases, patients may be prescribed a low dose of antidepressants, according to the National Health Society of the UK. These medications may help mitigate mediate the symptoms of sleep paralysis by suppressing certain aspects of REM sleep, sharpness noted. So, what should you do if you experience sleep paralysis? "If you have rare episodes of sleep paralysis, but haven't been seen by a sleep specialist, make sure your sleep hygiene is solid," said Shelby Harris, director of Behavioral Sleep Medicine at the Sleep-Wake Disorders Center at the Montefiore Health System in the Bronx, New York City. "For example, sleep paralysis can be a sign that you're sleep deprived," Harris suggested that people experiencing sleep paralysis should make sure to get enough sleep on a regular basis, avoid alcohol, nicotine and drugs all night, starting 3 hours before bedtime. They should also limit caffeine after 2 p.m. and keep electronics out of the bedroom. [Live Science](#)

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Ethiopia reports 2.9 million internally-displaced residents

15 May- The number of people internally displaced in Ethiopia is the highest it has ever been, concludes a new report. During 2018, Ethiopia maintained the unenviable record of being the global leader in internally displaced persons driven out of their places of residence due to conflicts, according to the Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID), published on May 10, 2019. Approximately 2.9 million new displacements were recorded in Ethiopia. This data is, unfortunately, the highest number of internal displacements in the world and 4 times as many as Ethiopia reported in 2017. [Precision Vaccinations](#)

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Madagascar: Malaria outbreak in Betroka

15 May- The Ministry of Public Health in Betroka district, Madagascar are reporting thousands of malaria cases in recent weeks, according to an L'Express report. More than 600 cases of malaria are being reported weekly in the district and more than 2000 cases have been reported in less than a month. Betroka is not the only district battling malaria. Ihosy, Sakaraha and Amparafaravola are also reporting increases of the mosquito-borne parasitic infection. The rise concerns health authorities as this time of year is typically the low season for malaria. Malaria is a mosquito-borne disease caused by a parasite. People with malaria often experience fever, chills, and flu-like illness. Left untreated, they may develop severe complications and die. In 2017 an estimated 219 million cases of malaria occurred worldwide and 435,000 people died, mostly children in the African Region. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Tunisia: Measles outbreak- 3000 cases in first third of 2019

11 May- Through April 30 this year, health officials in Tunisia report a large measles outbreak where more than 3100 suspected cases have been reported to date. In addition, 30 fatalities have been reported, or a 1 percent case fatality ratio. Kasserine and Sfax governorates have been most severely affected. The two most affected age groups were those older than 15 years (31%) and infants between the age of 6 and 12 months (28%). [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Egypt: Rabies- CDC temporarily bans dogs from Egypt

12 May- On Friday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a temporary ban on the importation of dogs from Egypt due to the risk of importing rabies. Given three recent cases of rabid dogs imported from Egypt since May of 2015, CDC is taking this action to protect public health and prevent the reintroduction of dog rabies (canine rabies virus variant), which has been eliminated from the United States since 2007. The Federal Register Notice titled, "Notice of Temporary Suspension of Dogs Entering the United States from Egypt", will temporarily suspend the importation of dogs from Egypt, or dogs originating in Egypt that are imported from third-party countries, if the dogs have lived in those countries for less than six months. Dogs from Egypt may be imported only with CDC's advance written approval, including dogs imported from a third-party country if they lived in the other country for less than 6 months. Such approvals may be granted on a limited, case-by-case basis, and at the discretion of the Director of the CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Belgium: 16 people sickened with Legionnaires' disease, one dead in East Flanders

13 May- At least 16 people in the Evergem municipality of East Flanders province in northern Belgium has been sickened with Legionnaires' disease, according to the Flemish Agency for Health and Safety. In addition, one patient has died while being treated at Ghent University Hospital. The first complaints from patients date from the period between April 29 and May 6. The most recent patients presented with illness between 7 and 10 May.

[Outbreak News Today](#)

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France: Escherichia coli O26- HUS increases investigated in France

11 May- Public Health France is currently investigating an increase in the number of children with hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS). As of May 6, 2019, 16 children infected with Escherichia coli serogroup O26 are being investigated by Public Health France and the National Reference Center (CNR) E. coli and its associated laboratory (Institut Pasteur, Paris, and Laboratoire de microbiologie of Robert Debré Hospital, Paris). Fifteen children had HUS and one child had uncomplicated diarrhea. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Hong Kong: Reports African swine fever in pig at Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse

13 May- The Agriculture, Fisheries & Conservation Department confirmed this Friday afternoon that African Swine Fever (ASF) virus was found in a pig in the Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse, according to Hong Kong Secretary for Food & Health Prof Sophia Chan. "So I just now chaired an inter-departmental meeting at once with the AFCD as well as the Centre for Food Safety and the Food & Environmental Hygiene Department to discuss the response action and also any follow-up work. So in order to minimize the risk of ASF virus spreading from the slaughterhouse, all pigs in Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse will be culled so that thorough cleansing and also disinfection could be conducted. "The operation of the Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse will be suspended until the completion of the disinfection work. So we envisage that fresh pork supply will be reduced in the near future. However, as Tsuen Wan Slaughterhouse is not affected and will operate as normal, there will still be a limited supply of live pigs available to the market. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Vietnam: African swine fever- Vietnam culls 1.2 million pigs

13 May- Earlier this month, the FAO reported on the number of pigs culled in the Asian countries affected by African swine fever (ASF). At that time, they reported Vietnam culled approximately 90,000 pigs since the outbreak began in February. However, today in Hanoi, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) held a conference to assess and review the direction and response to ASF in the country. According to MARD, ASF has spread to 2,296 communes, 204 districts of 29 provinces and cities, with a total of over 1.2 million pigs infected and destroyed, which accounts for over 4 percent of the total pig herd in the country. Minister Nguyen Xuan Cuong noted that although the number of infected pig's accounts for only 4 percent, the speed of spread is very fast, along with favorable weather for disease spread. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Canada: Measles confirmed in Niagara region

10 May- Niagara Region Public Health and Emergency Services is investigating a laboratory confirmed case of measles in an adult who acquired their infection while travelling outside Canada. Any person who visited the following public locations are being asked to watch for signs and symptoms and to ensure their vaccination is up to date as they may have been

exposed to measles. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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U.S.: South Carolina declares hepatitis A outbreak

14 May- The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has declared a statewide outbreak of hepatitis A, making it the 21st state to do so since mid-2016. This follows a declared outbreak in Aiken County in February. During the past 10 years, South Carolina averaged 19 reported cases of hepatitis A annually. More than four times that amount has been reported in the past seven months. Between Nov. 1, 2018, and May 10, 2019, there have been 86 reported cases of hepatitis A in South Carolina, leading to 59 hospitalizations and one death. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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U.S.: Vermont reports pseudorabies in feral swine in Lyndonville

14 May- The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (VAAF) is reporting that a single feral pig was shot and killed by USDA Wildlife Services in Lyndonville, VT. Subsequently the boar tested positive for pseudorabies virus infection, or PRV recently. Vermont has been certified free from PRV since October 1995. PRV is not related to rabies and does not affect humans; however, the disease is a threat to domestic swine. There is no treatment. PRV can cause abortions and stillbirths in adult swine and is nearly 100% fatal in young pigs. Pigs that survive the infection can shed the virus throughout their lives, spreading the disease and serving as a source of infection to their herd mates and other farms. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USSOUTHCOM

Venezuela: Dialysis patients face uncertain fate after power cuts

15 May- Seconds before William Lopez was set to be connected to a dialysis machine at a state-run clinic in the western Venezuelan city of Maracaibo in April, the power went out. Missing dialysis treatment, which removes toxins that build up in the blood of people who suffer kidney failure, leaves Lopez feeling dizzy and nauseous. Like any chronic kidney patient, he could die if he goes too long without treatment. Unable to complete his treatment that day, Lopez had little choice but to return home. When he arrived, the power was out there as well. "The impotence that I feel makes me want to cry," said Lopez, 45, one of 11,000 Venezuelans whose dialysis treatment has been thrown into disarray by a wave of blackouts in the oil-rich but crisis-stricken South American country. "Some people go to sleep while they are in treatment. I do not, because I am scared I will never wake up."

Electricity has largely been restored to the capital city of Caracas after two nation-wide power outages in March and April. But many other parts of Venezuela now have power for only several hours per day under a rationing plan put in effect by President Nicolas Maduro.

[Reuters](#)

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