

19 July 2019

# Army Public Health Weekly Update

Army Public Health Center



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## U.S. MILITARY

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### Supplements containing steroids found at Moody Air Force Base exchange

11 July- Two dietary supplements sold at an Air Force base in Georgia have tested positive for steroids during a health probe, according to military investigators. The products were discovered at Moody Air Force Base during a health and wellness inspection in December 2018. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service said 5 Star Nutrition has blocked the sale of the products, "Alpha Shredded" and "Trenatestin," on military installations. 5 Star Nutrition stores are located at seven Army and Air Force bases: Fort Hood, Fort Bliss and Joint Base San Antonio in Texas; Fort Riley, Kan.; Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.; Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.; and Moody Air Force Base. "If a product is determined to be unsuitable as to quality, value or other appropriate criteria by medical authorities, AAFES and its concessionaires take immediate action to remove it from shelves," AAFES spokesman Chris Ward said in a statement. The investigation was conducted by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, which shared its findings with other military units in a bulletin that warned: "Supplements Sold at AAFES Exchanges May Contain Steroids." The suspected products were seized and submitted for laboratory testing, according to a July 3 alert from Army Criminal Investigation Command, commonly known as CID. [Stars and Stripes](#)

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## GLOBAL

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### 20 million children miss out on life-saving vaccines, U.N. warns

15 July- More than one in 10 children - or 20 million worldwide - missed out last year on vaccines against life-threatening diseases such as measles, diphtheria and tetanus, the World Health Organization and the UNICEF children's fund said on Monday. In a report on global immunization coverage, the U.N. agencies found that vaccination levels are stagnating, notably in poor countries or areas of conflict. "Vaccines are one of our most important tools for preventing outbreaks and keeping the world safe," the WHO's director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said in a statement. "It's often those who are most at risk - the poorest, the most marginalized, those touched by conflict or forced from their homes - who are persistently missed," he said. "Far too many are left behind." The WHO /UNICEF report found that since 2010, vaccination coverage with three doses of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine and one dose of measles vaccine has stalled at around 86%. The report said this was too low, since 95% coverage is generally needed to provide "herd immunity" to those who are not vaccinated. [Reuters](#)

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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.



## An antioxidant in red wine might power astronauts on Mars, study says

18 July- The human body was built to function best with gravity as a grounding force, but astronauts on a mission to Mars could spend between six to nine months on a spacecraft without it. "Our bodies love force," said John DeWitt, senior biochemist who works as a contractor for NASA and focuses on crew health. "Force is what helps our muscles get stronger; force is what helps our bones to stay strong; force is what helps our heart to stay strong by having to pump the blood against gravity. So, when you take that force away, you all of a sudden lose a really important stimulus that's important for health." Exercise has become an important part of providing that force for astronauts on the International Space Station. But diet and supplements could also be key for combating the challenges of a zero gravity, according to a new study. After more than 50 years of human spaceflight, researchers know some of the risks posed to the human body in zero gravity. Space motion sickness happens in the first 48 hours, creating a loss of appetite, dizziness and vomiting. Over time, astronauts staying for six months on the International Space Station can experience the weakening and loss of bone and atrophying muscles. They also experience blood volume loss, weakened immune systems and cardiovascular deconditioning because floating takes little effort and the heart doesn't have to work as hard to pump blood. Scott Kelly and other astronauts in their late 40s and 50s have also complained about their vision being slightly altered. Some have required glasses in flight. [CNN](#)

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## Anorexia stems from body as well as mind – study

15 July- The origins of the eating disorder anorexia nervosa are in both the mind and the body, according to an international study. Anorexia is seen as a serious psychiatric disease. But doctors at King's College London showed changes hardwired into some people's DNA altered the way they processed fats and sugars and may make it easier to starve their bodies. The eating disorder charity Beat said the findings were groundbreaking. [BBC News](#)

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## Clinical pharmacists deliver positive Hep C adherence

15 July- Achieving the goals of the National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan 2020 depends upon integrating additional healthcare providers to expand access to hepatitis C virus (HCV) screening and medication treatments. This Health and Human Services (HHS) Plan says 'everyone has a role to play in the battle against viral hepatitis.' And this ongoing battle is extensive. An estimated 4.4 million Americans are living with chronic viral hepatitis infection and are at increased risk for liver disease, liver cancer, and death. A new study's results indicate clinical pharmacists may be the right provider, located at optimal locations to optimize HCV medication use and improve clinical outcomes. This study published on July 3, 2019, found HCV treatments delivered by clinical pharmacists resulted in high Sustained Virologic Response (SVR) rates, comparable with care delivered by specialists. These

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researchers reported 95.1 percent of patients in the per-protocol population demonstrated positive SVR, whereas 86.1 percent of the intent-to-treat population demonstrated SVR. This data compares with those study participants with full adherence had an SVR of 90 percent. [Precision Vaccinations](#)

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## **DRC to stick with just 1 vaccine in Ebola outbreak**

12 July- Yesterday the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) said that ministry of health and government officials have agreed that Merck's rVSV-ZEBOV is the only vaccine that will be used during the current, ever-growing Ebola outbreak in North Kivu and Ituri provinces. "Due to the lack of sufficient scientific evidence on the efficacy and safety of other vaccines as well as the risk of confusion among the population, it was decided that no clinical vaccine trials will be allowed throughout the country," the ministry said in its daily update yesterday. As of yesterday, a total of 158,830 people have been vaccinated with rVSV-ZEBOV, which clinical data suggest has as high as a 97.5% effectiveness rate against the virus. The vaccine has been given in a ring vaccination strategy, which follows case contacts in concentric circles. The ring strategy was first used during the 2014-2016 West African outbreak. Yesterday the ministry said that, since Jun 13, health workers have followed a new vaccine protocol that can be adapted to different security concerns and environments as the situation calls for. [CIDRAP](#)

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## **Ebola outbreak in Congo is declared a global health emergency**

17 July- The World Health Organization issued the order; the virus has infected more than 2,500 people and killed nearly 1,700. The year-old Ebola epidemic in the Democratic Republic of Congo is now considered a global health emergency, the World Health Organization said on Wednesday, in a formal declaration that many public health experts called long overdue. "This is still a regional emergency and by no way a global threat," said Robert Steffen of the University of Zurich, chairman of the W.H.O. emergency committee that recommended the declaration. But the panel was persuaded by several factors that have made combating the epidemic more urgent in recent weeks: The disease reached Goma, a city of nearly two million people; the outbreak has raged for a year; the virus has flared again in spots where it had once been contained; and the epidemic hot zone has geographically expanded in northeastern Congo near Rwanda and into Uganda. Violence against health workers has been a constant worry, and intensified after two Congolese workers were killed in their homes in Beni last week. [New York Times](#)

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## First Ebola patient in eastern Congo's main city dies

16 July- The first Ebola patient in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo's largest city, Goma, has died, the government said on Tuesday. The spread of the virus to Goma, a city of roughly 1 million people on the border with Rwanda, has raised fears the outbreak, which is already the second deadliest Ebola epidemic ever, could spread more widely. The patient was a priest who became infected during a visit to the town of Butembo, one of the epicentres of the outbreak, before taking a bus to Goma, according to Congo's health ministry. He was being driven from Goma to a clinic in Butembo on Monday to receive treatment when he died, North Kivu province's Governor Carly Nzanzu told an Ebola response meeting. The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday that health officials had identified 60 people who had come into contact with the pastor since he was taken ill and that half of them had been vaccinated. Goma, a lakeside city more than 350 kilometers (220 miles) south of where Ebola was first detected a year ago, is the largest city to be affected by the outbreak, which has infected more than 2,500 people and killed nearly 1,700. Three Ebola cases which originated in Congo were confirmed in neighboring Uganda a month ago, but no new cases have since been registered in that country. [Reuters](#)

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## Higher iron levels boosts heart health but also increases stroke risk: Study

17 July- People who regularly consume iron-rich foods may benefit from improved heart health, but they may also be unknowingly increasing their risk for stroke. Researchers at Imperial College London examined the medical data of more than 500,000 people to find out how iron affects the development of over 900 different diseases in the body. [Tech Times](#)

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## More kids are getting placed in foster care because of parents drug use

15 July- The number of cases of children entering the foster care system due to parental drug use has more than doubled since 2000, according to research published this week in JAMA Pediatrics. Researchers analyzed data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), a federally mandated data collection system that includes information on children in foster care in the United States. They looked at nearly 5 million instances of children entering foster care between 2000 and 2017 and analyzed how many times foster children were removed from their homes due to their parents' drug use each year. "A lot of the work out there [on the opioid epidemic] has focused on mortality and overdoses and how it affects adults," says Angelica Meinhofer, instructor in health care policy and research at Weill Cornell Medicine. "[It's] less known how the epidemic might spill over to children. And that's something I'm trying to shed light on." April Dirks, an associate professor of social work at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, says the

findings correspond with what she's seen as a child welfare worker in the Midwest, where parents' drug use, and the state's response to it, has torn many families apart. "I'd say it's a crisis at this point," she says. [NPR](#)

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## Study highlights resistance, persistence of *C difficile*

15 July- A new study by British researchers suggests standard hospital disinfectants may no longer be enough for preventing the spread of *Clostridioides difficile*. In an attempt to better understand the ability of *C difficile* spores to persist in the hospital and spread to patients, a team led by scientists from the University of Plymouth spiked three different hospital surfaces (surgical gowns, stainless-steel, and vinyl flooring) with different strains of *C difficile* spores, then cleaned them with a chlorine-based disinfectant recommended by English hospitals for deactivating *C difficile* spores. After 10 minutes, the spores were still attached to the surfaces, and still viable. The authors of the study said the results, published in the journal *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, indicate hospitals may need to re-examine the effectiveness of strategies to prevent transmission of *C difficile*, a difficult-to-eradicate bacterium that often spreads via contamination of hospital surfaces. "The spores of the bacteria were able to grow after decontamination," lead investigator and University of Plymouth microbiologist Tina Joshi, PhD, said in a press release from the American Society for Microbiology (ASM), which publishes the journal. "This shows that spores are becoming resistant and we need to reconsider how we decontaminate and employ hygiene measures in hospitals." [CIDRAP](#)

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### VETERINARY/FOOD SAFETY

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## *E. coli* outbreak linked to ground bison

17 July- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), along with other federal, state and local authorities and with the support of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), are investigating a multistate outbreak of *E. coli* O121 and *E. coli* O103 illnesses likely linked to ground bison supplied by Northfork Bison Distributions Inc. of Saint-Leonard, Québec, Canada. A total of 21 people infected with the outbreak strains of *E. coli* O103 and *E. coli* O121 have been reported from 7 states. New York and Florida have reported the most cases with nine and four, respectively. Eight people have been hospitalized. No cases of hemolytic uremic syndrome, a type of kidney failure, have been reported. No deaths have been reported. The FDA and CDC analyzed traceback and epidemiological information to determine that ground bison supplied by Northfork Bison Distributions Inc. is the likely cause of the illnesses. Ill people in this outbreak report eating ground bison in burgers at restaurants and at home. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## **Fieldsource Foods recalls beef, chicken for undeclared allergens**

15 July- After federal inspectors discovered labeling issues at Fieldsource Food Systems Inc., the company initiated a recall of almost 13,000 pounds of beef and chicken products. The products contain wheat, a known allergen that is not declared on the products labels per federal law, according to the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). No injuries or other adverse reactions had been confirmed as of July 14. Fieldsource reported the uncooked beef and chicken products were produced from June 9 through July 10. The company shipped the products to grocery stores in California to be used behind the deli counter. These products are not sold uncooked to consumers, according to the recall notice. "FSIS is concerned that some product may be in refrigerators or freezers behind the deli counter in grocery stores," according to the recall notice. "The delis should not use the products. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase."

[Food Safety News](#)

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## **New York officials investigating Cyclospora outbreak among diners**

14 July- For a month now people in New York have been testing positive for parasitic infections that health officials say appear to have a foodborne vector. There are currently 11 laboratory-confirmed patients infected with the Cyclospora parasite, according to an alert from the New York State Department of Health. At least three specific foodservice providers have been reported by some of the patients. "Several of the cases interviewed report they dined at the following establishments: The Italian American Community Center in Albany; A buffet during a private graduation event at Union College in Schenectady; Prime Life Restaurant at Beltrone Senior Living Community Center in Colonie," according to the state health department. "There is no indication that the illnesses are related to poor food handling or preparation at these establishments, and each of the establishments is fully cooperating with the investigation." New York officials did not provide any specific information on the confirmed patients except to say that their illnesses started becoming apparent in mid-June. The state officials are working with Albany County Department of Health, Montgomery County Public Health, Saratoga County Public Health and Schenectady County Public Health Services on the investigation. [Food Safety News](#)

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## Salmonella outbreak in France linked to meat product

14 July- French authorities are investigating a suspected Salmonella outbreak linked to a meat product from Italy. Officials did not reveal how many people were ill, but did say Coppa ham, which is a salted, seasoned and dry-cured thinly cut pork shoulder or neck product, was thought to be the source. Consumer complaints led the French supermarket Intermarché to alert authorities and withdraw products from sale. The store started the withdrawal of implicated products on July 8. According to the recall notice, Salmonella was detected in the product during microbiological control testing. The link with Coppa of the brand Di Vittorio supplied by Castelli France, based in Marseille, and was confirmed by French officials and Santé publique France, the country's public health agency. Sliced or whole Coppa sold between May 17 and July 8 throughout the country is affected. Coppa sandwiches made at the supermarket between the same dates have also been recalled. Health authorities told people who still have the products not to consume them and to take items back to the place of purchase. The same product was recalled in August this past year for Listeria. It was sold at Intermarché between June 8 and August 9, 2018. Symptoms of Salmonella infection typically develop six to 72 hours after exposure to the bacteria and may include fever, chills, diarrhea, cramps, headache, nausea and vomiting. They usually last from four to seven days and most people recover without treatment. Older adults, children, pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems are more likely to develop a severe illness. [Food Safety News](#)

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### WELLNESS

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## Dementia: Lifestyle changes that could lower your risk

14 July- Nearly everyone can lower their risk of dementia, even if it runs in the family, by living a healthy lifestyle, research suggests. The study of nearly 200,000 people showed the risk fell by up to a third. The team at the University of Exeter said the results were exciting, empowering and showed people were not doomed to get dementia. The findings were revealed at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference. [BBC News](#)

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## Most dietary supplements could not protect you from heart disease and early death

16 July- A new analysis that looked at 277 clinical trials involving nearly 1 million people has revealed that most nutritional supplements and dietary interventions cannot prevent death and cardiovascular disease. In a new study, Erin D. Michos, associate professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and colleagues reported that most calcium alone, iron, selenium, multivitamins, vitamin A, vitamin B6, vitamin C, vitamin E, and vitamin D alone are not associated with longer life or protection from heart disease.

Supplements that combine calcium and vitamin D may in fact cause harm by increasing risk for stroke. The researchers found that potential health benefits were only linked to low-salt diet, omega-3 fatty acid supplements, and folic acid supplements. "Reduced salt intake, omega-3 LC-PUFA use, and folate supplementation could reduce risk for some cardiovascular outcomes in adults. Combined calcium plus vitamin D might increase risk for stroke," Michos and colleagues wrote in their study, which was published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* on July 8. Other earlier studies also failed to prove the health benefits of taking dietary supplements. Some of these studies even suggest these supplements may even cause harm. A 2016 study from the Johns Hopkins University, for instance, found that people who take calcium pills tend to have higher risk for plaque in the arteries than people who did not take them. In a 2018 study, vitamin D also failed to live to its hype of providing protection against the bone-thinning disease osteoporosis. Researchers found that taking vitamin D supplements could not prevent fractures and falls. The supplements do not have also have significant effects on bone density. [Tech Times](#)

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## **USAFRICOM**

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### **Angola: Polio vaccination campaign**

13 July- A three-day polio vaccination campaign took place in the province of Lunda Norte, according to Angolan press. The campaign vaccinated 205,688 children between the ages of zero and five, in the ten municipalities of the province. Angola has reported two circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) outbreaks in the country this year—one in Lunda Norte province bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) and a more recent one in Kuvango district, Huila province. The two strains are unrelated, according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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### **Ebola in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo**

14 July- Today, the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Ministry of Health reported the first Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) case in the city of some 1 million people, the capital of North Kivu, Goma. I take a look at what health officials say about the case. In addition, I look at the High-Level Event on Response and Preparedness for the Ebola Outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo meeting being held July 15 in Geneva. Lastly, I look at some important points made by President Obama's "Ebola Czar" Ron Klain concerning a public health emergency declaration in a recent Op-Ed. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## Ghana reports polio in environmental sample from Tamale

15 July- Last week, Ghana health officials reported a confirmed circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) in an environmental sample collected from Tamale Metropolis, Northern Region. The virus is linked to one of the circulating poliovirus loci in Kwara State, Nigeria. There have been no associated human cases of AFP in Ghana. However, the identification of the pathogen in the environment is extremely significant as poliovirus spreads easily and across large distances. Poliovirus is slated for global eradication. Confirmation of poliovirus in an environmental sample is therefore considered as an outbreak. Ghana reported the last poliovirus outbreak in November 2008, when a wild poliovirus type 1 was isolated from a human sample in ZabzunguTatale District, Northern Region. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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**USCENTCOM**

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## China reports polio case from Sichuan province, Pakistan records 9 more WPV1 cases

13 July- In Sichuan province, China, a circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) has been confirmed, according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. The virus was isolated from stool specimens of an acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) case from Liangshan Yi Autonomous prefecture with onset of paralysis on April 25. The strain is genetically linked to a VDPV2 isolated from an environmental sample from Xinjiang province, collected on April 18, 2018. Officials say China continues to maintain strong routine immunization coverage both with IPV and bivalent OPV reaching more than 95% nationwide, and strong poliovirus surveillance including through environmental surveillance. In addition, Pakistan saw nine new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases, bringing the total to 41 this year. Five were reported from Bannu district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, two from Torgar district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and one each from Jaffarabad and Killa Abdullah districts, Balochistan province. Lastly, Angola recorded its second case of cVDPV2 this year, in Kuvango district, Huila province, with symptom onset on May 30. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## USEUCOM

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### Iceland: E. coli cluster rises to 17 cases, Linked to Efstidalur II farm

13 July- In a follow-up on a recent report, Iceland health officials reported an additional E. coli infection in a one and a half year old child Friday, bringing the total cases in the cluster to 17. A cluster of infections due to verotoxin producing Enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli (EHEC) O26:H11 has been linked to the tourist attraction Efstidalur II, a farm and restaurant near Laugarvatn, about 55 miles from Reykjavik in the south of Iceland. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## USINDOPACOM

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### Japanese Encephalitis in Malaysia

17 July- According to the Malaysia Ministry of Health, from January 1 to July 13, a total of 15 Japanese Encephalitis (JE) cases reported in Malaysia involved three (3) JE death cases, two (2) in Sarawak and one (1) in Perak. All cases are sporadic and no JE outbreaks are reported. JE is the most important cause of viral encephalitis in Asia. About 68,000 clinical cases are reported annually. It usually occurs in rural or agricultural areas, often associated with rice farming. JE virus is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected Culex species mosquitoes, particularly Culex tritaeniorhynchus. Most JE virus infections are mild (fever and headache) or without apparent symptoms, but approximately 1 in 250 infections results in severe disease characterized by rapid onset of high fever, headache, neck stiffness, disorientation, coma, seizures, spastic paralysis and death. The case-fatality rate can be as high as 30% among those with disease symptoms. There is a protective vaccine against Japanese encephalitis virus. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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### Malaria cluster reported in Pahang, Malaysia; Last case reported in 2011

15 July- Health officials in Malaysia are investigating a malaria cluster in Kuala Lipis, Pahang state. On July 11, 2019, a case of four (4) cases of malaria-confirmed cases was reported to Kuala Lipis District Health Office (PKD) from Betau Health Clinic. All cases involving Orang Asli children aged 4 to 10 are from two villages, two (2) cases from Kampung Pagar and Kampung Serdang. All cases have been taken to the Kuala Lipis Hospital ward and given treatment. Kuala Lipis has not reported a malaria case for the past 8 years, the last case was reported in 2011. The Pahang State Health Department has activated the Epidemic Room on July 12, 2019 and control activities and case detection (Active Case Detection) conducted

by Kuala Lipis PKD Team in Kampung Pagar and Kampung Serdang. A total of 393 blood slides have been taken from residents in both villages for microscopic testing. Initial examination of the slide, PKD found 11 more malaria infections in Kampung Serdang. From July 11 to July 15, 2019, there have been 15 cases reported from these two villages. All cases have been diagnosed with Plasmodium vivax and have been hospitalized for treatment and in stable condition. PKD has also carried out malaria control activities by conducting Indoor Residual Spraying and distribution of mosquito nets in the affected locality. At this point, the PKD team is in the process of tracking cases and vector control activities. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## **Philippines: National Dengue Alert declared as cases top 100K**

15 July- Several regions in the Philippines have exceeded the epidemic threshold for dengue fever during the first half of 2019, prompting the Department of Health to declare a National Dengue Alert Monday. From January 1 to June 29 this year, most cases are from Western Visayas (13,164), CALABARZON (11,474), Central Visayas (9,199), SOCCSKSARGEN (9,107), and Northern Mindanao (8,739). Dengue cases nationwide now reach a cumulative figure of 106,630. This is 85% higher compared to the same period last year (57,564). In coordination with the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC), through Undersecretary Ricardo Jalad of the Office of Civil Defense, code blue alert is activated. DOH as lead agency, will be convening the NDRRMC Health Cluster. Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III explained that dengue cases have been observed to peak every 3-4 years. He added that early detection and proper case management can prevent deaths. The last peak occurred in 2016, given this pattern, the DOH expects an increase in cases this year. Dengue is a viral disease with no known vaccine or specific antibiotics. Effective surveillance can also help in reducing cases and deaths if areas with clustering of cases are identified early. Signs and symptoms of disease are severe headache, pain behind the eyes, severe joint and muscle pain, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, and skin rashes. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## **Singapore reports 666 dengue cases last week, highest weekly total in 3 1/2 years**

16 July- Officials in Singapore recorded the most dengue fever cases in a week in three and one half years last week, according to data from the National Environment Agency (NEA). 666 dengue cases were reported in the week ending 13 Jul 2019, 73 cases more than in the previous week. This surpasses the previous weekly peak of 637 cases experienced in Jan 2016. Year-to-date, officials put the total dengue cases near 7,500, about 5-times the 1,481 dengue cases seen the same period last year. With summer upon Singapore, officials say urgent action is needed to eliminate potential mosquito breeding habitats in the

community. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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**USNORTHCOM**

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## **U.S.: North Carolina- Veterinarian warns about Asian longhorned ticks**

14 July- State Veterinarian Doug Meckes is reminding livestock and pet owners to be vigilant in their tick preventative measures during warm weather. Recently, the deaths of five cows in Surry County were linked to acute anemia caused by tick infestations. Samples were sent to the N.C. Division of Public Health, Communicable Disease Branch for identification which confirmed Asian longhorned ticks. "This is the fourth confirmed case in North Carolina since 2018, and the first case reported this year. Previous cases were found in Polk, Rutherford and Davidson counties," Meckes said. "The deceased young bull brought to our Northwestern Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab had more than 1,000 ticks on it and the owner had lost four other cattle under the same circumstances." The Asian longhorned tick is an exotic, East Asian tick. The first case identified in the U.S. was in West Virginia from a tick taken from a white-tail deer in August 2010. Since then, 67 counties in the United States have confirmed local Asian longhorned tick populations. Virginia has the most counties with 24 confirmed. It is a serious pest of livestock in its native regions and the means of introduction into the U.S. is unknown. It is an aggressive biter and frequently builds intense infestations on animals causing great stress, reduced growth and production, and blood loss. The tick can reproduce parthenogenetically (without a male) and a single fed female tick can create a localized population. While the Asian longhorned tick has not been linked to any human infection in the United States, the N.C. Division of Public Health, Communicable Disease Branch is working with NCDA&CS to understand its distribution and monitor for diseases it may carry. The finding of this tick in the state corresponds with a continued effort by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services to identify ticks in all 100 counties of the state. Veterinarians are encouraged to submit ticks they find on clinical patients to help track and identify tick populations in North Carolina. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## **U.S.: Texas- El Paso reports 3rd measles case**

16 July- El Paso, TX health officials have reported an additional confirmed measles case, about a week after two cases were confirmed for the first time in 25 years. The most recent case is in a male toddler. It is not believed this second toddler exposed the general public to the disease, however, those who are concerned that they are showing signs and symptoms should visit their medical care provider, or those who would like more information may call 2-1-1 to receive further instructions. "Because El Paso's immunization rates are so high, we don't expect to see a huge number of cases emerge," said Robert Resendes, Public Health

Director. "We know that the effectiveness of the vaccine, especially after the recommended two doses, is about 97 percent." Unfortunately the virus is also very contagious. Approximately 90 percent of people who are not vaccinated, who are exposed to the virus will become infected by this respiratory disease. It spreads through coughing and sneezing and the disease usually begins with fever, cough, runny nose, and red eyes. These symptoms are followed by a rash that spreads from the head down to the hands and feet. Measles can live in an airspace where an infected person was, for up to two hours. Nationally, 1,123 individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 28 states through July 11. This is the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1992 and since measles was declared eliminated in 2000. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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### Argentina: Outbreak of skin infections linked to tattoos

10 July- An epidemiological alert has been issued by the Argentina Ministry of Health following an outbreak in skin infections associated with tattoos in multiple provinces, according to an Infobae report. A total of 68 cases have been reported in the city of Rosario and neighboring towns such as San Nicolás and Villa Ramallo, and in Luján, in the province of Buenos Aires. The report notes, the majority of patients reported red and raised skin lesions with variable pruritus, which appeared between seven and 15 days after the tattoo was performed. Of the 68 cases, 55 were biopsied and cultured: eight of them grew the bacterium, Mycobacteria, seven were identified as Mycobacterium abscessus. Mycobacterium abscessus complex comprises a group of rapidly growing, multidrug-resistant, nontuberculous mycobacteria that are responsible for a wide spectrum of skin and soft tissue diseases, central nervous system infections, bacteremia, and ocular and other infections. M. abscessus complex outbreaks associated with cosmetic procedures and nosocomial transmissions are not uncommon. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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The *Army Public Health Weekly Update* is published by the Public Health Communication Directorate, Army Public Health Center.

