

Subscription or Comments

If you wish to be added to the APH Weekly Update mailing list, removed from the mailing list, or if you have comments or questions about the update, please [contact us](#). We welcome your comments. Please feel free to share this update with others who may be interested.



USAFRICOM

- Mozambique: Cholera cases slow, malaria cases near 60K
- Nigeria says no Ebola in country, debunking false social media messages

USCENTCOM

- Corruption, neglect cripples Pakistan's public health system

USEUCOM

- Iceland confirms chikungunya in travelers to Spain
- Invasive Group A streptococcus outbreak reported in Essex, England

USINDOPACOM

- Malaysia: Methanol poisoning cluster
- Measles in Auckland rises to 126 cases in 2019
- New Zealand syphilis cases rise, concern over congenital syphilis
- Nipah: 12 bats test positive for the virus

USNORTHCOM

- California: Los Angeles- Health officials issue measles advisory
- Georgia: Reports 7th measles case of the year in Atlanta resident

USSOUTHCOM

- Staph aureus found on 40 percent of cell phones at one university: Study

U.S. MILITARY

Experts: Carbs are not the enemy in health, wellness battle

18 June- Diets that restrict carbohydrates have their share of followers looking to lose weight. The ketogenic diet, for example, calls for slashing carbs to about 5 percent of calories consumed daily, with fats comprising at least 75 percent, and proteins about 15-20 percent. In comparison, the National Academies guidelines recommend carbohydrates comprise 45-65 percent of the daily diet, with fats at 20-35 percent, and proteins 10-35 percent. Health care experts agree that cutting carbs may lead to initial weight loss. However, it's not necessarily an effective or wise long-term solution for losing and maintaining weight, they say. Indeed, when it comes to overall health and wellness, carbs are not the enemy. "I think carbohydrates have gotten a bad name because people tend to lump them all together," said Jonathan Scott, Ph.D., a registered dietitian and certified specialist in sports dietetics. "But not all carbs are created equal," said Scott, who's also an assistant professor in the department of military and emergency medicine at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. [Health.mil](#)

[top of page...](#)

GLOBAL

Cardiomyopathy in pregnancy: Breastfeeding may be safe

25 June- Breastfeeding was not associated with worse myocardial recovery in peripartum cardiomyopathy (PPCM), the IPAC study found, throwing into question recommendations against the practice for affected mothers. In the 100-woman observational study, the 15 participants who breastfed generally had higher levels of prolactin and cytotoxic CD3+CD8+ T cells at study entry and at 6 months, reported Dennis McNamara, MD, MS, of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and colleagues in the June issue of JACC: Basic to Translational Science. However, this was not accompanied by impaired myocardial recovery: the breastfeeding cohort actually trended toward higher left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) at study entry (39% vs 34%, P=0.06) and stayed that way over follow-up. A European Society of Cardiology (ESC) working group has discouraged nursing and recommend the use of bromocriptine instead to block prolactin in these women, based on a few prior observational studies suggesting harm. "Prolactin acts directly on mammary glands to promote generation of milk. However, in some contexts, prolactin can be cleaved by extracellular proteases to yield a 16 kD peptide that is profoundly vasculotoxic. Studies in mice suggest that this action may occur in certain predisposed individuals, leading to loss of cardiac microvasculature, global ischemia, and cardiomyopathy," noted an accompanying

Follow us!



Facebook



Twitter



YouTube



Instagram

**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.



editorial. [MedPage Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

Could CBD fight superbugs? Marijuana compound shows promise as an antibiotic

24 June- The quest for new antibiotics has led researchers to a surprising candidate: the marijuana compound CBD. A new study finds that CBD, or cannabidiol, is "remarkably effective" at killing bacteria, at least in a test tube, the researchers in the new study said. The results showed that CBD had antibiotic effects against a number of so-called Gram-positive bacteria, including types of staph and strep bacteria, as well as strains that had become resistant to other antibiotic drugs. Still, the results are very preliminary, and people should absolutely not self-treat infections with CBD at this time, the researchers said. "It needs a lot more work to show [that CBD] would be useful to treat infections in humans," said study lead author Mark Blaskovich, of The University of Queensland's Institute for Molecular Bioscience's Centre for Superbug Solutions in Brisbane, Australia. "It would be very dangerous to try to treat a serious infection with cannabidiol instead of one of the tried and tested antibiotics," Blaskovich told Live Science. [Live Science](#)

[top of page...](#)

Do you know the hygiene hot spots in your home?

25 June- People should be focusing on how to prevent harmful microbes from spreading in their homes rather than cleaning the bits that look "dirty", a Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) report says. Washing hands, cloths and surfaces at the right time is the key to good hygiene - but one in four people think it is not important, it warns. Getting it right can reduce infections and antibiotic resistance. And there is no such thing as being "too clean". According to the RSPH report, there is confusion among the public about the difference between dirt, germs, cleanliness and hygiene. In a survey of 2,000 people, 23% thought children needed to be exposed to harmful germs to build up their immune systems. But experts behind the report said this was "a potentially harmful belief" which could lead to exposure to some dangerous infections. Instead, they said people should concentrate on cleaning specific places at specific times, even if they look clean, to stop "bad" microbes spreading. [BBC](#)

[top of page...](#)

**The Surgeon
General Weekly
Read Book**

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.

Fighting Ebola is hard but in the Congo mistrust and fear is making it harder

22 June- When Ebola first struck this city of more than a 100,000 people last September, many here didn't believe it was real. As the disease latched onto families and spread through tightly packed neighborhoods, rumors began spreading of organ harvesting and political conspiracies, even as more people got sick and died. When the ambulances came to take people away - they would never see them again. "They didn't know where they were taking them. They just thought they were going 'over there' to die," says Sylvestre Zongwe, a Congolese manager of primary healthcare at French NGO The Alliance for International Medical Action (Alima). So instead of going for treatment, many stayed at home and died, their bodies still highly contagious and deadly for the family members who buried them. "Fear prevents good management of the epidemic. Fear makes it difficult to break the chain of transmission. What was needed was to break the fear," says Zongwe. It's this extreme mistrust, along with simmering conflict and what many responders on the ground believe has been a flawed response that has allowed the world's second-biggest Ebola outbreak on record to continue unabated more than 10 months after the first cases were found. Despite millions of dollars in funding, and an effective experimental vaccine, Ebola is spreading to new parts of Congo's North Kivu and Ituri provinces and re-infecting areas thought rid of the virus. This month, it also made the long-feared jump across the border to neighboring Uganda, though at this stage those isolated cases appear to be contained. [CNN](#)

[top of page...](#)

How this gut bacteria may give elite athletes an edge

24 June- Elite athletes not only have stronger hearts and fitter muscles than the average Joe, but they also sport special gut bacteria that may actually boost their performance, a new study suggests. The study, published today (June 24) in the journal Nature Medicine, shows that marathon runners and endurance athletes have higher levels of a bacteria called Veillonella in their guts, particularly after finishing a race, compared with sedentary people. What's more, when the researchers isolated a strain of Veillonella from a marathon runner and administered this bacteria to mice, they found that the mice ran for 13% longer on a treadmill test, compared with mice not given Veillonella. It appears that Veillonella feeds on lactic acid, a compound produced in the muscles during exercise; in turn, the bacteria produce a compound called propionate, which may aid athletic performance, the researchers said. [Live Science](#)

[top of page...](#)

Links

[A-Z Index](#)

[About APHC](#)

[Army Public Health
Weekly Update Archives](#)

[Medical Surveillance
Monthly Report](#)

[Medical Threat Briefings
\(AKO\)](#)

[Request APHC Services](#)

[APHC Resource Materials](#)

[APHC Homepage](#)

[APHC Training](#)

[Contact APHC](#)

Life, death and the Lazarus drug: Confronting America's opioid crisis

24 June- Last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a stunning statistic. Seventy-two thousand people, it estimates, died of drug overdoses in 2017. The huge increase in deaths is largely due to heroin and powerful synthetic opioids like fentanyl. One of the tools being used to fight that wave of deaths is the drug naloxone. It's been called the Lazarus drug for its ability to revive people dying from overdoses. It can be injected or simply administered through a nasal spray. (The spray form of the drug is known by the brand name Narcan.) Twenty-four-year-old Tiffany — whose last name is being withheld to protect her privacy — owes her life to naloxone. "I've overdosed nine times," she says. Each time she overdosed, Tiffany was revived with naloxone. Another heroin user, James, says he has also been brought back with naloxone, and that he's used the drug on friends who "fall out," or lose consciousness. "I've got five or six nasal spray Narcans up in my room, so if someone else falls out around me, when you shoot it up their nose, not even ten, fifteen seconds later, they are back," he says. Tiffany and James say naloxone has not changed the way they think about heroin, but both have friends who treat naloxone like a safety net. Tiffany says she has one friend who assumes that "if he overdoses, someone will come give him Narcan and bring him back." But would her friend stop using heroin if he didn't have Narcan? "No," she says. "There ain't no way." The possibility that naloxone might lead to greater risk taking among drug users prompted two economists to study the issue. Their controversial and hotly-debated findings suggest naloxone not only increases risky drug use but may actually cause more deaths than it saves. Public health researchers say these findings are based on flawed data and analyses. This week on Hidden Brain, we talk with users, families, and researchers about risky drug use. We'll try to understand the complex risk/benefit calculations involved in opioid use, and why there's still so much we're struggling to understand about addiction. [NPR](#)

[top of page...](#)

Migraine in pregnancy linked with complications for mothers and babies

25 June- Pregnant women with migraine headaches are more likely to develop complications, and their babies are at higher risk for complications early after birth, too, a large study from Denmark suggests. Using Danish registries, researchers identified 22,841 pregnant women with migraine and compared them with 228,324 pregnant women without migraine. They found that the debilitating disorder was tied to pregnancy-associated blood pressure problems as well as miscarriage. And newborns of mothers with migraine had higher rates of low birth weight, respiratory distress syndrome, and febrile seizures compared with children of mothers without migraine. Previous smaller studies have seen some of the same outcomes, including pregnancy-associated hypertension and low birth weight, coauthor Nils Skajaa from Aarhus University told Reuters Health by email. But the findings concerning the other neonatal and neurological risks are new, he said. Migraine is

more common in younger women, with up to 25 percent of women of reproductive age affected by the disease, the authors wrote in the journal *Headache*. Earlier studies had fewer than 1,000 migraine patients, they note. This new, larger study solidifies what is already known about the impact of migraine in pregnant women, said Dr. Tina Nguyen, and obstetrician at UCLA Health in Los Angeles who was not involved in the study. [Reuters](#)

[top of page...](#)

More US women use marijuana during pregnancy, says study

20 June- The number of mothers-to-be who use marijuana products increased in 2017, especially among those who are in the first trimester of their pregnancy. A new study analyzed the data of 4,400 pregnant women and 133,900 nonpregnant women between the ages of 12 and 44 who participated in the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Each participant was asked about their pregnancy status and history of medical and nonmedical marijuana use. [Tech Times](#)

[top of page...](#)

New sex drug for women to improve low libido is approved by the F.D.A

21 June- The Food and Drug Administration has approved a new drug to treat low sexual drive in women, the only one besides Addyi, which entered the market in 2015. The drug, to be called Vyleesi, will be sold by AMAG Pharmaceuticals and is intended to be used 45 minutes before sex, via an auto-injector pen that is administered in the thigh or abdomen. "We're obviously thrilled about being able to bring another option to patients," said Dr. Julie Krop, the chief medical officer of AMAG, which is based in Waltham, Mass. "These women have suffered significantly, pretty much in silence, for a stigmatized condition, and many of them have not known that it's a treatable medical condition." [The New York Times](#)

[top of page...](#)

INFLUENZA

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

2018-2019 Influenza Season Week 24 ending June 15, 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 June 20, 2019, 5.2% of the deaths occurring during the week ending June 8, 2019 (week 23) were due to P&I. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 6.2% for week 23.

Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality: Three influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC during week 24. One death was associated with an influenza A (H3) virus and occurred during week 8 (the week ending February 23, 2019), one death was associated with an influenza A virus for which no subtyping was performed and occurred during week 20 (the week ending May 18, 2019), and one death was associated with and influenza B virus and occurred during week 24 (the week ending June 15, 2019). A total of 119 influenza-associated pediatric deaths occurring during the 2018-2019 season have been reported to CDC. [CDC](#)

[top of page...](#)

VETERINARY/FOOD SAFETY

Formula sold at Walmart recalled after complaint about 'metal' in product

24 June- A formula company has issued a voluntary recall for a product sold in Walmart locations nationwide after it received a consumer complaint about metal in the powder. Perrigo Company plc said the recall affects its 35-ounce, 992-gram containers of Parent's Choice Advantage Infant Formula Milk-Based Powder with Iron. [Fox News](#)

[top of page...](#)

Increase in vibrio illnesses prompts warning in New Zealand

23 June- Food safety officials in New Zealand are urging people to cook raw mussels thoroughly after an increase in food poisoning. New Zealand Food Safety reported a rise in people with food poisoning caused by *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* during the past six weeks. A spokeswoman from the New Zealand Ministry of Health told Food Safety News that 28 *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* patients had been notified in the past six weeks but two infections were acquired overseas. "Of the 26 cases, 22 confirmed and four under investigation, who acquired the disease in New Zealand, 21 of these have been linked to two outbreaks; 12 in Auckland region and nine in Bay of Plenty," she said. "Nearly two-thirds of cases are male. Cases range in age from 23 to 80 years. One third of them have been hospitalized and no deaths have been reported. Of the 26 cases acquired in New Zealand, 20 are known to have eaten raw/smoked/partially cooked mussels during the incubation period." Those ill live in Bay of Plenty (nine people), Waitemata (six), Counties Manukau (five) and Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Lakes, Taranaki and Nelson Marlborough (all one each). *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* is a marine microorganism that occurs naturally worldwide. Not all strains cause illness in humans and surveys so far of New Zealand shellfish have found very low levels and incidence of disease-causing strains. [Food Safety News](#)

[top of page...](#)

Missouri: E. coli Outbreak Linked to Grant's Farm

23 June- Five cases of Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) involving visitors to Grant's Farm have been reported by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) this weekend. The health agency announced the outbreak just this week. The DHSS, along with the state and federal departments of agriculture and St. Louis area health agencies, is investigating what specifically led to the Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli*, or STEC. At this time, the health agency is investigating the farm and testing its animals to determine the source of the outbreak. [Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

Norovirus sickens dozens in outbreak linked to bar drinks

26 June- Officials with the Benton-Franklin Health District in Kennewick, WA reported on the investigation of a norovirus outbreak linked to a local restaurant. According to the timeline, health officials received the first reports over President's Day weekend and at the conclusion of the investigation, 26 patrons of 3 Eyed Fish, a wine bar and restaurant in Richland were reported as infected. The outbreak was linked to poor food handling practices by an infectious bartender. During the investigation, it was noted that the infectious employee who worked the night most ill patrons ate, returned to work less than 12 hours after they had an episode of diarrhea that same weekend. In addition, the investigation revealed that

drink garnishes were sometimes handled with bare hands, after interviewing bartenders.

[Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

State test results show *Listeria*; company recalls frozen organic peppers

21 June- Organic frozen red peppers are under recall nationwide after inspectors found *Listeria monocytogenes* in a sample of the Woodstock branded product. Labeled as “Organic Grilled Red Peppers,” the peppers are packaged in 10-ounce plastic bags. Consumers are urged to check their homes for the recalled product, keeping in mind that it has an expiration date of April 2020. The recalled organic Woodstock frozen peppers have a UPC number of 4256301714 and are marked with a lot code of 60B, according to the recall notice from UNFI, the company that markets the Woodstock brand. “No illnesses have been reported to date in connection with this problem,” the recall notice states. “The potential for contamination was noted after routine testing by the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) revealed the presence of *Listeria monocytogenes* in the lot number identified above. The production of the product has been suspended while RIDOH and UNFI continue to investigate.” Consumers who have purchased the recalled Woodstock frozen “Organic Grilled Red Peppers” are urged to dispose of the product properly. The public can contact ResponseTeam@bluemarblebrands.com with any questions. [Food Safety News](#)

[top of page...](#)

WELLNESS

Cancer prevention should start before birth

24 June- We have made revolutionary gains in cancer treatment during the last several decades. Recent, groundbreaking research in areas like immunotherapy give hope to cancer patients in desperate need of novel treatments. Improved therapies and treatments have led to a significant decline in mortality rates from childhood cancer. However, cancer treatment can be costly—physically, emotionally, and financially—for cancer patients and their families. In addition to treatment, we need to rally research efforts to identify modifiable risk factors we can target in cancer prevention. And prevention can start in utero. Early life exposures, i.e., those occurring just before or during a pregnancy and even through the first years of life, can impact health across a person’s entire lifespan. In 1990, British epidemiologist David Barker proposed what is now known as the Barker hypothesis. He posited that intrauterine growth retardation, a condition of delayed growth that causes an unborn baby to be smaller than it should be, has a causal relationship to the origins of several chronic diseases in middle age. In my own research, I study the impact of such early life factors on children’s health, including cancer. We still know very little about the risk factors of childhood cancer, except for those we have little to no control over, such as genetics, race, and the age of the mother. Further, survivors of childhood cancer are at an

increased risk for secondary carcinogenesis and cardiac morbidity and mortality, even beyond 50 years of age. Early prevention of childhood cancer is therefore key in reducing not only the risk of the cancer itself, but health burdens across the lifespan. [Scientific American](#)

[top of page...](#)

It's trendy to scorn processed food- Now there's research to back up that attitude

June 24- Nearly everyone these days seems to be promoting whole foods over processed foods. Think about how terms like "whole grain," "clean eating," "all natural," "functional" and "local" have taken over the lexicon. Yet, until now, there has been scant scientific evidence to support the eat-whole-foods movement. In recent weeks, the British Medical Journal published two new populations studies (study 1; study 2) that found a lower risk of heart disease risks and greater longevity among adults who eat less processed food. And a far more rigorous investigation from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) showed that subjects eating ultra-processed foods consumed significantly more calories and gained more weight than the same subjects when they ate minimally processed or whole foods. The NIH paper, published in Cell Metabolism in an issue dated Aug. 6, also offered some surprising theories to explain the benefits of minimally processed foods. At the same time, it acknowledged that ultra-processed foods make several important contributions to the nation's diet. The NIH research was led by Kevin Hall, a mathematical modeler who has become a global obesity expert in the past decade. Hall is known for his precise research methods, his sharp analysis of the outcomes, and his nondogmatic views on the worldwide obesity crisis. He doesn't believe in simple solutions, magic foods or this week's top-selling diet book. [The Washington Post](#)

[top of page...](#)

USAFRICOM

Mozambique: Cholera cases slow, malaria cases near 60K

24 June- In a follow-up on the infectious disease situation in Mozambique since cyclone Idai struck some 100 days ago, government officials report on the latest on the cholera and malaria outbreaks. No cholera cases have been reported since May 30. The last case was reported in Nhamatanda district. A cumulative 6,768 cases and 8 deaths (CFR 0.1%) have been reported since the outbreak was declared on Mar 27, 2019. Concerning malaria, a cumulative 59,173 malaria cases had been reported in Sofala province since Mar 27, officials report. [Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

Nigeria says no Ebola in country, debunking false social media messages

23 June- Nigerian health officials say there are no Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) cases in the country, debunking false messages being circulated on social media. Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Health, Mr. Abdullaziz Mashi Abdullahi, called on members of the public to disregard the rumor and discourage the circulation of any unverified information, which he said, could cause harm to innocent people and unnecessary panic among the citizens. Heightened surveillance had been on-going at the various points of entry by officials of the Port Health Services division of the Ministry to prevent importation into Nigeria since the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) outbreak began. The Permanent Secretary noted that in line with WHO's guidelines, a recent preliminary risk assessment conducted by the Nigeria Ebola Preparedness team, coordinated by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) indicated that the overall risk of importation of EVD to Nigeria from DRC and Uganda is low; but we are not resting on our laurels in view of trading activities of Nigerians. [Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

USCENTCOM

Corruption, neglect cripples Pakistan's public health system

25 June- Pakistan's government is struggling to revive the country's failing public health system. Decades of neglect and corruption have crippled it - and it's the most vulnerable who are paying the price. According to UNICEF, 40 percent of children are malnourished, resulting in a high rate of stunted growth. Children are dying of preventable diseases because their bodies are too weak to fight the infections. In spite of promises by Prime Minister Imran Khan to tackle malnutrition, economic woes have resulted in the biggest province's health budget being slashed. [Al Jazeera](#)

[top of page...](#)

USEUCOM

Iceland confirms chikungunya in travelers to Spain

26 June- Recently, Spanish media reported on several chikungunya cases in Icelandic tourists after having spent a vacation in Alicante. Iceland's Directorate of Health confirmed this report stating, Recently, news has emerged that four of the Icelanders who stayed in Alicante in Spain recently infected Chikungunya virus. Three individuals reside in Iceland and one in Norway. Initial studies indicated that Chikungunya virus infections have been confirmed, but further testing has not confirmed the infection in Iceland and abroad. "In the

coming days, it is planned to carry out further verification tests on Icelanders in Iceland, which will ultimately determine whether or not the above infection was involved. The above individuals have been informed of this conclusion as well as partners in Spain. All ways will be sought in the future to prevent such events from recurring. Chikungunya Virus (CHIKV) is an arbovirus of the alphavirus genus (Togaviridae family) transmitted by the bite of infected Aedes mosquitoes. The word, Chikungunya, translates to "that which bends up", based on the stooped position of patients during the rheumatic symptoms of the disease. In humans bitten by an infected mosquito, the disease symptoms usually appear after an incubation period of three to seven days (range 1- 12 days). [Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

Invasive Group A streptococcus outbreak reported in Essex, England

25 June- Health officials with NHS Mid Essex are reporting an outbreak of invasive Group A streptococcus (iGAS) infections among elderly people receiving treatment for wounds in care homes and in their own homes. To date there have been 32 cases of invasive Group A streptococcus (iGAS) in Braintree District, Chelmsford City and Maldon District and sadly 12 patients have died. There was also a single case in Basildon in 2018 and another in Southend in February 2019, however currently there appears to be no direct link between these cases and the cases in mid Essex. An incident management team has been set up, led by NHS Mid Essex CCG, with input also from Provide Community Interest Company, Public Health England and support from NHS England and NHS Improvement. iGAS infection develops when the bacterium Streptococcus pyogenes gets into the blood, joints, lungs, or lining of the brain causing severe and even life-threatening conditions. Streptococcus pyogenes also causes more common diseases, like strep throat and minor skin infections. Rachel Hearn, Director of Nursing and Quality, Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group said: "Our thoughts are with the families of those patients who have died. [Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

USINDOPACOM

Malaysia: Methanol poisoning cluster

23 June- The Malaysia Ministry of Health is reporting a methanol poisoning cluster believed linked to counterfeit alcohol. For the period of June 11 to June 21, 2019, where three methanol poisoning clusters reported to the National Crisis Preparedness and Response Center (CPRC). The incidents involved 19 cases from the following states: Penang (8), Johor (6) and Negeri Sembilan (5). The cause of the methanol poisoning was believed to be due to the counterfeit liquor branded by Myanmar Whiskey, Miludeer Beer, Whiskey 99 and Martens Extra Strong. The cluster of methanol poisoning in Penang began June 11, 2019, involving eight Myanmar citizens. Two of the cases have died. They have been drinking

Myanmar branded Whiskey. The drink is purchased from the same seller who sells directly at the premises where these poisoning victims are working. On June 21, 2019, one methanol poisoning case was still being treated at a Penang hospital in critical condition, while five others were discharged. [Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

Measles in Auckland rises to 126 cases in 2019

24 June- The number of measles cases in Auckland, New Zealand has risen to 126 confirmed cases through Monday, according to the Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS). Earlier this month, health officials changed the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination schedule for children due to the current outbreak. The first MMR vaccine has been brought forward to 12 months from 15 months in Auckland in an attempt to make an immediate effect to protect those most vulnerable in this outbreak. [Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

New Zealand syphilis cases rise, concern over congenital syphilis

26 June- New Zealand, like many countries around the globe, are seeing rising syphilis cases and intend to curb the increases with a new National Syphilis Action Plan rolled out today. Syphilis has been increasing in New Zealand every year since 2012. We are now also seeing cases of congenital syphilis in New Zealand – a condition that was very rare previously. In 2018, New Zealand had 543 cases of syphilis, 454 in males and 89 in females. That compares to 2017 with 480 cases, and 2016 with 322. Six years ago there were just 82 reported cases of syphilis. "We're very concerned at the growth in numbers, particularly around the rise of congenital syphilis, when infection is spread from mother to baby during pregnancy," says the Ministry's Deputy Director of Public Health, Dr. Niki Stefanogiannis. [Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

[top of page...](#)

Nipah: 12 bats test positive for the virus

23 June- In a follow-up on the human Nipah virus case in Ernakulum district of Kerala state, Union health minister Harsh Vardhan told the Lower House of Parliament that out of 36 Pteropus species bats tested for Nipah, 12 (33 per cent) were found to be positive for anti-Nipah bat IgG antibodies, according to a Mathrubhumi report. Only one case of Nipah virus has been reported so far this year from Ernakulum district of Kerala and the patient has been discharged. The case was reported in the first week of June. Vardhan said a total of 50 suspects were identified and all of them tested negative for Nipah. A total of 330 contacts are being followed up on a daily basis and no new case has been reported, he said.

[Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

California: Los Angeles- Health officials issue measles advisory

23 June- Los Angeles County health officials report investigating two LA County resident measles cases that recently traveled and became ill with measles shortly after returning to Los Angeles County, prompting the issuance of an advisory. Public Health is also looking to identify others who are at risk for measles and may have been exposed to these individuals. Public Health urges residents, especially those who travel internationally and those who have not been fully protected against measles, to get the measles immunization in order to better protect their individual health and to prevent the spread of measles to others.

[Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

Georgia: Reports 7th measles case of the year in Atlanta resident

24 June- Georgia state health officials are reporting an additional confirmed case of measles in an unvaccinated metro Atlanta resident who recently traveled overseas. The Department of Public Health (DPH) is notifying individuals who may have been exposed to the virus and may be at increased risk for developing measles. This is the seventh confirmed case of measles in Georgia in 2019. [Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

Staph aureus found on 40 percent of cell phones at one university: Study

23 June- New research has demonstrated the presence of *S. aureus* in 40% of the cell phones of students sampled at a university. *S. aureus* is a common cause of hospital and community-based infections and is currently considered an important pathogen because of its level of antibiotic resistance. The research, conducted at the Western University of São Paulo, Brazil, is presented at ASM Microbe, the annual meeting of the American Society for Microbiology. Of the bacteria isolated, 85% were resistant to the antibiotic penicillin and 50% had the ability to adhere to surfaces. In addition, the presence of genes related to adhesion, antimicrobial resistance and toxins were present a high level. Samples were collected from 100 cell phones of students from the Biomedicine (20), Pharmacy (20), Dentistry (20), Nutrition (20), and Nursing (20) courses. The vast majority of the bacteria isolated belonged to students of the nursing course. Nursing students are very likely to become carriers of *S. aureus* since clinical practice in hospital settings is part of their

coursework and exposure to occupational hazards is inherent to this setting, which could favor the colonization and contamination of the surface of cell devices. Cell phones used in healthcare environments allow for the transmission of bacteria that harbor genes of virulence and resistance, contributing to increasing the infection rates as well as an increase in the morbidity/mortality from these infections. [Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

[U.S. Military](#) | [Global](#) | [Influenza](#) | [Veterinary/Food Safety](#) | [Wellness](#) | [Contact Us](#)

[USAFRICOM](#) | [USCENTCOM](#) | [USEUCOM](#) | [USINDOPACOM](#) | [USNORTHCOM](#) | [USSOUTHCOM](#)

The *Army Public Health Update* is a collection of articles taken from public sources to offer awareness of current health issues and the media coverage given to them. The articles do not necessarily represent U.S. Army Medical Command opinions, views, policy, or guidance, and should not be construed or interpreted as being endorsed by the U.S. Army Medical Command.

The *Army Public Health Weekly Update* does not analyze the information as to its strategic or tactical impact on the U.S. Army and is not a medical intelligence product. Medical intelligence is available from the [National Center for Medical Intelligence](#).

External Links: The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Army of the website or the information, products, or services contained therein. For other than authorized activities such as military exchanges and MWR sites, the U.S. Army does not exercise any editorial control over the information you may find at these locations. Such links are provided consistent with the stated purpose of this product.

Although we avoid links to sites that may be blocked, all sites may not be accessible from all locations. While we verify the links at the time of publication, we cannot guarantee that they will be active in the future.

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

