

27 September 2019

Army Public Health Weekly Update

Army Public Health Center



U.S. Military | Global | Veterinary/Food Safety | Wellness | Contact Us
USAFRICOM | USEUCOM | USINDOPACOM | USNORTHCOM | USSOUTHCOM

Approved for public release, distribution unlimited.

NOTE:

If you are viewing the Army Public Health Weekly Update using Internet Explorer on a government computer with Windows 10, the external hyperlinks will be disabled per the [Security Technical Implementation Guide](#) (V-64927).

As a workaround, opening the Update using **Chrome** will enable the links.

We're sorry for the inconvenience.

Contents

U.S. MILITARY

- [Exchanges to pull e-cigarettes, vape products from stores amid health concerns](#)

GLOBAL

- [As made-to-order DNA gets cheaper, keeping it out of the wrong hands gets harder](#)
- [Can a universal basic income reduce childhood obesity?](#)
- [Experts: Screen only pregnant women for asymptomatic bacteriuria](#)
- [Losartan blood pressure medication recall expanded again over cancer concerns, FDA says](#)
- [Obesity not caused by lack of willpower – Psychologists](#)
- [Outbreak News Across the Globe, Ep 4: Nigeria, Philippines and more](#)
- [Smallpox and Monkeypox vaccine, JYNNEOS™, receives FDA approval](#)
- [TENS Therapy: Pain relief without doctor visits](#)
- [U.S. health officials to testify to Congress amid nine vaping deaths](#)
- [WHO pushes Tanzania on suspected Ebola cases; DRC OKs use of 2nd vaccine](#)

VETERINARY/FOOD SAFETY

- [Listeria risk prompts recall of salad kits, bagged kale](#)
- [More pig ear pet treats recalled because of Salmonella](#)
- [U.S. Company recalls caviar from Iceland because of botulism risk](#)

WELLNESS

- [Social media use may harm teens' mental health by disrupting positive activities, study says](#)

USAFRICOM

- [Chikungunya: Ethiopia outbreak tops 40,000 cases](#)

USEUCOM

- [Spain reports dengue local transmission in Catalonia](#)

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.



USINDOPACOM

- Guam: More local dengue transmission confirmed
- Nepal reports dengue and scrub typhus outbreaks
- Philippines reports increase in diphtheria in 2019, prompts calls to ensure children are vaccinated

USNORTHCOM

- Calgary: Improper dental sterilization reported at two facilities
- U.S.: Massachusetts reports 11th human Eastern Equine Encephalitis case, 4th death
- U.S.: Pennsylvania- Residents warned about Eastern Equine Encephalitis

USSOUTHCOM

- Dominican Republic reports 1,145% increase in dengue

U.S. MILITARY

Exchanges to pull e-cigarettes, vape products from stores amid health concerns

24 September- The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is pulling electronic cigarettes and vape products from on-base store shelves amid safety concerns, officials said Tuesday. The move, which takes effect Monday, follows a plan announced last week by retail giant Walmart to stop selling the products amid concerns about links to severe lung disease. The Army Public Health Center warned service members Sept. 12 to avoid vape products after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said vaping may be linked to hundreds of cases of severe lung disease and at least six deaths in dozens of states. "Until the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state health departments to collect information on e-cigarette and vape products is complete ... the Army & Air Force Exchange Service is removing these products from its assortment, effective close of business Sept. 30," AAFES senior public affairs manager Chris Ward said in an email Tuesday. AAFES officials said last week that electronic cigarettes and vape products constitute a small and falling share of tobacco sales at overseas stores. Navy officials didn't respond to questions about sales at Navy Exchange stores. AAFES stores have sold vape products since late 2012, spokeswoman Julie Mitchell said in an email Friday. In 2018 exchange stores sold \$1.8 million worth of vape products, down 11% from the previous year, she said. [Stars and Stripes](#)

[top of page...](#)

GLOBAL

As made-to-order DNA gets cheaper, keeping it out of the wrong hands gets harder

24 September- Patrick Boyle recalls that by the time he got his Ph.D. in biology in 2012, he had worked with just a few other people and managed to manufacture six genes, the basic units of heredity. "Today, we are synthesizing more than 10,000 genes every month," he says, showing off a lab at a Boston biotech company called Ginkgo Bioworks. Making genes from scratch used to be laborious and time consuming, but not anymore. That's why federal officials are now considering new measures to prevent this rapidly advancing technology from being misused to create dangerous viruses or bioweapons. Genes are made up of DNA, a "code" determined by four chemical bases — known as A, C, T and G — that can be strung together to make the biological instructions that govern cells. The human genetic code has about 3 billion pairs of these letters. The first effort to sequence, or "read" all of these letters took more than a decade and cost billions of dollars. These days, however, anybody's genetic code can be read for about \$1,000. The technology needed to "write" DNA is now undergoing a similar transformation. Over the last decade, the cost of

Follow us!



Facebook



Twitter



YouTube



Instagram

Chagas Disease

Chagas (pronounced SHA-gus) disease, also known as American Trypanosomiasis, is a parasitic disease affecting roughly 8 million people in Mexico and Central and South America. It is a rare disease in the southern United States but has been detected in Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. The disease is caused by the flagellate protozoan parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi* (T. cruzi). This parasite causes both acute (short-term) and chronic (long-term) symptoms, which can become life-threatening.



synthesizing a pair of DNA letters has dropped from about one dollar to less than 10 cents.

[NPR](#)

[top of page...](#)

Can a universal basic income reduce childhood obesity?

25 September- The Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD), the yearly distribution of unconditional cash to all Alaska residents, is providing researchers with a one-of-a-kind source of information on the effect of a universal basic income (UBI) on socioeconomic well-being. The latest study shows that a \$1,000 PFD reduces the probability of an Alaskan child being obese by the age of three by as much as 4.5 percentage points. That translates to about a 22 percent reduction in obesity. Income inequality and technology-related job loss are among the concerns driving a growing interest in a UBI, but there are few studies that help with an understanding of its effect. For the past 37 years, Alaska residents, without regard to income, citizenship or age, have received the PFD. Averaging \$1,600 per person, it is based on the earnings of the Alaska Permanent Fund, established in 1976 to save a portion of oil royalties. As of April, the fund has assets of \$65 billion. The PFD is the closest example of a UBI worldwide. Recent research on it investigates the effect of income on employment, consumption, crime and health. [Scientific American](#)

[top of page...](#)

Experts: Screen only pregnant women for asymptomatic bacteriuria

25 September- The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) yesterday recommended that only pregnant women should be screened for asymptomatic bacteriuria (ASB), based on findings of a moderate net benefit in reducing perinatal complications. The findings appear in an evidence report, published yesterday in JAMA, that found that screening and treatment for ASB—the presence of bacteria in the urine in the absence of signs or symptoms of a urinary tract infection—in pregnant women during the first prenatal visit was associated with reduced rates of pyelonephritis and low birth weights. But the grade for the USPSTF recommendation was lowered from A (high certainty of a net benefit) to B (moderate certainty). "The USPSTF changed the grade for pregnant persons from an 'A' to a 'B' based on the reduced applicability of the previous evidence that included outdated antibiotic treatment regimens and newer evidence that shows a significantly lower risk of pyelonephritis than found in previous reviews," the task force says in its recommendation statement. "In addition, there are newer concerns about antibiotic use, such as antimicrobial resistance and adverse changes to the microbiome (not addressed in current studies), leading to an increase in the magnitude of potential harms." The Task Force continues to recommend against screening for ASB in nonpregnant women or healthy men, noting that there is a moderate or high certainty the service has no net benefit (D grade). [CIDRAP](#)

[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.

Losartan blood pressure medication recall expanded again over cancer concerns, FDA says

24 September- Torrent Pharmaceuticals Limited has again expanded a recall of its blood pressure medication over concerns the tablets contain small amounts of a cancer-causing ingredient. In a Sept. 19 statement, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced Torrent Pharmaceuticals Limited voluntarily expanded the recall to include additional lots of its Losartan Potassium Tablets USP and Losartan Potassium/hydrochlorothiazide tablets, which are used to treat hypertension, hypertensive patients with Left Ventricular Hypertrophy, and nephropathy in Type 2 diabetic patients. [Fox News](#)

[top of page...](#)

Obesity not caused by lack of willpower – Psychologists

24 September- Obesity is not a choice and making people feel ashamed results only in them feeling worse about themselves, a report by top psychologists says. It calls for changes in language to reduce stigma, such as saying "a person with obesity" rather than an "obese person". And it says health professionals should be trained to talk about weight loss in a more supportive way. A cancer charity's recent ad campaign was criticised for "fat shaming". Obesity levels rose by 18% in England between 2005 and 2017 and by similar amounts in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. This means just over one in four UK adults is obese while nearly two-thirds are overweight or obese. But these increases cannot be explained by a sudden loss of motivation across the UK - it is a lot more complicated than that, according to the British Psychological Society report, which concludes it "is not simply down to an individual's lack of willpower". [BBC News](#)

[top of page...](#)

Outbreak News Across the Globe, Ep 4: Nigeria, Philippines and more

22 September- In the latest installment of Outbreak News Across the Globe (ONATG), the first stop is Nigeria where officials are battling a yellow fever outbreak in Bauchi state and others. In Asia, the Philippines saw not one, but two polio cases (VDPV) the first in 19 years. In Australia/Oceania, Guam has reported 7 local dengue transmission cases, the first in 75 years. I also do a West Nile virus (WNV) update in Europe where Greece is reporting the most cases/deaths. In North America, we see a record-setting season for human Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and in South and Central America, the dengue cases are near 2.4 million cases to date. [Outbreak News Today](#)

[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](#)

Smallpox and Monkeypox vaccine, JYNNEOS™, receives FDA approval

24 September- Bavarian Nordic A/S today announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved JYNNEOS™ (Smallpox and Monkeypox Vaccine, Live, Non-replicating) (MVA-BN®, liquid-frozen) for prevention of smallpox and monkeypox disease in adults 18 years of age and older determined to be at high risk for smallpox or monkeypox infection. JYNNEOS is the only approved non-replicating smallpox vaccine in the U.S. and the only approved monkeypox vaccine anywhere in the world. JYNNEOS is approved for use broadly, including in people with weakened immune systems and those with eczema or with household members with eczema. This approval is a major breakthrough in meeting the U.S. government's long-standing commitment to developing a vaccine that can be administered to people who are at high risk of adverse reaction to traditional, replicating smallpox vaccines. "The licensure of this vaccine not only enhances domestic biodefense and global health security but also demonstrates what can be accomplished for the American people through public-private partnerships," said Rick Bright, Ph.D., HHS deputy assistant secretary for preparedness and response and director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA). "The years of dedication working with Bavarian Nordic on this vaccine ultimately mean that the U.S. is better prepared to save lives if an emergency occurs involving one of the deadliest diseases the world has ever known." [Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

TENS Therapy: Pain relief without doctor visits

24 September- If you're like most Americans, you avoid going to the doctors. In the height of the opioid epidemic and skyrocketing premiums, the trust in the healthcare industry is faltering. With more and more people uncertain of their healthcare quality, this is prevalent. High healthcare costs, the inconvenience of scheduling appointments, and the overall experience of healthcare are proven barriers to seeing a doctor. Have you ever gone to your doctor for aches and pain only to be told to use ice, take pain killers, or get some exercise? We've all been there, spending time away from work to see the doctor. After all that time, it can be frustrating to be told to "ice it." The frustration doesn't end there because you still have to pay the medical bill. How do you get pain relief without seeing a doctor? The answer lies in the form of drug-free electrotherapy called transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) therapy. TENS therapy helps relieve pain through small wearable technology called TENS units. TENS units send small, electrical impulses to pads called electrodes placed on and around the affected area. The electrical impulse treats pain by blocking pain signals from getting to the brain while aiding in the release of endorphins, a hormone known as the body's "natural pain killer." [Tech Times](#)

[top of page...](#)

U.S. health officials to testify to Congress amid nine vaping deaths

25 September- The U.S. House of Representatives begins public hearings this week about a mystery vaping-related lung disease that has sickened hundreds of people across the United States and killed nine. A man over age 50 who used e-cigarettes died in Kansas as state health officials prepared to join the waves of experts testifying before Congress on Wednesday, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly announced. "Today, I am saddened to announce the death of a second Kansan in association with this outbreak," the governor said in a statement, noting the man had underlying medical conditions. Anne Schuchat, principal deputy director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will be asked by a House Oversight subcommittee Tuesday about the possible causes of the outbreak, what vaping products may be implicated and what can be done about the disease, which recently has sickened 530 people in 38 states. The parent of a recently stricken Chicago teen will also speak to lawmakers. [Reuters](#)

[top of page...](#)

WHO pushes Tanzania on suspected Ebola cases; DRC OKs use of 2nd vaccine

23 September- In an unusual statement surrounding a suspected Ebola death in Tanzania, the World Health Organization (WHO) on Sep 21 raised concerns about undiagnosed febrile illnesses in that country, which it said has withheld information about suspicious Ebola-like illness cases in violation of international health regulations. In other key developments, the WHO today said the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has cleared the way for the use of a second experimental vaccine in the outbreak region, and Doctors Without Borders (MSF) called for an independent commission to manage vaccine stocks, saying more speedy and widespread use of the highly effective VSV-EBOV vaccine is needed to help cut the mortality rate. [CIDRAP](#)

[top of page...](#)

VETERINARY/FOOD SAFETY

Listeria risk prompts recall of salad kits, bagged kale

24 September- Randsland Farms Inc. is recalling bagged salad kits and kale because federal inspectors found they are potentially contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. "This recall was triggered by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) inspection activities," according to a recall notice on the agency's website. "The CFIA is conducting a food safety investigation, which may lead to the recall of other products. If other high-risk products are recalled, the CFIA will notify the public through updated food recall warnings." Randsland Farms distributed the implicated products in New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nova Scotia. The Randsland branded "Super Salad" kits and bagged kale should not be

consumed, according to the recall notice. The CFIA is verifying that industry is removing the recalled products from the marketplace. As of the posting of the recall notice, there hadn't been any reported illnesses associated with the consumption of these products. [Food Safety News](#)

[top of page...](#)

More pig ear pet treats recalled because of Salmonella

25 September- TDBBS is recalling some of its pig ear pet treats because state testing found Salmonella in a sample. As with other pet product companies recently, the TDBBS recall comes amidst a nationwide outbreak among people who have links to such pet treats. "This recall is the result of routine sampling conducted by the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development. The sample bag tested positive for Salmonella," according to the company's recall notice posted on the Food and Drug Administration's website. "Salmonella can affect animals eating the products, and there is risk to humans from handling contaminated pet products, especially if they have not thoroughly washed their hands after having contact with the products or surfaces exposed to these products." As of the posting of the recall notice no confirmed illnesses had been reported in relation to the TDBBS pig ears. A current Salmonella outbreak associated with such pet treats has sickened more than 140 people across 35 states. Several companies have recalled products. TDBBS stopped production and distribution of its pig ear product and is assisting the FDA with an investigation, according to the company's recall notice. The company shipped the implicated product to customers between April 22 and Aug. 13. "Customers should dispose of any USA Thick Pig Ear 8 Pack and USA Thick Pig Ear 20 Pack from these shipments," according to the recall notice. [Food Safety News](#)

[top of page...](#)

U.S. Company recalls caviar from Iceland because of botulism risk

23 September- Roland Foods LLC is recalling lumpfish caviar from Iceland because testing showed improper processing, which could mean it is contaminated with the bacteria that causes botulism poisoning. The New York City company distributed the caviar nationwide to retailers and foodservice distributors, according to a recall notice posted on the Food and Drug Administration website. The company did not post product photos with the recall notice. "Consumers are warned not to use the product even if it does not look or smell spoiled," the recall notice states. Botulism is a potentially fatal form of food poisoning. It can cause general weakness, dizziness, double-vision and trouble with speaking or swallowing. It can paralyze muscles, including those used for breathing, which often requires patients to be placed on a ventilator. Symptoms can also include difficulty in breathing, weakness of other muscles, abdominal distention and constipation. People who have eaten the implicated caviar should seek immediate medical attention if they develop symptoms, according to the recall notice. Roland Foods LLC imported the red and black caviar from Ora

ehf in Iceland. [Food Safety News](#)

[top of page...](#)

WELLNESS

Social media use may harm teens' mental health by disrupting positive activities, study says

14 August- Social media use has been linked to depression, especially in teenage girls. But a new study argues that the issue may be more complex than experts think. The research, published Tuesday in the journal *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*, involved interviews with almost 10,000 children between the ages of 13 and 16 in England. The researchers found that social media may harm girls' mental health by increasing their exposure to bullying and reducing their sleep and physical exercise. "Our results suggest that social media itself doesn't cause harm, but that frequent use may disrupt activities that have a positive impact on mental health such as sleeping and exercising, while increasing exposure of young people to harmful content, particularly the negative experience of cyber-bullying," study co-author Russell Viner of the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health said in a statement. In other words: Social media itself might not be to blame for mental health issues; rather, it takes away from girls' sleep quality and exercise while exposing users to cyberbullying, and that's what leads to lower well-being and problems with mental health. Bob Patton, a lecturer in clinical psychology at the University of Surrey, said this means strategies focusing only on reducing social media use as a tool to improve well-being or mental health might not help. [CNN](#)

[top of page...](#)

USAFRICOM

Chikungunya: Ethiopia outbreak tops 40,000 cases

24 September- In a follow-up on the chikungunya outbreak in Dire-Dawa, Ethiopia, health officials report an additional 5,500 cases in the week ending September 15, bringing the outbreak total to 40,340 since late July. Cases have been reported from all kebeles, or neighborhoods in the Dire Dawa city administration, which has a population of 335,000. This is the second chikungunya outbreak in Ethiopia, the last was in the summer of 2016. The outbreak comes at a time when Ethiopia is facing numerous other health emergencies that are stretching the limited resources available, including a humanitarian crisis, malnutrition, cholera, dengue fever and measles outbreaks. Chikungunya is a viral disease transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes. It causes fever and severe joint pain, which is often debilitating. Other symptoms include muscle pain, headache, nausea, fatigue, and rash.

[Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

USEUCOM

Spain reports dengue local transmission in Catalonia

21 September- The Epidemiological Surveillance Urgency Service (SUVEC) of the Epidemiological Surveillance Network of Catalonia (XVEC) reported this week on a laboratory confirmed autochthonous dengue fever case. The patient, a resident in the Barcelonès, reported no recent travel history. The Monitoring and Control Protocol for mosquito-borne arbovirolosis in Catalonia, and the Mosquito Control Service of the Baix Llobregat, the corresponding city councils, the Public Health Agency of Barcelona and the Diputació de Barcelona, as agencies involved in this case, are implementing control measures for the vector -the tiger mosquito- to prevent its proliferation, as well as the actions of the virus surveillance in mosquitoes by IRTA -CReSA in order to prevent the appearance of new cases. In Catalonia, every year there are reported cases of dengue cases in people affected by endemic areas in the XVEC, which makes possible the appearance of new autochthonous cases, mainly during the period of proliferation and maximum activity of mosquitoes (spring, summer and beginning of autumn). Since the year 2014, when the Protocol was launched, a total of 507 cases of dengue were detected in Catalonia, two of which are autochthonous; the first was last November and the second is the current case. Although the risk of transmission to people is very low, given the beginning of the decrease in temperatures, it is necessary to think about the diagnosis of dengue in patients with a sudden picture of general malaise, high fever, headache and an eruption on the face that is spreading to the body, thorax and limbs. The patient in this native case required hospital admission and received the discharge two days later. [Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

USINDOPACOM

Guam: More local dengue transmission confirmed

21 September- In a follow-up on the dengue fever situation in Guam, the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) tested and confirmed six additional cases of dengue infection. Five of the six are locally acquired cases and one of the six cases is suspected to be an imported case. To date, there are now seven confirmed cases of locally acquired dengue infection and three confirmed cases of imported dengue infection. With the enhanced surveillance and continued timely reporting by Guam healthcare providers, DPHSS expects additional cases of dengue to be detected. "Although aggressive mosquito control efforts are ongoing, DPHSS anticipates the identification of other suspected and confirmed cases," said Linda Unpingco-Denorcey, DPHSS Director. "We remind the community to assist with preventative measures at home and to protect themselves when they go outside. A community-wide response is needed in order to minimize the spread of the dengue virus." Prior to the first autochthonous dengue transmission earlier this month, it was such case on the island in 75 years. The community

can stop the spread of dengue virus by avoiding mosquito bites. Reduce the number of mosquitoes by eliminating mosquito breeding sites, which are primarily artificial containers that hold water where mosquitoes lay eggs. [Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

Nepal reports dengue and scrub typhus outbreaks

22 September- Dengue fever cases are spiking in Nepal according to the Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD). Through this past week, 5,096 people have been diagnosed with the mosquito-borne infection across the country, including six fatalities. Dengue has spread to over 56 of the 77 districts of Nepal with Kathmandu and Chitwan recording the most cases, with 1,170 and 728, respectively. A scrub typhus outbreak has been reported in Sudurpaschim Province, according to the Himalayan Times. Head of the Health Branch at the State Ministry of Social Development, Narendra Karki says at least 138 people have tested positive for scrub typhus in Sudurpaschim Province and those affected are growing in numbers. Two deaths have been recorded. Scrub typhus, caused by the bacterium *Orientia tsutsugamushi*, which is transmitted by chiggers encountered in high grass and brush, is endemic in northern Japan, Southeast Asia, the western Pacific Islands, and eastern Australia, China, maritime areas and several parts of south-central Russia, India, and Sri Lanka. More than 1 million cases occur annually. After being bitten by the chigger, an eschar will form over the bite, and the incubation period usually ranges from 9 to 12 days. Subsequently, symptoms such as fever, headache, sweating and swelling or inflammation of the lymph gland will begin to develop. After having had fever for about 1 week, a dark red papule will appear in the trunk, spread to extremities, and disappear after several days. Complications of untreated scrub typhus include swelling of the lungs, brain encephalitis, renal failure or even heart problems. [Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

Philippines reports increase in diphtheria in 2019, prompts calls to ensure children are vaccinated

25 September- Philippines health officials are urging parents to ensure that their children receive all the necessary vaccinations on a timely basis. This call comes after the DOH reported an increase in diphtheria this year to date. From January 2019 – September 2019, there have been 167 cases and 40 deaths compared to 122 cases and 30 deaths cases in the same period in 2018. The reasons for the trend are being investigated. Most recently, local media reported a suspected diphtheria fatality of a 10-year-old child at the Jacinto Zamora Elementary School in Manila. Aside from heightened immunization, the anti-toxin for diphtheria is available in the country, and antibiotics for diphtheria, namely penicillin, erythromycin, clarithromycin, and azithromycin, are locally and commercially available. In addition to diphtheria, a vaccine-preventable disease, others like measles and polio prompted outbreak declarations. Now more than ever, the importance of protecting our infants and children from vaccine preventable diseases remains paramount. With our campaign, Back to bakUna, Una sa Lahat ang Bakuna, DOH calls on our local chief

executives, local government health workers, other health professionals, and civil society groups to work together to reach every child and ensure that they receive the vaccines on time. [Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

USNORTHCOM

Calgary: Improper dental sterilization reported at two facilities

20 September- Alberta Health Services (AHS) has confirmed a Calgary-based independent dental hygiene practice and a dental office had sterilization practices that did not meet provincial standards. Although the risk of transmission of infection is considered very low, AHS encourages anyone who received dental services at the locations listed below, and during the specified time periods, to visit their family physician for testing for hepatitis B and C. Individuals may also call Health Link at 811 for more information. "To prevent the spread of infection from one person to another, equipment used in dental procedures must be cleaned, disinfected and sterilized according to health standards," says Dr. Jia Hu, Medical Officer of Health, AHS Calgary Zone. "Although these businesses had sterilization and sanitation processes in place, they did not fully meet the provincial standards, meaning individuals who received dental services through these operations may have been exposed to hepatitis B and C." [Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

U.S.: Massachusetts reports 11th human Eastern Equine Encephalitis case, 4th death

25 September- Massachusetts health officials reported the 11th human Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus infection in a man in his 70s from Worcester County. In addition, the health department was notified by a hospital of a death from EEE of an Essex County resident, the 4th of the year. "Although mosquito populations are declining at this time of year, risk from EEE will continue until the first hard frost," said State Epidemiologist Dr. Catherine Brown. "We continue to emphasize the need for people to protect themselves from mosquito bites." [Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

U.S.: Pennsylvania- Residents warned about Eastern Equine Encephalitis

22 September- Pennsylvania health and agriculture officials are warning the public to take precautionary measures against mosquito bites for themselves and their animals – specifically horses – as the rare mosquito-transmitted viral infection Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) has been confirmed in Erie, Carbon, and Monroe counties. The recently

confirmed cases include a wild turkey, pheasants, and horses. EEE is a virus carried by birds. If a mosquito bites an infected bird it can then transmit the potentially fatal virus to humans, horses, and other birds. Because of the high mortality rate in horses and humans, EEE is regarded as one of the most serious mosquito-borne diseases in the United States.

[Outbreak News Today](#)

[top of page...](#)

USSOUTHCOM

Dominican Republic reports 1,145% increase in dengue

20 September- The Dominican Republic is one of several countries in the Americas experiencing an outbreak of dengue fever. The Ministry of Health reported more than 8,855 (suspected) cases through mid-August. 12 deaths have been reported. This is an increase of 1,145 percent in reported cases compared to the same period in 2018 (711 cases). In fact, The number of dengue cases in 2019 to date has already surpassed the number of cases from the past five years combined. The Dominican Medical College states that the caseload published by the government is incorrect and understated due to political sensitivities and economic aspects. San Jose de Ocoa and Barahona, as well as Santo Domingo are the most affected provinces in the southwest of the Dominican Republic, but cases of dengue fever have been reported all over the country. All provinces remain under high alert. [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.

