

30 August 2019

Army Public Health Weekly Update

Army Public Health Center

NOTICE: There will be no Army Public Health Weekly Update next week.

Publication will resume on 13 September 2019.



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Did VA hospital leaders ignore recalls on faulty medical equipment?

26 August- Staffers at a Florida-based Veterans Affairs hospital say leadership ignored a medical equipment recall for weeks — even after a patient’s life was endangered — despite repeated warnings their inaction violated health and safety norms. But officials at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa said their week they have removed all of the faulty items without any harm to patients, dismissing concerns that proper procedures were not followed. It’s unclear whether the dispute is isolated to the single VA medical center or indicative of larger problems with recall alerts throughout the nation’s veteran’s hospital system. Department of Veterans Affairs officials in Washington, D.C. referred all questions to local hospital officials. [Military Times](#)

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Water and sports drinks, what to drink, how much and when

21 August- If physical activity in the summertime has you feeling hot, sweaty, and thirsty, it’s only natural to reach for an ice cold drink to quench your body’s thirst, but not all beverages are created equal when it comes to rehydration. Certain beverages can cause more harm than good when it comes to hydration. “Army-wide, heat injuries are on the rise with the highest rates in Soldiers less than 25 years old,” said Army Capt. Erica Jarmer, a registered dietitian at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital. Jarmer recently hosted training for hospital staff and Fort Campbell tenant units regarding proper hydration for Soldiers and athletes. Dietitians and medics have a critical role in teaching health related Army skills, to include tactical hydration. “Overall, I enjoyed the class. Many Soldiers are so under educated when it comes to taking care of themselves. We are required to ask a lot physically of our bodies but we don’t always get the education needed to perform at our peak levels. I hope there are many more classes like this offered to Soldiers,” said Master Sgt. Jennifer Alvey, non-commissioned officer in charge of BACH’s Department of Primary Care and a line medic, who participated in the training. “Hydration for tomorrow occurs today. Hydration for today occurred yesterday,” said Jarmer. “Often times we’re playing catch up. If Soldiers and athletes understand their baseline hydration needs and routinely maintain their hydration status, our need for reactive rehydration will decrease.” Baseline fluid needs are based on body weight, half an ounce of fluid per pound is adequate for most individuals. This equates to about three liters of fluid per day for men and about two liters per day for women. Once baseline hydration is established, adjustments can be made for environmental factors and physical activity. In hot, humid environments, at high altitude, and with physical activity, more fluid is required to maintain hydration. A quick estimate for these conditions would be one ounce per pound of body weight. Soldiers should hydrate regularly and frequently, even when they are not thirsty in order to avoid dehydration.

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Data to Support the Development of Wildlife Toxicity Reference Values for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

The primary goal of the Range Finding Experiments was to ensure bioaccumulation and sufficient body burden of the chemicals for Reproductive and Developmental Toxicity Tests. Data from the Reproductive and Developmental Toxicity Tests will be used to derive Toxicity Reference Values (TRVs), which are critical components of environmental risk assessments that help determine if the risk of environmental exposure is acceptable.



Water is usually the better choice over caffeinated or sugary beverages, which include, but are not limited to soda, energy drinks, coffee, beer and alcohol, fruit juices, sweet tea, and lemonade. Those beverages can pull water from the body and promote dehydration. "Activities that result in significant sweat losses may require a properly formulated sports drink during and after activity," said Jarmer. "A sports drink can provide energy and maintain hydration by replenishing electrolytes lost in sweat. However, no sports drink is going to be a substitute for baseline hydration." [Health.mil](#)

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GLOBAL

Could smoking marijuana help men's fertility?

27 August- Men who smoke marijuana may have a better chance of having a baby with their female partner, compared with those who don't use the drug, a surprising new study suggests. The study, which was published Aug. 14 in the journal Human Reproduction, involved several hundred couples undergoing fertility treatment with in vitro fertilization (IVF). The researchers found that women who reported currently using marijuana had a higher likelihood of pregnancy loss, compared with women who didn't use marijuana. In contrast, couples whose male partner said he currently used marijuana had better chances of having a child, compared with couples whose male partner didn't currently use marijuana. This finding was unexpected, according to the authors, from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston. The researchers had hypothesized that marijuana smoking wouldn't be related to fertility outcomes in either men or women, as has been the case in previous studies. [Live Science](#)

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Docs brace for Medicare 'appropriate' imaging rule

23 August-As the medical community braces for implementation of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) by the Jan. 1, 2020 deadline, some wonder if it's even feasible or if another program delay is on the horizon. The policy, aimed at reducing unnecessary testing, mandates that all advanced diagnostic imaging orders go through an algorithm that provides key confirmation codes required when Medicare is billed later on for the service. Dubbed a "clinical decision support mechanism" (CDSM), this software processes each CT, MRI, nuclear medicine, and PET order before spitting out its verdict to the ordering professional: "appropriate," "maybe appropriate," or "rarely appropriate," according to a certain set of appropriate use criteria (AUC). Essentially, the CDSM confirmation code provides proof that the ordering physician consulted AUC. Eventually, Medicare will not pay claims or advanced imaging without these codes. The program has been delayed several times, and the 2020 deadline equates to a "soft launch," as improper imaging claims won't be rejected until the following year, with no firm deadline for additional penalties beyond that. Still, many physician organizations have raised concerns about the policy. [Medpage](#)

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FDA gives fast track status to AstraZeneca's diabetes drug Farxiga

27 August- AstraZeneca Plc said on Tuesday that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has granted fast track status for the development of its diabetes drug Farxiga to prevent heart and kidney failure in patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD). Farxiga, one of AstraZeneca's top 10 drugs by sales, is part of the SGLT2-inhibitor class of antidiabetics that cause the kidneys to expel blood sugar from the body through urine. In July, U.S. regulators declined to approve Farxiga as a supplement to insulin in adults with type-1 diabetes where insulin alone was not able to control blood sugar levels. The treatment is already approved in the United States to treat type-2 diabetes, the more common form of the condition. Farxiga competes with rival diabetes drugs, including Eli Lilly and Boehringer Ingelheim's Jardiance and Novo Nordisk's Victoza. [Reuters](#)

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Mystery disease in the Ivory Coast kills 28

26 August- Officials in Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) are reporting on an unidentified disease that has caused many deaths in Yeretiélé. According to the information received at the level of the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene, 28 people have died of this unidentified disease since July. The Minister of Health and Public Hygiene, Eugène Aka Aouélé said they mobilized medical teams to the area to investigate. The symptoms presented include swelling of the face and lower limbs, chest pain, abdominal bloating, general fatigue, constipation and vomiting. Thus, the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene orders anyone with one of these signs to go directly to the nearest health center. Self-medication is not recommended to avoid unnecessary risk. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Researchers bioprint complex living tissue in a matter of seconds

25 August- Scientists in Switzerland and the Netherlands have successfully shaped complex tissues in a stem cell-rich biocompatible hydrogel in a matter of seconds. In a study featured in the journal *Advanced Materials*, researchers from the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) and Utrecht University developed a high-resolution printing method capable of producing artificial tissues. Known as volumetric bioprinting, the technique could prove a boon for scientific research by providing customized, functional bioprinted tissues and organs. [Tech Times](#)

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Study questions mainstay treatment for mild asthma

26 August- Steroid inhalers commonly used to prevent asthma attacks may not work any better than a placebo for many people with mild asthma, according to recent research. Synthetic corticosteroids mimic the steroid hormone cortisol, reducing inflammation in the airways. But the drug targets a type of inflammation that may be found in far fewer patients than previously thought, research in a recent issue of the New England Journal of Medicine finds. Among patients age 12 and older in the study who had mild, persistent asthma, more than half did just as well, or better, on a placebo as they did on a steroid inhaler. "We're suggesting that it's time to reevaluate what the standard recommended form of treatment is for these milder patients," says Stephen Lazarus, a pulmonologist at the University of California, San Francisco, and the study's lead author. Since the early 1990s, the international guideline for treating patients with mild, persistent asthma has been to use a low-dose steroid inhaler twice a day. The recommendation was based mainly on studies of people with severe asthma; the thinking was that if people with mild symptoms used the steroid inhaler early on, it would prevent damage to their airways later. But when the medications didn't seem to reduce asthma attacks, doctors blamed the patients. [NPR](#)

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The US is throwing away at least 3,500 donated kidneys every year, study finds

26 August- There are currently 93,000 people in the United States on a waiting list for a donated kidney, yet at least 3,500 donated kidneys are discarded every year, according to a study published Monday in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine. The lack of organs for kidney failure patients is a major public health problem and one that President Donald Trump addressed in July when he signed an executive order promising to transform kidney care in this country. More than 37 million Americans have chronic kidney disease and roughly 5,000 die each year while on the kidney waiting list. That's about 12 people each day, making kidney disease the ninth leading cause of death in the United States. In this new study, researchers looked at the number of deceased donors with organs offered to kidney transplant centers between 2004 and 2014. Over that time period, 156,089 kidneys were donated; 128,102 were transplanted; 27,987 were discarded. That means more than 17% of kidneys donated in this United States were discarded. Since the end of the study period in 2014, the number of discarded kidneys has increased. In 2016, 3,631 donated kidneys -- about 20% -- were discarded, according to the researchers. In comparison, in France, only about 9% of donated kidneys were discarded during the study period. The difference was because, in France, doctors were more willing to use older kidneys and kidneys from people who had other ailments such as diabetes or hypertension. [CNN](#)

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U.S. records 12 new cases of measles, raising year's total to 1,215

26 August- The United States recorded 12 new measles cases last week, bringing the total number of cases for the year to 1,215 across 30 states in the worst outbreak since 1992, federal health officials said on Monday. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said there had been a 1% increase in the number of cases of the highly contagious and sometimes deadly disease between Aug. 15 and Aug. 22. In a sign that the outbreak is slowing, the CDC in recent weeks has reported smaller increases in the number of measles cases, compared with surges of dozens of cases reported per week earlier this year. The disease was declared eliminated in the United States in 2000, meaning there was no continuous transmission of the disease for a year. Still, cases of the virus occur and spread via travelers coming from countries where measles is common. On Friday, California health officials said a teenage girl from New Zealand sick with measles had visited Disneyland and other popular tourist stops across Southern California earlier this month, possibly infecting others. CDC officials have warned the country risks losing its measles elimination status if the outbreak, which began in October 2018 in New York state, continues until October 2019. [Reuters](#)

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WHO experts call for new tools to eradicate malaria

23 August- The key to eradicating malaria in the near future is stepped up research and development of new tools to battle the disease, a World Health Organization (WHO) expert group that spent the last 3 years studying the malaria landscape said today in a report. The 13-member group, called the Strategic Advisory Group on Malaria Eradication (SAGme) published a 20-page executive summary of their report, which also includes a set of recommendations, ahead of a WHO-hosted malaria forum in Geneva on Sep 9. Malaria infections and deaths have held steady since 2015, but there isn't enough progress against the disease to achieve the 2030 goal set out in the latest WHO malaria strategy to cut cases and deaths by 90%, the group said in a press release. The disease hits children the hardest, with kids under age 5 making up 61% of all malaria deaths. And some of the world's poorest countries are most affected; the WHO said more than 90% of the 400,000 global deaths each year occur in sub-Saharan Africa. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, PhD, the WHO's director-general, said in the statement that freeing the world of malaria would be one of public health's greatest achievements. "With new tools and approaches we can make this vision a reality," he added. [CIDRAP](#)

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Assorted dried fruit recalled for undeclared sulfites

26 August- Krasnyi Oktyabr USA Inc. of Brooklyn, New York, is recalling its 500-gram (17.65 oz) packages of "Tainy Vostoka Assorted Dried Fruits – Apple" and "Tainy Vostoka Assorted Dried Fruits – Quince" because they contain sulfites, which are not properly declared on the label. The affected product was distributed nationwide in retail stores and through mail orders. Both recalls were triggered after routine sampling by New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Food Inspectors and subsequent analysis by Food Laboratory personnel revealed the presence of sulfites in the 500-gram packages of "Tainy Vostoka Assorted Dry Fruits" Apple and Quince, which were not declared on the label. According to the recall notice, analysis of the "Tainy Vostoka Assorted Dried Fruits – Apple" revealed they contained 23.69 mg per serving, and 26.32 mg per serving for "Tainy Vostoka Assorted Dried Fruits – Quince." The FDA notes that consumption of 10 milligrams of sulfites per serving has been reported to elicit severe reactions in some asthmatics. Anaphylactic shock could occur in certain sulfite sensitive individuals upon ingesting 10 milligrams or more of sulfites. Although no adverse reactions have been reported to date in connection with the recalled product, the FDA urges consumers to see if they have the recalled product in their home; "If you have a sensitivity to sulfites, do not consume the recalled product as it may cause a serious or life-threatening reaction. The recalled product can be returned to the store where it was purchased for a full refund. Consumers with questions can contact the company at 718-858-6720. [Food Safety News](#)

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CDC: 255 cases of resistant Salmonella tied to beef, soft cheese

23 August- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) today detailed an unusual 255-case outbreak of Salmonella Newport infections in 32 states tied to both beef and soft cheese and showing resistance to multiple antibiotics. "Infections were linked to beef obtained in the United States and soft cheese obtained in Mexico, suggesting that this strain could be present in cattle in both countries," the CDC said in an overview emailed to physicians as part of its Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) efforts. "Antibiotic susceptibility testing showed that the strain had decreased susceptibility to azithromycin and no susceptibility to ciprofloxacin—two commonly prescribed oral antibiotics," the agency added. "This leaves ceftriaxone, an injectable antibiotic, as the recommended treatment option." Ian Plumb, MBBS, lead author of a study on the outbreak today in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), told CIDRAP News, "We are continuing to see cases occurring among patients. The antibiotic resistance pattern of this strain is alarming because the primary oral antibiotics used to treat patients with this type of Salmonella infection may not work." Plumb is an epidemiologist with the CDC's Enteric Disease Branch. He and his colleagues in the MMWR update said oral azithromycin is also

an option. Plumb added via email, "Most patients with Salmonella infections do not need antibiotic treatment, but some patients do, if there is severe disease, or if a clinician identifies risk factors for severe disease." He added, "The best way for clinicians to guide treatment is to test whether a bacteria is resistant for that individual patient." Plumb also noted that the Infectious Diseases Society of America has published guidelines here on managing Salmonella infections. [CIDRAP](#)

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More chicken recalled in relation to Listeria outbreak as Canada, U.S. continue investigations

24 August- Public health officials have announced another recall of diced chicken as outbreak investigators in Canada and the U.S. continue to look for the source of Listeria monocytogenes behind an outbreak. This time it is again diced chicken from Rosemount Sales and Marketing, which distributed the implicated chicken to retailers, possibly nationwide in Canada, but for certain in the provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario, according to a recall notice posted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). "The food recall warning issued on Aug. 21 has been updated to include additional product information," according to the recall notice. "This additional information was identified during the CFIA food safety investigation . . . during its investigation into a foodborne illness outbreak." The recall now includes Rosemount brand "cooked diced chicken mostly dark 13 mm – 1/2" (#18305)" in 4.54-kilogram packages with the UPC number 2 06 20263 12002 0 and a pack date of "01/21/19." Consumers should not consume and distributors, retailers and food service establishments such as hotels, restaurants, cafeterias, hospitals and nursing homes should not sell or use the recalled products, the CFIA advised. [Food Safety News](#)

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WELLNESS

An optimistic outlook 'means you live longer'

27 August- Positive people were more likely to live to the age of 85 or more. The theory is that optimists may find it easier to control emotions and so be protected from the effects of stress. And researchers said pessimists could benefit from doing things like imagining a future where everything turns out well. The study used two existing groups of people recruited for different studies - 70,000 women in the Nurses' Health Study and 1,500 men in the Veterans' Health Study. Their levels of optimism were assessed, as well as their overall health. They were also asked about exercise and diets, as well as how much they smoked and drank alcohol. On average, the most optimistic men and women had an 11-15% longer lifespan, and were significantly more likely to live to 85 compared with the least optimistic group. While a lot is known about the risk factors for disease and early death, far less is understood about what the researchers call "positive psychosocial factors" that could

enable healthy ageing. [BBC News](#)

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Helping children learn to eat well

26 August- Earlier this month when Weight Watchers put out its new Kurbo app, designed for children ages 8 through 17, there was an outcry across social media arguing that weight loss programs for children can lead to eating disorders, low self-esteem and yo-yo weight cycling. Critics expressed concern about the harm to children from “fat-shaming.” Some, including in this newspaper, said that weight loss plans for children never work. So it’s not really about the new app; it’s about what you say to children who are gaining weight too fast as they grow. Dr. Elsie Taveras, the division chief of general academic pediatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital and a specialist in childhood obesity, warned against a “none of this works” approach, asking, “What are we supposed to do with this large number of children who not just have obesity but severe obesity and its associated chronic diseases — do we not think that some changes in their nutrition are warranted? Wouldn’t you call that unethical to not offer treatment and support?” If you happen to be a pediatrician who is faced, day after day, with children’s bodies in an exam room, you have watched as the weight dot on the growth chart starts trending up, crossing percentiles, increasing out of proportion to the height dot. [The New York Times](#)

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USAFRICOM

Congo measles epidemic: Death toll nears 3,000

26 August- More than 5,600 measles cases were reported during the week ending Aug. 11 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), including 141 deaths, from 23 of the 26 provinces of the country, according to the latest published data. Since the beginning of the year, 155,460 total measles cases have been recorded. One-third of the health zones in the DRC have reported confirmed measles outbreaks. A nearly 2 percent case fatality rate, or 2,953 deaths have been reported. Nearly 60 percent of cases reported in 2019 have been notified from Tshopo, Lualaba, Kasai and Haut-Lomami provinces. Earlier this month, the World Health Organization reported that globally in the first six months of 2019, reported measles cases are the highest they have been in any year since 2006. There have been almost three times as many cases reported to date in 2019 as there were at this same time last year. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Malaria in Burundi: Epidemic prompts travel notice

24 August- In a follow-up to a report from late July, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a travel notice for the African country of Burundi due to an ongoing malaria epidemic. According to the Ministry of Public Health, 5,738,661 cases were reported this year through July 21. This represents a 97 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2018. The total population of the country is about 12 million. In addition, 1,801 deaths have been recorded. CDC advises travelers to take prescription medicine to prevent malaria. Resistance to chloroquine (one of the drugs used to prevent malaria) is high in Burundi, so travelers should use daily atovaquone-proguanil, daily doxycycline, or weekly mefloquine to prevent malaria. Because the drugs used to prevent malaria are not 100% effective, travelers should also take steps to prevent mosquito bites by using insect repellent and wearing protective clothing when outdoors. Because the mosquitoes that spread malaria most often bite at night, travelers should sleep in an air-conditioned or well-screened room or under an insecticide-treated bed net every night. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USCENTCOM

Pakistan: 12th 'brain-eating amoeba' case reported in Karachi

25 August- Officials with the Directorate General Health Services in Pakistan have already reported 11 fatalities due to parasitic meningitis infections caused by *Naegleria fowleri*, and now a 12th case has been reported. According to The News, 16-year old Muhammad Sohaib, from the Mehmoodabad area, is battling for life at the National Medical Center (NMC) Karachi. "Patient Sohaib was brought in unstable condition to us and medical investigations revealed that he is infected with *Naegleria fowleri*. Currently, he is on ventilator," a doctor said on condition of anonymity. *Naegleria fowleri* is a microscopic amoeba which is a single-celled living organism. It can cause a rare and devastating infection of the brain called primary amebic meningoencephalitis (PAM). The amoeba is commonly found in warm freshwater such as lakes, rivers, ponds and canals. Infections can happen when contaminated water enters the body through the nose. Once the amoeba enters the nose, it travels to the brain where it causes PAM (which destroys brain tissue) and is usually fatal. Infections usually occur when it is hot for prolonged periods of time, which results in higher water temperatures and lower water levels. *Naegleria fowleri* infections are rare. Most infections occur from exposure to contaminated recreational water. Cases due to the use of neti pots and the practice of ablution have been documented. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USEUCOM

Lyme disease in Ireland: Estimates of up to 300 cases annually

25 August- Officials with the Health Protection Surveillance Center (HPSC) in Ireland report it is estimated that there are probably between 150 and 300 cases per annum; however, the true incidence of early-stage Lyme disease in Ireland is not known. This is according to an article in their publication, Epi-Insight. Complications following Lyme borreliosis, while uncommon, do occur, though less frequently in Europe than in North America. They tend to occur sometime after initial infection and are more common in people who did not realize they had been infected or who were not initially treated. Since first becoming notifiable in Ireland, between eight and 21 cases of Lyme neuroborreliosis are notified each year in Ireland. However, notification rates always represent an underestimate of the true level of disease. Laboratories in Ireland generally follow the laboratory testing recommendations of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA), the European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS) and the British Infection Association (BIA). [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USINDOPACOM

Philippines outbreak news: Dengue, measles, African swine fever

25 August- Negros Oriental province health authorities report the number of dengue cases continue to rise. Dr. Socrates Villamor, the DOH provincial chief, said as of August 17, their records show a total of 2,823 cases reported in the province since January 1 this year. This is 209 percent higher compared with figures from the same period of last year, which recorded only 915 cases and six deaths. Majority of the cases were from Dumaguete, followed by Mabinay, Bayawan City, Siaton and Sibulan. Nationally, the cumulative number of dengue cases from January 1 to August 3 stands at 188,562. More than 800 fatalities have been reported. In related news, Senator Richard Gordon called on the country to be the "dengue research Capital". "We should be the dengue research capital of the world. We should make the Philippines a fortress against dengue," Gordon said in a speech last week. "It is a golden opportunity to use it as research. We want to be able to learn from this research in this country where dengue is endemic. Let the government in this dark moment be a beacon of hope for dengue, for ourselves, for the world," he said. Gordon said the government "could set up the most advanced research and development program and testing facilities for dengue specialists in anticipation of the next dengue epidemic, which occurs in a cycle of three to five-year intervals." [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Mexico: Brain-eating amoeba case reported in Sonora, Mexico- Media report

22 August- Officials with the Mexicali State Health Department (MSHD) are reporting the death of a 15-year-old boy from San Luis Rio Colorado Sonora this week who had contracted the brain eating amoeba, *Naegleria fowleri*, according to a news report. The boy had reportedly contracted the lethal amoeba swimming in a canal in Ejido Plan de Ayala in the Mexicali Valley. Officials say this is the first such case in Mexicali in a decade. *Naegleria fowleri* is a microscopic amoeba which is a single-celled living organism. It can cause a rare and devastating infection of the brain called primary amebic meningoencephalitis (PAM). The amoeba is commonly found in warm freshwater such as lakes, rivers, ponds and canals. Infections can happen when contaminated water enters the body through the nose. Once the amoeba enters the nose, it travels to the brain where it causes PAM (which destroys brain tissue) and is usually fatal. Infections usually occur when it is hot for prolonged periods of time, which results in higher water temperatures and lower water levels. *Naegleria fowleri* infections are rare. Most infections occur from exposure to contaminated recreational water. Cases due to the use of neti pots and the practice of ablution have been documented. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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U.S.: Florida- Man loses 25 percent of skin to flesh-eating bacteria, wife says

26 August- A Florida man has undergone three operations, which removed about 25 percent of his skin, and is scheduled for one more after contracting a flesh-eating bacteria, his wife said. David Ireland, 50, of Orlando, Fla. started having flu-like symptoms, including aches and fever, on August 16, his wife, Jody Ireland, told Fox News on Monday. She said five days later, when the symptoms got worse and her husband complained of extreme pain in his groin and leg, she rushed him to the emergency room. [Fox News](#)

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U.S.: Massachusetts EEE: Bristol County woman, Laurie Sylvia, is state's 4th case

26 August- In a follow-up on the human Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Massachusetts, state health officials reported the 4th human case in weeks, this one in Bristol County. According to health officials, the most recent case is a woman over the age of 50 from southern Bristol County. According to a Facebook post Saturday, the woman is identified as Laurie Sylvia, the wife of union President Robert Sylvia Jr...Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) is spread to horses and humans by infected mosquitoes, including several *Culex* species and

Culiseta melanura. Symptoms of EEE disease often appear 4 to 10 days after someone is bitten by an infected mosquito. EEE is a more serious disease than West Nile Virus (WNV) and carries a high mortality rate for those who contract the serious encephalitis form of the illness. Symptoms may include high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, and sore throat. There is no specific treatment for the disease, which can lead to seizures and coma.

[Outbreak News Today](#)

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U.S.: San Diego- Reports 2nd measles case, 1st flu death

27 August- The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency has reported a second local case of measles in an individual who had exposure to the 11-month-old San Diego resident who contracted measles after a recent trip to the Philippines. The latest patient was fully immunized. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USSOUTHCOM

Tropical Storm Dorian: Puerto Rico braces for possible hurricane

28 August- The National Hurricane Center (NHC) has issued hurricane watch and tropical storm warnings for Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Forecasters expect Tropical Storm Dorian to develop into a hurricane in the next 24 hours. President Donald Trump has approved an emergency declaration. The move authorises US federal agencies to provide assistance and co-ordinate disaster relief. [BBC News](#)

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