14 July 2017

Army Public Health Weekly Update

Army Public Health Center

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.

Contents

U.S. MILITARY

- Forget Sanofi’s Zika shot. A new measure would limit pricing on all DOD-funded medication
- Pentagon secretly tested chemical weapons on US troops. Vets demand to know the cost
- Report: Army improperly tracked sarin, other chemical agents
- The PFT and CFT can be gender neutral. Here’s how.
- Veterans starting to receive new prosthetic LUKE arms

GLOBAL

- 2017: the year we lost control of world population surge?
- BASF unveils new mosquito net in battle against malaria
- Exposing newborn mice to general anesthetic disrupts brain development
- International risk of yellow fever spread from the ongoing outbreak in Brazil, December 2016 to May 2017
- Large-scale, collaborative effort could help ease global hearing loss
- ‘Living drug’ that fights cancer by harnessing the immune system clears key hurdle
- Malaria genome study reveals savvy, finely tuned parasite
- Report pinpoints remaining gaps in safe drinking water and sanitation
- Scientists replay movie encoded in DNA
- Scientists synthesize smallpox cousin in ominous breakthrough
- Trimming these invasive flowers could help curb malaria
- ZIKA VIRUS
  - Experimental Zika virus vaccines restrict in utero virus transmission in mice
  - Malaria drug protects fetal mice from Zika virus, NIH-funded study finds
  - NIH launches prospective study of Zika and HIV co-infection during pregnancy

INFLUENZA

- EDCI: Flu News Europe
- NHRC: Operational Infectious Diseases Weekly Surveillance Report
- WHO: Influenza Update

Approved for public release, distribution unlimited.
VETERINARY/FOOD SAFETY

- Backyard chickens sicken 100s with *Salmonella* (CDC)
- Chinese chicken shipments endangering public health
- Pet owners more likely to find ticks on themselves
- Scientist develop plastic pouches to make produce safer
- The chemicals in your mac and cheese
- Update on deadly E. coli outbreak in southwest Utah

WELLNESS

- A U.S. senator is worried that “snortable chocolate” is basically “cocaine on training wheels”
- Crime labs struggle to identify opioids in race to stop epidemic
- Drinking coffee reduces risk of death from all causes, study finds
- First vaccine shows gonorrhoea protection
- High-intensity workouts may be good at any age
- HIV hijacks surface molecule to invade cell
- Improving diet over time may reduce risk of death
- Med switch not always best choice with tough depression
- NIH-funded team uses smartphone data in global study of physical activity
- Opioid prescriptions falling but remain too high, CDC says
- Oral sex spreading unstoppable bacteria
- Telehealth program to provide support for military caregivers

USAFRICOM

- Burundi: Malaria outbreak continues unabated
- Kenya reports nearly 300 kala-azar this year in two counties
- Liberia: Enticing pregnant women in Liberia to give birth in health centers
- Nigeria: Cholera
- Nigeria: Acute hepatitis E
- Rwanda: How tiny planes could revolutionize health care

USCENTCOM

- Kazakhstan: Several Kazakh health officials arrested on bribery charges
- Yemen: U.N. suspending plan for cholera vaccination in Yemen

USEUCOM

- Europe: Measles ‘tragedy’ kills 35 across Europe
- Europe: Mobile app designed to prevent pregnancy gets EU approval
- Spain: *C difficile* found in kids’ and dogs’ sandboxes in Spain

USNORTHCOM

- Canada: Canada reports first case of *Candida auris*
- Canada/U.S.: Wildfires spread across at least six states and Canada
- Mexico: Mexico reports 162 percent increase in gonorrhea
- U.S.: Alabama health officials issue warning about flesh-eating bacteria
- U.S.: Hearing aids may soon be sold over the counter
- U.S.: More people are making mistakes with medicines at home
- U.S.: National Guard mobilizes to help fight multiple wildfires in western U.S.
- U.S.: New York City declares war on rats with $32 million plan
- U.S.: Rare tick-borne virus cases reported in Arkansas, Missouri
- U.S.: Trump administration names Georgia health official as new CDC director
- U.S.: U.S. charges hundreds of people in health fraud schemes worth $1.3 billion
**Fact Sheet: Visible Wavelength Handheld Laser Pointers**

Recent technological advances have made visible-wavelength laser pointers at lower cost, and higher power, since first introduced in the early 1980s. The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide information on the hazards and effects of visible-wavelength laser pointers.

---

**USPACOM**
- India: Mumbai state of health - nearly 20 TB deaths a day, dengue cases way up
- Philippines: Battle for Marawi takes huge toll on public health in Philippines
- Sri Lanka slams tax on abandoned lands to help curb dengue fever spread

**USSOUTHCOM**
- PAHO notes small rise in Americas chikungunya cases
- Peru: Peru dengue outbreak - Northern coast region affected by El Niño costero

---

**U.S. MILITARY**

**Forget Sanofi's Zika shot. A new measure would limit pricing on all DOD-funded medication**

6 July - ... Under an amendment to the military spending authorization now working through Congress, the Department of Defense would have the power to invite in new competition to certain drugs and vaccines it helped research. Proposed by Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, the measure would apply to products whose prices are markedly higher in the U.S. than in other high-income countries. The amendment passed the Senate Armed Services Committee unanimously on June 28. Fierce Pharma

**Incidence of *Campylobacter* intestinal infections, active component, U.S. Armed Forces, 2007–2016**

June 2017 - During 2007–2016, there were 1,753 diagnosed cases of *Campylobacter* intestinal infection among active component service members. The overall rate for the period was 14.1 cases per 100,000 person-years (p-yrs), but the annual incidence rates steadily increased from 7.6 cases per 100,000 p-yrs in 2007 to 22.1 cases per 100,000 p-yrs in 2016. Overall rates were higher in females, those aged 45 years or older, members of the Air Force and Army, officers, and those in military healthcare occupations. Incidence rates were lowest among service members who were recruit trainees, younger than 20 years of age, non-Hispanic blacks, and Marines. For the entire 10-year surveillance period, more cases were diagnosed in the warmer months of the year. Only eight cases were diagnosed in deployment settings during the 10-year period. Medical Surveillance Monthly Report

**Pentagon secretly tested chemical weapons on US troops. Vets demand to know the cost**

12 July - The Pentagon conducted a series of secret chemical and biological weapons tests involving military personnel in the 1960s and 1970s. Veterans groups and members of Congress are demanding to know exactly what happened – and who has suffered. The tests, known as Project 112 and SHAD (Shipboard Hazard and Defense) involved some 6,000 military personnel between 1962 and 1974, the Vietnam War era. Most served in the Navy
and Army. The purpose was to identify any weaknesses to U.S. ships and troops and develop a response plan for a chemical attack. The tests involved nerve agents like Sarin and Vx, and bacteria such as *E. Coli*. Sarin and Vx are both lethal. *McClatchy DC Bureau*

**Report: Army improperly tracked sarin, other chemical agents**

8 July - Officials at an Army chemical and biological storage and testing facility did not follow protocols while tracking inventories of sarin, a dangerous nerve agent, according to a recent inspector general report. The U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground also at times failed to provide disqualifying information about employees such as drug use and an incident involving alcohol, the report found. ... In the June 7 Defense Department IG report, titled, “The Army Needs to Improve Controls Over Chemical Surety Materials,” leaders ... simultaneously agreed with some of the IG’s findings while also disagreeing with some of the report’s recommendations. *Army Times*

**The PFT and CFT can be gender neutral. Here's how.**

10 July - For years, the Marine Corps has set fitness standards lower for women ... based on the belief that women are inherently less strong and would be unable to meet the more rigorous requirements set for men. ... There’s mounting evidence, both inside and outside the Marine Corps, that female service members can actually meet the same standards as men for the forcwide benchmarks assessed by the Corps’ Physical Fitness Test and the Combat Fitness Tests. ... “Whether intentional or not, the Marine Corps has been evolving toward a single fitness standard,” said Lt. Col. Misty Posey, who has researched female fitness issues for years. ... “Women may even have a biological advantage over men in certain areas,” Posey said. Some studies have indicated that women, who make up about 7 percent of the active-duty Corps, are more resistant to fatigue during long, sustained exercise, and they recover more quickly from physical exertion. *Marine Corps Times*

**Veterans starting to receive new prosthetic LUKE arms**

6 July - A public-private partnership has provided advanced prosthetic arms to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for amputee veterans. The LUKE arm, formerly known as the DEKA arm, is marketed by Mobius Bionics LLC, the company said in a news release Wednesday. It allows greater independence for people with amputations between their forearms and shoulders. The LUKE arm, with multiple motors integrated into each section of the device, uses a number of methods for operation, including traditional electrode sensors and pattern-recognition systems that use residual nerve signals to interpret a user’s intended arm movements. In its shoulder-level configuration, the user can reach above their head or behind their back. DEKA Research designed the prosthetic with funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. *UPI*
Technical Information Paper: Managing Confined Spaces in Army Healthcare Facilities

This paper describes procedures for identifying confined spaces in Army healthcare facilities and for managing the associated risks of entering and working in confined spaces.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, about 92 workers die of injuries received from working in confined spaces each year.

GLOBAL

2017: the year we lost control of world population surge?

9 July - Global efforts to help millions of women plan their families – and address unsustainable population growth – are falling woefully short, with looming cuts in funding threatening to hamper progress further, campaigners warn. On the eve of a landmark summit in London called to accelerate family planning progress in 69 of the world’s poorest countries, latest figures show that an eight-year programme to get contraception to more than 100 million women is way off target. ... The target to get modern contraception to 120 million women and girls by 2020 was set five years ago. So far barely 30 million have been reached – nearly 20 million fewer than the plan required at this stage. The Guardian

BASF unveils new mosquito net in battle against malaria

13 July - A new mosquito net made by German chemicals company BASF has been given an interim recommendation by the World Health Organization (WHO), containing a new class of insecticide that the company hopes will aid the fight against malaria. Death rates from malaria have dropped by 60 percent since 2000, according to the WHO, but attempts to end one of the world’s deadliest diseases - which kills around 430,000 people a year - are under threat as mosquitoes become increasingly resistant to measures such as insecticide-treated bed nets and anti-malarial drugs. BASF’s new net is based on chlorfenapyr, which has been used in agriculture and urban pest control for over two decades, but BASF reworked it to make it effective on mosquito nets and meet targets for the public health market. Reuters

Exposing newborn mice to general anesthetic disrupts brain development

6 July - The U.S. Food and Drug administration (FDA) has recently issued a safety advisory warning that exposure to anesthetic and sedative drugs during the period of time between the third trimester of prenatal development and the first three years of life may have lasting adverse effects on cognitive function. New research publishing July 6 in the open access journal PLOS Biology by Eunchai Kang, David Mintz and colleagues now shows that early postnatal mice exposed to isoflurane - a standard and widely used inhaled general anesthetic agent - leads to chronic, abnormal activation of the mTOR pathway, a signaling system critical for normal brain development. Medical Xpress

International risk of yellow fever spread from the ongoing outbreak in Brazil, December 2016 to May 2017

13 July - States in south-eastern Brazil were recently affected by the largest Yellow Fever (YF) outbreak seen in a decade in Latin America. Here we provide a quantitative assessment of the risk of travel-related international spread of YF indicating that the United States,
Army Vector-borne Disease Report
Nationally, CDC reports 22 human WNV cases in 2017. No confirmed or probable WNV cases have been reported in Army AD Service Members and beneficiaries in 2017.

All mosquitoes and sandflies (Culex, Aedes, Ochlerotatus, Anopheles, Phlebotomus) tested by PHC-Pacific and PHC-Europe were negative for all pathogens tested for including Zika virus, dengue, chikungunya, malaria, leishmaniasis, and sand fly fever.

PHC-Atlantic and PHC-Pacific tested ten Dermacentor variabilis ticks for Rickettsia rickettsii, the pathogen that causes RMSF; none were positive.

Argentina, Uruguay, Spain, Italy and Germany may have received at least one travel-related YF case capable of seeding local transmission. Mitigating the risk of imported YF cases seeding local transmission requires heightened surveillance globally. Eurosurveillance

Large-scale, collaborative effort could help ease global hearing loss
10 July - A team of hearing experts at Duke University School of Medicine and the Duke Global Health Institute is calling for a comprehensive, worldwide initiative to combat hearing loss. The percentage of people worldwide with hearing loss has been on the rise, increasing from 14 percent to 18 percent over the past 25 years. ... In a review article to be published July 10 in The Lancet, Wilson and colleagues highlight accessibility to screenings, treatments and preventive measures as keys to stemming the rise of hearing loss not only in the United States, but across the world. Science Daily

'Living drug' that fights cancer by harnessing the immune system clears key hurdle
12 July - A new kind of cancer treatment that uses genetically engineered cells from a patient’s immune system to attack their cancer easily cleared a crucial hurdle Wednesday. A Food and Drug Administration advisory committee unanimously recommended that the agency approve this “living drug” approach for children and young adults who are fighting a common form of leukemia. ... The treatment takes cells from a patient’s body, modifies the genes, and then reinfuses those modified cells back into the person who has cancer. If the agency approves, it would mark the first time the FDA has approved anything considered to be a “gene therapy product.” The treatment is part of one of the most important developments in cancer research in decades — finding ways to harness the body’s own immune system to fight cancer. NPR

Malaria genome study reveals savvy, finely tuned parasite
13 July - The malaria parasite owes its devastating success to a finely tuned genome that can survive attacks and evade human immune defense because it retains only the bare essential genes it needs to thrive, scientists have found. In a detailed study analyzing more than half the genes in the genome of the parasite that cause malaria - Plasmodium - researchers found that two thirds of those genes are essential for survival. This is the largest proportion of essential genes found in any organism studied to date, they said. Reuters

Report pinpoints remaining gaps in safe drinking water and sanitation
12 July - In the first global assessment of “safety managed” drinking water and sanitation services, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF today said 2.1 billion people—about 3 in 10—lack access to safe, readily available water and that 4.5 billion—about 6 in...
Fact Sheet:
Installation Injury
Summaries for
Active Duty Soldiers

The APHC Installation Active Duty Injury Summary is an analysis of military medical records for Active Duty Army personnel working on Army or Joint Base installations. Soldiers’ new-onset injury rates and injury causes are described for each installation, Major Command, and Army-wide. Each installation’s annual Injury Summary includes:

- Number of medical encounters (visits), Soldiers affected, and hospital bed days (current year)
- Injury and overuse injury rates (6 year period)
- Injury rates by age and year (6 year period)
- Injury rates by gender and age (current year)
- Top 5 outpatient injury causes (current year)
- Quarterly injury rates (medical encounters, 4 years)
- Red/amber/green injury rate thresholds

---

Scientists replay movie encoded in DNA

12 July - For the first time, a primitive movie has been encoded in -- and then played back from -- DNA in living cells. Scientists funded by the National Institutes of Health say it is a major step toward a “molecular recorder” that may someday make it possible to get readouts, for example, of the changing internal states of neurons as they develop. “We want to turn cells into historians,” explained neuroscientist Seth Shipman, Ph.D., a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School, Boston. “We envision a biological memory system that’s much smaller and more versatile than today’s technologies, which will track many events non-intrusively over time.” ... The ability to record such sequential events like a movie at the molecular level is key to the idea of reinventing the very concept of recording using molecular engineering, say the researchers. In this scheme, cells themselves could be induced to record molecular events -- such as changes in gene expression over time -- in their own genomes. Then the information could be retrieved simply by sequencing the genomes of the cells it is stored in. NIH

Scientists synthesize smallpox cousin in ominous breakthrough

7 July - Scientists in Canada have used commercially available genetic material to piece together the extinct horsepox virus, a cousin of the smallpox virus that killed as many as a billion human beings before being eradicated. ... The lead researcher in Canada, David Evans, a molecular virologist at the University of Alberta, told The Washington Post that his efforts are aimed at developing vaccines and cancer treatments. There is nothing dangerous about the synthetic horsepox virus, which is not harmful to humans. ... Evans said he has applied for a patent and is collaborating with a commercial company, Tonix Pharmaceuticals. In a news release, Tonix said it hopes to use horsepox virus to develop a new vaccine for smallpox that is safer than the one currently available, which can have serious side effects. Tom Frieden, former head of the CDC, said the breakthrough ... highlights the need to monitor more closely “dual-use” experiments — research that could be used either for protective purposes or, in theory, to create a deadly pathogen. The Washington Post
Trimming these invasive flowers could help curb malaria

6 July - ... Biologists working in Mali are proposing an unorthodox strategy to rein in malaria: gardening. The team found the flowers of an invasive tree \[Prosopis juliflora\] which has overrun African villages, can double as a buffet for mosquitoes. Their calls for extra horticulture to eliminate these havens, published Tuesday in Malaria Journal, could halve malaria-carrying mosquito populations and provide a new income source for villagers. Villages with the invasive flowering tree had four- to seven times more sugar-fed mosquitoes than villages without the tree. PBS Newshour

ZIKA VIRUS

Experimental Zika virus vaccines restrict in utero virus transmission in mice

13 July - Two experimental vaccines can restrict Zika virus transmission from pregnant mice to their fetuses and can prevent Zika virus-induced placental damage and fetal demise, according to new findings published July 13. ... [Researchers] tested a live-attenuated vaccine candidate developed by UTMB and an mRNA vaccine candidate developed by the biotechnology company Moderna. ... The current study is the first animal model study to demonstrate the protection conferred by experimental Zika virus vaccines when administered to female mice before they become pregnant and infected with Zika virus. ... [T]he scientists observed that most fetuses in the vaccinated mice showed no evidence of having Zika virus transmitted to them from their pregnant mothers. Those mice that were infected showed markedly diminished levels of Zika virus RNA in maternal, placental and fetal tissues compared to placebo-injected mice, resulting in protection against placental damage and fetal demise. NIH

Malaria drug protects fetal mice from Zika virus, NIH-funded study finds

10 July - Hydroxychloroquine, a drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat malaria and certain autoimmune diseases in pregnant women, appears to reduce transmission of Zika virus from pregnant mice to their fetuses, according to a study funded in part by the National Institutes of Health. The drug works by inhibiting autophagy, a process by which cells remove toxins and recycle damaged components to generate energy. The researchers show that Zika virus may manipulate this process in the placenta to infect the developing fetus. NIH
NIH launches prospective study of Zika and HIV co-infection during pregnancy

10 July - The National Institutes of Health has launched a study to determine the potential risks that infection with the Zika virus might pose for pregnancies in which the mother is also infected with HIV. At this point, little is known about whether Zika virus infection poses additional risks for maternal or infant health in pregnancies already complicated by HIV. Researchers hope the new study will provide information on whether infection with one of these viruses might increase the risk for infection with the other. Other concerns include whether Zika might interfere with medications that prevent HIV from being passed from a pregnant woman to her fetus and whether infection with the two viruses might increase the risk of damage to the fetal brain, as seen with Zika virus. NIH

top of page...

INFLUENZA

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

2016-2017 Influenza Season Week 26 ending July 1, 2017 - Pneumonia and Influenza (P&I) Mortality Surveillance: Based on National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) mortality surveillance data available on July 6, 2017, 5.7% of the deaths occurring during the week ending June 17, 2017 (week 24) were due to P&I. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 6.3% for week 24. CDC

ECDC: Flu News Europe

Week 21-26/2017 (22 May – 2 July 2017)

- Influenza activity has returned to out-of-season levels in all countries. All reporting countries continued to report low influenza intensity.
- Influenza viruses were detected sporadically both in sentinel and non-sentinel specimens, with influenza B predominating.
- As of week 26/2017, data from the 19 countries or regions reporting to the EuroMOMO project indicate that over recent months all-cause excess mortality has been at levels expected for the time of year. European Center for Disease Prevention and Control/WHO

NHRC: Operational Infectious Diseases Weekly Surveillance Report

6 July - Febrile respiratory illness cases:
WHO: Influenza Update

10 July – In the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity continued to increase, especially in temperate South America. A few countries in Central America, the Caribbean and South East Asia also reported increased influenza activity. Influenza activity in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere was reported at low levels. Worldwide, influenza A(H3N2) and B viruses co-circulated. WHO

Backyard chickens sicken 100s with *Salmonella* (CDC)

13 July - An additional 418 people have become ill due to *Salmonella* infection in a nationwide outbreak spread by residential chicken flocks, bringing the total number of illnesses to 790, the CDC reported Thursday. No deaths have been attributed to the backyard chicken outbreak, but 103 people have been hospitalized since the CDC last reported illness totals on June 1. That bring the total number of people hospitalized to 174, with roughly one-in-three (31%) hospitalizations occurring among children younger than age 5. No deaths have been reported. CDC is currently investigating 10 separate multistate outbreaks of *Salmonella* infections related to contact with live poultry flocks kept in backyards. In interviews, 409 (74%) of 553 infected people reported contact with live poultry in the week before becoming ill. MedPage Today

Chinese chicken shipments endangering public health

13 July - Food & Water Watch has released a statement ... about chicken that is being processed in China and shipped to the United States. ... While Chinese plants can process raw poultry and ship to the U.S., the raw poultry itself can only come from “approved” sources, such as the United States, Canada, and Chile. Unfortunately, the USDA’s 2016 audit checklist from one of the plants that slaughtered the chickens in Chile before they were shipped to China for processing “reveals serious problems at this first stop in the product’s long journey.” ... She adds, “It is disturbing to learn of these types of problems in the plant that slaughtered these chickens, before they were sent to be further processed in a plant in China, which has long struggled with food safety enforcement. ... Last month, Hauter urged the USDA to reverse the rule allowing chicken imports from China. Food Poisoning Bulletin
Pet owners more likely to find ticks on themselves

7 July - Having a pet dog or cat more than doubles the odds that humans will find a tick on themselves, and that could raise the risk of contracting tick-borne diseases like Lyme, researchers say. “Ticks can transmit disease to people and their pets, particularly in the warmer months when they are most active,” said lead study author Erin Jones of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in Baltimore. Jones’ team analyzed data collected by a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention initiative called TickNET, which aims to prevent tick-borne diseases across the country. Reuters

Scientist develop plastic pouches to make produce safer

11 July - the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is assisting a company developing a small plastic pouch that is designed to make produce safer. Many food poisoning outbreaks in the past few years have been linked to contaminated fruits and vegetables. Plant pathologist Jinhe Bai and his colleagues helped develop the pouch. The company, Worrell Water Technologist of Delray Beach, Florida, wants to market the pouches to wholesalers and produce packers all around the world. The pouches are packed into shipping containers. The pouch slowly releases chlorine dioxide gas, which kills E. coli and other pathogenic bacteria on the produce. They vent chlorine dioxide gas at a controlled rate using a semi-permeable membrane. Food Poisoning Bulletin

The chemicals in your mac and cheese

12 July - [P]thalates, can disrupt male hormones like testosterone and have been linked to genital birth defects in infant boys and learning and behavior problems in older children. The chemicals migrate into food from packaging and equipment used in manufacturing and may pose special risks to pregnant women and young children. Now a new study of 30 cheese products has detected phthalates in all but one of the samples tested, with the highest concentrations found in the highly processed cheese powder in boxed mac and cheese mixes. ... Europe has banned many phthalates from use in plastics that come into contact with fatty foods, including baby food, but the F.D.A. allows the use of many phthalates in such materials and classifies them as indirect food additives. The New York Times

Update on deadly E. coli outbreak in southwest Utah

12 July - An E. coli outbreak in Hildale, Utah that killed two children and originally sicken six has been updated by the Southwest Utah Public Health Department. Now eleven people have been sickened in this outbreak. On July 5, 2017, testing on the city water system was negative for the pathogenic bacteria. ... Officials were continuing to test the water. Also on July 7, 2017, the Health Department told residents of Hildale and surrounding areas to not consume any previously purchased ground beef until further notice.... Officials also told
residents of Hildale and surrounding areas not to consume raw milk in addition to previously purchased ground beef until further notice. *Food Poisoning Bulletin*

---

**WELLNESS**

A U.S. senator is worried that “snortable chocolate” is basically “cocaine on training wheels”

11 July - Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer has written to the US Food and Drug Administration asking it to look into Coco Loko, a caffeine-laced inhalable food product that’s marketed to consumers as raw cacao snuff—but which he fears is being used as an easy means for getting high. The “snortable chocolate powder” is made by a company called Legal Lean and is typically sold in small, 10-serving tins for $24.99. It promises euphoric energy, calm focus, and a rush of endorphins and serotonin to reduce the “worry and chatter in your brain.” The target audience, Schumer contends, are school-aged kids. *Quartz*

Crime labs struggle to identify opioids in race to stop epidemic

7 July - NPR’s Kelly McEvers talks to STAT News reporter Max Blau about his recent reporting on counterfeit opioids in forensic crime labs. The shifting nature of the opioids themselves makes it difficult to treat overdoses and prosecute dealers. ... MCEVERS: You have also written that crime lab chemists are partnering with public health officials now to combat this epidemic. Can you give us an example of where this is working? BLAU: This has happened in Baltimore. The fire department there is the group that responds to overdoses. And when there is a uptick that is higher than usual in Baltimore, they alert the public health commissioner, who has this belief that, you know, instead of waiting months or even a year for final data to come out on the public health side, by having imperfect data sooner about where overdoses are, she can send outreach workers there to a neighborhood or a block where overdoses are happening and get either people trained on how to use Naloxone - just everyday residents - or to have health workers on hand in case there are more overdoses on the way. *NPR*

Drinking coffee reduces risk of death from all causes, study finds

10 July - People who drink around three cups of coffee a day may live longer than non-coffee drinkers, a landmark study has found. The findings come from the largest study of its kind, in which scientists analysed data from more than half a million people across 10
European countries, including the UK, to explore the effect of coffee consumption on risk of mortality. Researchers from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and Imperial College London found that higher levels of coffee consumption were associated with a reduced risk of death from all causes, particularly from circulatory diseases and diseases related to the digestive tract. Medical Xpress

**First vaccine shows gonorrhoea protection**

11 July - A vaccine has for the first time been shown to protect against the sexually transmitted infection gonorrhoea, scientists in New Zealand say. ... The study of 15,000 young people, published in the Lancet, showed infections were cut by about a third. ... The vaccine, originally developed to stop an outbreak of meningitis B, was given to about a million adolescents in New Zealand between 2004 and 2006. Researchers at the University of Auckland analysed data from sexual health clinics and found gonorrhoea cases had fallen 31% in those vaccinated. The bacterium that causes meningitis, Neisseria meningitidis, is a very close relative of the species that causes gonorrhoea - Neisseria gonorrhoeae. It appears the Men B jab was giving "cross-protection" against gonorrhoea. BBC News

**High-intensity workouts may be good at any age**

12 July - Abbreviated, intense workouts may help people of any age become healthier, a new study of old mice that ran on treadmills suggests. Although the experiment involved rodents, not humans, the study found that old mice can tolerate high-intensity interval training and rapidly gain fitness and strength, even if they start off frail and exercise for only a few minutes a week. ... [T]he interval-trained mice seemed in many ways younger than they had been at the start. In particular, they were stronger; when pulled backward gently by researchers, they would cling to a bar longer than at the start of the study. They also had greater endurance capacity, as well as more muscle mass in their hind legs than the sedentary animals, and they scampered faster. Few now were frail. The New York Times

**HIV hijacks surface molecule to invade cell**

12 July - Researchers at the National Institutes of Health have discovered a key step in the process that HIV uses to inject its genetic material into cells. Working with cultures of cells and tissues, the researchers prevented the invasion process by chemically blocking this step, preventing HIV genetic material from entering cells. The findings could lead to eventual development of new drugs to prevent HIV infection. NIH

**Improving diet over time may reduce risk of death**

12 July - People who maintained a high-quality diet over a 12-year period had a significantly lower risk of death than people whose diets were rated low, reported researchers. According to an analysis of two large U.S. cohorts of health professionals, a 20-percentile increase in diet-quality scores -- an indication of an improved quality of diet -- was linked to an 8%-17% reduction in mortality, reported Mercedes Sotos-Prieto, PhD, of Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, and colleagues. Conversely, worsening
diet quality over the 12-year period was associated with an increase in mortality of 6%-12%, they wrote in the New England Journal of Medicine. The risk of death from any cause was significantly lower, by 9%-14%, among people who maintained a high-quality diet than among those who had consistently low diet scores over time. MedPage Today

**Med switch not always best choice with tough depression**

11 July - Switching to another antidepressant may not be the best way to help depression patients who don’t respond to the first antidepressant they take, a new study indicates. Among more than 1,500 depression patients at 35 U.S. Veterans Health Administration medical centers, better symptom relief was achieved when people were prescribed an antipsychotic medication or a second antidepressant rather than being switched to another antidepressant, the researchers found. "We found that among three strategies evaluated in this study, evidence of the greatest symptom benefit was provided by adding an antipsychotic to previous antidepressant therapy," said study author Dr. Somaia Mohamed. HealthDay

**NIH-funded team uses smartphone data in global study of physical activity**

10 July - Using a larger dataset than for any previous human movement study, National Institutes of Health-funded researchers at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, have tracked physical activity by population for more than 100 countries. Their research follows on a recent estimate that more than 5 million people die each year from causes associated with inactivity. The large-scale study of daily step data from anonymous smartphone users dials in on how countries, genders, and community types fare in terms of physical activity and what results may mean for intervention efforts around physical activity and obesity. ... Countries with the greatest activity inequality are also the countries with the greatest obesity problem. Individuals in the five countries with the greatest activity inequality are nearly 200 percent more likely to be obese than individuals from the five countries with the lowest activity inequality. ... The researchers report that countries with greater activity variation also have a larger proportion of inactive women. ... Data from 69 U.S. cities showed that higher walkability scores are associated with lower activity inequality. Higher walkability is associated with significantly more daily steps across all age, gender, and body-mass-index categories. NIH

**Opioid prescriptions falling but remain too high, CDC says**

6 July - The U.S. is in the midst of an opioid crisis. Millions of Americans are addicted to the powerful prescription painkillers, and tens of thousands are dying each year from overdoses. A new report out Thursday offers a bit of hope: Doctors are prescribing opioids less often, and the average dose they’re giving patients has dropped, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, the number of patients getting opioids is still too high, and doctors are giving their patients prescriptions that last longer,
Oral sex spreading unstoppable bacteria

7 July - Oral sex is producing dangerous gonorrhoea and a decline in condom use is helping it to spread, the World Health Organization has said. It warns that if someone contracts gonorrhoea, it is now much harder to treat, and in some cases impossible. ... The World Health Organization analysed data from 77 countries which showed gonorrhoea’s resistance to antibiotics was widespread. ... Worryingly, the vast majority of gonorrhoea infections are in poor countries where resistance is harder to detect. ... Gonorrhoea can infect the genitals, rectum and throat, but it is the last that is most concerning health officials. Dr Wi said antibiotics could lead to bacteria in the back of the throat, including relatives of gonorrhoea, developing resistance. She said: "When you use antibiotics to treat infections like a normal sore throat, this mixes with the Neisseria species in your throat and this results in resistance." BBC News

Telehealth program to provide support for military caregivers

11 July - Caregivers for ill or injured veterans and members of the military experience high levels of stress on a daily basis. Military caregivers are up to four times more likely to suffer from depression, according to a national report. Caregiving spouses, parents and friends in the military community often sacrifice time, effort and rest to handle issues inside and outside the home. A new solution is starting out of San Antonio, the city which recently trademarked the term, "Military City, U.S.A." Fifty military families across Texas will soon be part of a pilot program designed to help the caregivers of wounded service members using computer and smartphone technology. UT Health San Antonio's 12-week Military Caregiving Telehealth Initiative will work to address conditions affecting loved ones, including pain management, mood disorders, anxiety and the effects of traumatic brain injury by video conferencing with licensed therapists. Texas Public Radio

Burundi: Malaria outbreak continues unabated

10 July - In a follow-up on the malaria outbreak in the east African country of Burundi, 4,376,804 cases including 1,996 deaths (case fatality rate 0.05%) have been reported this year through the end of June. It’s been increasing persistently despite ongoing response interventions. During the most recent weekly data available (ending June 25), 173,355 clinical cases of malaria including 102 deaths were reported. Outbreak News Today
Kenya reports nearly 300 kala-azar this year in two counties

10 July - Since the beginning of the year, Kenya has reported 277 visceral leishmaniasis, or kala-azar cases, including seven deaths from two counties—Marsabit County in the mid-north of the country and Wajir County in the east of Kenya, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). [Outbreak News Today]

Liberia: Enticing pregnant women in Liberia to give birth in health centers

3 July - Evelyn Dolo saved a teenage girl’s life, but not out of good will alone, she admits. A traditional birth attendant for more than 15 years in the small Liberian village of Zahnmooyee, Ms. Dolo was summoned one night to help the teenage girl deliver her baby. Ms. Dolo rushed the girl to the nearest hospital, about 25 miles away, where she was immediately taken into surgery. A cesarean section saved both her and her baby’s life. ... Rather than deliver women’s babies at home, birth attendants in many villages are required to bring pregnant women to health centers or face penalties. In Ms. Dolo’s village, failure to comply would have meant a payment to the town elders of 5,000 Liberian dollars (about $50), a gallon of palm oil and a tub of cooked rice. The local policy essentially forces women to give birth in health centers by threatening financial penalties — a practice aimed at curbing maternal deaths. In Liberia, 725 women die for every 100,000 live births — among the highest rates of maternal mortality in the world. [The New York Times]

Nigeria: Cholera

12 July - On 7 June 2017, World Health Organization (WHO) was notified of a cholera outbreak in Kwara State, Nigeria, where the event currently remains localized. The first cases of acute watery diarrhoea were reported during the last week of April 2017 and a sharp increase in the number of cases and deaths has been observed since 1 May 2017. However, the number of new cases reported has shown a decline over the last four reporting weeks. As of 30 June 2017, a total of 1558 suspected cases of cholera have been reported including 11 deaths (case fatality rate: 0.7%). Thirteen of these cases were confirmed by culture in laboratory. 50% of the suspected cases reported are male and 49% are female (information for gender is missing for 1% of the suspected cases). The disease is affecting all age groups. [WHO]

Nigeria: Acute hepatitis E

12 July - On 18 June 2017, the Nigerian Ministry of Health notified World Health Organization (WHO) of an outbreak of hepatitis E located in the north-east region of the country. The first case was detected on 3 May 2017 in Damasak, a locality at the border with the Republic of the Niger. ... Cases were later reported in Ngala, one of the local government areas in Borno State that borders Cameroon. As of 2 July 2017, 146 confirmed and suspected cases were reported including 21 confirmed cases. ... This hepatitis E
outbreak can propagate rapidly due to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the region which arises from the volatile security situation in north-eastern Nigeria and continues to persist. WHO

Rwanda: How tiny planes could revolutionize health care

7 July - Keenan Wyrobek was looking for a big problem in health care to solve—and on a trip to Tanzania, he found one. There, doctors told him about not being able to get the blood and medicines they needed to treat patients. People were dying of treatable illnesses, all because the roads were bad or the supplies weren't close enough. The trip inspired Wyrobek to co-found Zipline, a California-based company that ferries supplies to remote health care sites using specialized, insulated drones. The company is currently delivering blood to hospitals in Rwanda via a local distribution center, and there are plans to expand to other countries. National Geographic

top of page...

USCENTCOM

Kazakhstan: Several Kazakh health officials arrested on bribery charges

10 July - Four senior health officials in Kazakhstan have been arrested on charges of bribe-taking. The Central Asian nation's Anticorruption Bureau said on July 10 that the acting chairwoman of the Health Ministry’s Pharmacy Committee, Larisa Pak; one of her subordinates; and two regional pharmacy officials were charged with accepting some $30,500 in bribes from a pharmaceutical company. The director of the Zerde pharmaceutical company was also arrested for allegedly giving the bribe. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

Yemen: U.N. suspending plan for cholera vaccination in Yemen

11 July - The United Nations said on Tuesday that it was suspending plans for a cholera vaccination campaign in Yemen — reversing a decision made a month ago — because the disease’s rampant spread and the ravages of war there would make such an effort ineffective. Jamie McGoldrick, the United Nations aid coordinator in Yemen … attributed the change to obstacles in delivering vaccines in the middle of a conflict that has crippled the country’s health system and hampered access to some areas threatened by the contagious disease. Christian Lindmeier, a spokesman for the World Health Organization, told reporters the vaccine doses originally designated for shipment to Yemen would probably be sent to
other countries threatened by cholera, where they could be used more effectively. The surprise disclosure … came as the number of Yemenis afflicted with cholera reached 313,000 and the death toll exceeded 1,700. *The New York Times*

top of page...

**USEUCOM**

---

**Europe: Measles 'tragedy' kills 35 across Europe**

11 July - Thirty-five people have died in the past year from measles outbreaks across Europe, the World Health Organization has warned. It described the deaths - which can be prevented with vaccination - as an "unacceptable tragedy". … More than 3,300 measles cases have been recorded in the country. The most fatalities - 31 - have been in Romania. But there have also been deaths in Germany and Portugal since June 2016. *BBC News*

**Europe: Mobile app designed to prevent pregnancy gets EU approval**

13 July - … Now for the first time, a cell phone app has been certified as a method of birth control in the European Union. Its creator, Elina Berglund, is a particle physicist who was part of the team that won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2013. … Berglund and her husband launched the app, Natural Cycles, in Sweden in 2014. It relies on a woman's recorded daily temperature — taken with a highly accurate thermometer — and details about menstruation to determine fertility. … The Natural Cycles app stands out because it is the world’s first to get approval by a European health agency as a contraceptive. In a clinical study of 4,000 women who used the app — along with a very sensitive thermometer called a basal body thermometer — the results were much better than traditional fertility-based awareness methods. Only seven out of 100 women got pregnant compared to about 24 out of 100 using the rhythm or calendar method. *NPR*

**Spain: *C difficile* found in kids' and dogs' sandboxes in Spain**

7 July - An investigation by Spanish researchers has revealed that epidemic ribotypes of *Clostridium difficile* are widely distributed in children's and dogs' sandboxes in Madrid. … The researchers carried out sampling in 40 sandboxes in public playgrounds in Madrid (20 for children and 20 for dogs) over a 2-day period in July 2015. *C difficile* was isolated from 21 (52.5%) of the sand samples analyzed, with 12 of the samples coming from dogs' sandboxes and 9 coming from children's. Molecular testing showed that 8 of the 20 available *C difficile* isolates (one was lost during subculturing) were toxigenic and belonged to ribotypes 014 and 106, both of which are regarded as epidemic, and CD047. … Further
testing showed that isolates were genetically diverse and displayed resistance to several antibiotics, including high-level resistance to imipenem and levofloxacin.

CIDRAP Stewardship/Resistance Scan (second item)

top of page...

USNORTHCOM

Canada: Canada reports first case of Candida auris

11 July - Canadian researchers are reporting the first case of the drug-resistant fungal pathogen Candida auris in Canada. ...[R]esearchers report that the patient, a 64-year-old individual with a 2-year history of ear complaints, was treated for chronic otitis externa shortly after admission to a tertiary hospital for management of a brain abscess. Previous medical history included a recent hospitalization in India for elective oral surgery. During outpatient follow-up, swabs of the patient’s ear discharge revealed the presence of C auris that was resistant to fluconazole and amphotericin B and likely resistant to voriconazole. Case resolution was pending at the time of the report. The authors of the report say the origin of the infection is unknown but suggest it could be connected to the patient’s hospitalization in India, where C auris is endemic.

CIDRAP Stewardship/Resistance Scan (first item)

Canada/U.S.: Wildfires spread across at least six states and Canada

10 July - Wildfires rolled across dry terrain in the Western United States and through a region of Canada, fueled by lightning, whipping winds and temperatures in the triple digits that have fanned the flames across parched lands. The National Weather Service early on Monday issued red flag warnings, signaling critical conditions over the next 24 hours, for regions in at least six states. In some areas, firefighters have been battling fires for a week, trying to keep them from spreading across roads and churning through dry vegetation near populated areas. The New York Times

Mexico: Mexico reports 162 percent increase in gonorrhea

11 July - The number of gonorrhea cases reported in Mexico to date is up 162 percent compared to the same period in 2016. According to a Puebla Online report (computer translated), 2,364 cases have been reported through the end of June this year. This compares to 902 cases last year. Approximately half the cases have been reported in
women, nationally. However in Puebla, located in Est-Central Mexico, women are disproportionately reported positive for the sexually transmitted infection (STI). The report notes that 70 percent of gonorrhea cases in Puebla are in women. As of June 24, there were 109 registered cases with 77 cases reported in women. No explanation as to why this is was offered. Outbreak News Today

U.S.: Alabama health officials issue warning about flesh-eating bacteria

7 July - Health officials in Alabama are warning residents of a flesh-eating bacteria found in bodies of water throughout the state. The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) on Friday warned residents that Vibrio cases have been reported along Alabama's Gulf Coast. In a statement, officials said that Vibrio can only be contracted in brackish or salt water. It can also affect people who eat contaminated seafood and those with open wounds exposed to seawater. Dr. Karen Landers, the department's assistant state health officer, told CBS News that she hopes the warning educates "the general public about wounds and water, safe swimming, and safe consumption of seafood." CBS News

U.S.: Hearing aids may soon be sold over the counter

13 July - ... [T]he House of Representatives has passed legislation that would create a new class of hearing aids that could be sold over the counter without the need for a prescription. That's welcome news to the estimated 37.5 million Americans who have some form of hearing loss, many of whom choose to ignore it due to the cost of doctor's appointments and the devices. Today, according to the Consumer Technology Association, a pair of traditional hearing aids runs anywhere from $1,000 to $6,000. Over-the-counter devices, the group says, will cost a much more affordable $100 to $600. The change is part of the FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017, which the House passed Wednesday with a voice vote. The bill received widespread bipartisan support, but the Senate has yet to announce a timeline for holding a vote on the bill. Fortune

U.S.: More people are making mistakes with medicines at home

12 July - The rate of serious medication errors that occur outside of health care facilities doubled from 2000 to 2012, a new study finds. ... They found that the number of these cases doubled, from 3,065 cases in 2000 to 6,855 cases in 2012. In the 13 years covered by the study, more than 67,000 such errors occurred, and 414 people died as a result. Most of the mistakes were preventable, the study finds. ... The number of errors with cardiovascular drugs doubled over the time period of the study, and errors linked to hormones and hormone antagonists – mainly drugs used to treat diabetes – more than tripled. "... [W]e think that some of these increases in errors are a reflection of the increase in prescribing." NPR
U.S.: National Guard mobilizes to help fight multiple wildfires in western U.S.

10 July - The California National Guard has been mobilized to support firefighting efforts in both northern and Southern California. California Gov. Jerry Brown has declared a state of emergency in Butte County for the wildfire nicknamed the Wall Fire, according to Sacramento NBC affiliate KCRA. The 5,600-acre Wall Fire has destroyed 17 structures while threatening more than 5,000, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. ... In addition to the California fires, there are currently 85 National Guard service members fighting wildfires in Arizona, Colorado and Wyoming, according to the Department of Defense. Army Times

U.S.: New York City declares war on rats with $32 million plan

12 July - New York City on Wednesday announced a $32 million plan to reduce the rat population by 70 percent in the city's three most infested neighborhoods by the end of 2018. The three targeted neighborhoods are in Manhattan, the Bronx and Brooklyn. Rats are seen as a public health threat as carriers of disease, and as a plague on the quality of life. ... The plan will begin to roll out in September, and multiple city agencies, including the Sanitation, Parks and Health departments, will be involved. Most of the money will be spent on improvements in public housing apartment buildings, replacing dirt basement floors with concrete “rat pads” and installing solar trash compactors with a “mail-box” opening to replace the 20-year-old compactors now in use. Wire waste baskets on city streets will be replaced with new steel ones. Both the new trash compactors and new trash baskets will dramatically diminish rats’ access to food sources. Reuters

U.S.: Rare tick-borne virus cases reported in Arkansas, Missouri

10 July - Recent reports from the Arkansas and Missouri departments of health describe infections with Heartland and Bourbon viruses, two rare tick-borne illnesses. One case was fatal. Heartland virus is a newer illness transmitted via the bite of the Lone Star tick. The Arkansas Department of Health said late last week that a person living in the northwestern part of the state had been diagnosed with the disease, marking the state's first case. ... In Missouri, state officials said a park worker has been diagnosed as having Bourbon disease, another tick-borne illness. A Jul 7 online newspaper report said the woman, who was a superintendent at Meramec State Park, died from complications of Bourbon virus after getting bitten sometime around Memorial Day. CIDRAP News Scan (second item)

U.S.: Trump administration names Georgia health official as new CDC director

7 July - The Trump administration has named Georgia Public Health Commissioner Brenda
Fitzgerald as the next director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one of the most crucial public health positions in the U.S. government given the agency’s role in tracking and stopping infectious disease outbreaks nationally and globally. Fitzgerald, 70, an obstetrician-gynecologist who has headed that state’s public health department since 2011, will succeed Tom Frieden. He stepped down in January after serving for eight years, longer than any director since the 1970s. Anne Schuchat, a veteran CDC official, has been serving as acting director. The Washington Post

U.S.: U.S. charges hundreds of people in health fraud schemes worth $1.3 billion

13 July - U.S. prosecutors announced Thursday that they have charged more than 400 people with taking part in health care fraud and opioid scams that totaled $1.3 billion in false billing. Attorney General Jeff Sessions called the collective action the “largest health care fraud takedown operation in American history.” ... Among those charged are six Michigan doctors accused of a scheme to prescribe unnecessary opioids. A Florida rehab facility is alleged to have recruited addicts with gift cards and visits to strip clubs, leading to $58 million in false treatments and tests. ... The Justice Department said the people charged were illegally billing Medicare, Medicaid, and the health insurance program that serves members of the armed forces, retired service members and their families. The allegations include claims that those charged billed the programs for unnecessary drugs that were never purchased or never given to the patients. PBS Newshour

top of page...

USPACOM

India: Mumbai state of health - nearly 20 TB deaths a day, dengue cases way up

13 July - The non-governmental organization, Praja says the following concerning the health situation in the city of Mumbai, India in a newly published “white paper”—Despite its claims of being a world-class metropolis, Mumbai is a decidedly unhealthy city. It is characterized by rising cases of dengue and tuberculosis, including drug-resistant strains of the latter. Child malnutrition is rampant. The authorities in charge of running the city have not managed to check the spread of various major diseases. The following statistics make this amply clear: When it comes to tuberculosis, the number of cases rose from 36,417 in 2012-13 to 50,001 in 2016-17. However, the number of cases treated through Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) nearly halved in five years—from 30,828 in 2012 to 15,767 in 2016. At the same time, the percentage of defaulters in DOTS treatment increased from 9% (2,638 out of 30,828) in 2012 to 19% (2,927 out of 15,767) in 2016. Outbreak News Today
Philippines: Battle for Marawi takes huge toll on public health in Philippines

10 July - Weeks in cramped evacuation centers are exposing civilians displaced by the fighting between government forces and Islamist militants in the southern city of Marawi to increased health risks. ... According to local Department of Health (DOH), there have been more than 3,000 reported cases of upper respiratory infection, diarrhea, hypertension and fever in the different health facilities. 31 deaths have been reported, which include infants dying from dehydration. Health and rescue workers feel this number may have been underreported. ... The Ranao Rescue Team is working with the government to look for ways to increase the number of health officials and volunteers to do closer monitoring on the health of the evacuees. The additional manpower will also help in putting together mobile health clinics that do the rounds in different evacuation centers. DW

Sri Lanka slams tax on abandoned lands to help curb dengue fever spread

10 July - The Sri Lankan government on Monday said it would impose a new tax on abandoned lands in the Western Province to help curb the spread of dengue fever, which has claimed 225 lives. Chief Minister of the Western Province Isuru Dewapriya said a 2 percent tax would be charged on the total value of the abandoned lands from its owners in order to curb the spread of the mosquito borne disease. The Epidemiology Unit of Sri Lanka said that to date, 80,732 people had been infected with dengue and approximately 43.22 percent of dengue cases were reported from the Western province. This is the worst ever dengue outbreak to hit the island country, health workers said. Xinhuanet

top of page...

USSOUTHCOM

PAHO notes small rise in Americas chikungunya cases

10 July - Countries in the Americas reported 311 more chikungunya cases over the past week, according to a recent update from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). ... Some of the new cases were from French Guiana, which reported 9 weeks' worth of cases, raising its number of suspected cases to 135 and the count of confirmed infections to 37. Other countries reporting small numbers of new cases include Costa Rica, El Salvador, Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru. Nations in the Americas have reported 89,246 confirmed, suspected, and imported cases this year, mostly from Brazil. The death toll remained at 13. CIDRAP News Scan (fourth item)
Peru: Peru dengue outbreak - Northern coast region affected by El Niño costero

7 July - In a follow-up on the dengue fever outbreak in Peru, the National Civil Defense Institute (INDECI) reports the total number of dengue confirmed cases countrywide is 20,930 while 42,297 are reported as probable. Piura is the most affected region with 9,632 confirmed cases and 32,886 un-confirmed (37 deaths confirmed). The Northern coast region (Tumbes, Piura, Lambayeque, La Libertad, Cajamarca) which was specially impacted by the floods and landslides caused by “El Nino costero” phenomenon earlier this year, is particularly affected. In addition, a Zika outbreak has been reported in the country with a total of 546 confirmed cases.

Outbreak News Today