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U.S. MILITARY

Soldiers' bottled water consumption is unsustainable in the next war, Army report says

28 October- The U.S. Army is "precipitously close to mission failure" when it comes to hydrating soldiers in the kinds of contested, arid environments they are likely to go in the next few decades, according to an Army War College study published this summer. Nearly two decades of missions in the Middle East and Africa depended on bottled water, local wells and reverse osmosis water purification units, but that's not always going to be available thanks to salt water intrusion into coastal areas and changing weather patterns, according to the study. "Additionally, warmer weather increases hydration requirements," the study reads. "This means that in expeditionary warfare, the Army will need to supply itself with more water. This significant logistical burden will be exacerbated on a future battlefield that requires constant movement due to the ubiquity of adversarial sensors and their deep strike capabilities." The document paints a dire picture for the Army as it heads into an era of great power competition that aligns with unprecedented changes in the global climate, and which require new technologies and cultural shifts over the next 6-10 years to stem a collapse of the service's capabilities. The worry is that the Army, and Defense Department more broadly, will increasingly be called upon to operate in countries devastated by climate change, said Francesco Femia, co-founder of the Center for Climate and Security, which made the document available online. [Army Times](#)

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GLOBAL

Asthma carbon footprint 'as big as eating meat'

30 October- Many people with asthma could cut their carbon footprint and help save the environment by switching to "greener" medications, UK researchers say. Making the swap would have as big an "eco" impact as turning vegetarian or becoming an avid recycler, they say. It's because some inhalers release greenhouse gases linked to global warming. But the Cambridge University team told BMJ Open patients must check with a doctor before changing medication. Some patients will not be able to switch and should not be made to feel guilty, they add. [BBC News](#)

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Plague

Plague is an infectious disease of animals and humans caused by the bacteria *Yersinia pestis*. People usually get plague through the bite of a plague-infected rodent flea or by handling an infected animal. It can occur in three forms: bubonic, septicemic, and pneumonic.



Brain illness spread by ticks has reached UK

29 October- An infectious disease that can harm the brain and is spread to people by tick bites has been identified in ticks in the UK for the first time. Public Health England (PHE) says it has confirmed cases of tick-borne encephalitis virus in ticks from two parts of England - Thetford Forest and an area on the Hampshire-Dorset border. PHE says the risk to people is still "very low". It is monitoring the situation to check how common the infected ticks may be. [BBC News](#)

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Ebola cases continue slow rise in DRC outbreak

28 October- The slow rise in new Ebola cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continued over the weekend and through today, with four new cases—and with outbreak responders tracking the movements of a patient who fled into the community, potentially exposing others to the virus. Daily updates from the DRC's Ebola technical committee (CMRE) show that the latest cases are all from the current main hot spots, which are rural and pose a host of access and security problems. Of the four new cases, one was reported today, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) online Ebola dashboard. The new cases push the outbreak's overall total to 3,264, a number that includes 117 probable cases. Health officials are still investigating 357 suspected cases. [CIDRAP](#)

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Facebook vows strict privacy safeguards as it rolls out preventive-health tool

29 October- Facebook on Monday took a step into preventive medicine, rolling out a new tool to encourage users to get flu shots as well as appropriate cancer screenings and heart health tests. But the success of the new product may depend on whether the social media giant can regain consumers' trust. The company is asking people to use its site to make and record decisions about their health care—such as logging completion of a cholesterol test—at a time when it is trying to contain the fallout from months of controversy around privacy, sharing of user data, and misinformation. Facebook said it's put up strict safeguards to protect the privacy of people who use the new tool. The company vowed not to share the data generated through the tool with third parties. It won't let other users on Facebook see when people use the feature. Nor will it allow advertisers to target ads to users based on the information they share using the tool—though they might see targeted ads if they click through to another website or navigate away to like the page of a health care organization. Within Facebook, the data from the tool will be accessible only to a subset of employees focused on keeping the feature functional. [Scientific American](#)

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**The Surgeon
General Weekly
Read Book**

The Surgeon General Weekly Read Book is available with articles classified up to the **SECRET** level on the APHC SIPRNet site:

<https://intelshare.intelink.sgov.gov/sites/medcom-g2/SitePages/Home.aspx>

To access this version, you will need a **SECRET** clearance and a SIPRNet account.

'Game changing' tuberculosis vaccine a step closer

29 October- A vaccine which could "revolutionise" tuberculosis treatment has been unveiled by researchers. It is hoped the vaccine will provide long-term protection against the disease, which kills 1.5 million people around the world each year. The highly contagious disease is caused by bacteria, and the current vaccine, the BCG jab, is not very effective. However, while initial trials have proved successful, the vaccine is still a few years away from being licensed. The team of researchers, who come from all over the world, revealed the vaccine, which is made up of proteins from bacteria which trigger an immune response, during a global summit on lung health in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad on Tuesday. [BBC News](#)

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New tuberculosis treatment for developing countries to cost \$1,040

28 October- A newly approved three-drug treatment for tuberculosis will be available in 150 countries including India and South Africa, priced at \$1,040 for a complete regimen, more than twice the cost proposed in the past by advocacy groups for other treatments. The United Nations-backed Stop TB Partnership said on Monday that BPaL would be obtainable in eligible countries through the Global Drug Facility (GDF), a global provider of TB medicines created in 2001 to negotiate lower prices for treatments. Tuberculosis was responsible for 1.5 million deaths in 2018. BPaL is an oral treatment which promises a shorter, more convenient option to existing TB treatment options, which use a cocktail of antibiotic drugs over a period of up to two years. The new cocktail, which will treat extensively drug-resistant strains of the illness, consists of drug developer TB Alliance's newly-approved medicine pretomanid, in combination with linezolid and Johnson & Johnson's bedaquiline. Pretomanid, which will be available at \$364 per treatment course, is only the third new medicine for drug-resistant tuberculosis to be approved in about 40 years, after J&J's bedaquiline and Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co Ltd's delamanid. [Reuters](#)

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No country is fully prepared for high-consequence infectious disease outbreaks

24 October- 5 years ago last month, the UN Security Council met in crisis over the growing Ebola epidemic in West Africa. Massive global assistance was needed to stop the outbreak because Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone lacked the capacity to quickly detect and respond to the epidemic. By the time it was over, the epidemic sickened close to 30,000 people, caused upwards of 10,000 deaths, and resulted in \$2.8 billion in lost GDP for the 3 affected countries. The enormous tolls of this epidemic demonstrated that when outbreaks occur in countries that are unprepared, they can spill beyond borders, threatening the peace, health and prosperity of others. Delays in the global response to Ebola in 2014 prompted calls for

better understanding and measurement of health security capacity and transparent reporting of countries' capacities. Health, policy, and security leaders developed high-level reviews and recommended ways to identify, finance, and fill major preparedness gaps within countries. Some of those recommendations have been implemented. For example, the WHO developed an International Health Regulations Joint External Evaluation (JEE) tool to assess countries' public health capacities related to laboratories, testing, and workforce. This represents an important step toward increased accountability and transparency for national public health capacities. However, many calls-to-action have not been heeded—including, in most countries, those to increase financing and planning to fill urgent health security gaps. [Global Health Now](#)

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Smoke and power outages near California wildfires hit farmworkers hard

29 October- Farm laborers in yellow safety vests walked through neatly arranged rows of grapes in a vineyard outside Healdsburg, Calif., Friday, harvesting the last of the deep purple bundles that hung from the vines, even as the sky behind them was dark with soot. Over the hill just behind them, firetrucks and first responders raced back and forth from a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection staging area, working to contain the Kincade Fire raging through the rugged hills and canyons in northeastern Sonoma County. As of Tuesday, more than 4,500 firefighters were battling the blaze, and a broad swath of the county was under evacuation orders as Northern California endured a powerful windstorm that was fueling the flames. For farmworkers in Sonoma County's fabled wine country, the Kincade Fire poses a daunting set of risks. October marks not only fire season in California, but also the peak of the grape harvest. In areas not imminently threatened, some workers labored through the heat and dangerous smoke to retrieve some of the hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of grapes that had yet to be harvested. As the fire continues to spread, many now are finding that their work — and paychecks — have been suspended.

[NPR](#)

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Some pregnant women use weed for morning sickness but FDA cautions against it

28 October- Jennifer had a rough start to her pregnancy. "I had really intense food aversion and really intense nausea," says the 28-year-old mother of a five-month-old girl. "I wasn't eating at all." She was losing weight instead of gaining it, she says, and couldn't even keep down her prenatal vitamins or iron pills, which she needed to deal with anemia. (NPR is only using her first name to protect her privacy.) And with her first prenatal appointment still weeks away, she began to worry that she wasn't getting enough nutrients to support the pregnancy. "I was basically in this space, where I felt like I wanted to be a new mom and take care of my child and I wasn't able to do that," says Jennifer. That's when her husband

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bought her an ice tea with CBD and THC, two of the main components in cannabis. "I've never really been a marijuana user," she says. "I don't have anything against it, but I just don't care for it myself." But that day, she took a few sips of the drink. She says her nausea went away and she was able to eat her first full meal in days. She continued to take a few sips here and there over the next few weeks, when she was unable to eat. Jennifer is among more than 100 women who wrote to NPR about using cannabis during pregnancy. Most of them used it for extreme nausea, vomiting and weight loss, so bad in some cases that they had to be hospitalized. [NPR](#)

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Stroke recovery clue from patient walking speed

28 October- World-leading research is helping scientists find new ways of trying to help younger people who have had a stroke get back to work. The study led by Manchester Metropolitan University found the speed a patient can walk is a major factor in determining how likely they are able to return to the workplace. Researchers have been working with physiotherapists and patients in Wales. It includes moving rehabilitation outdoors, including the Brecon Beacons. It is hoped it could lead to new rehabilitation methods being developed to target younger stroke patients. The average age to have a stroke in the UK is 72 for men and 78 for women. But there has been a 40% worldwide rise in people under 65 who have strokes in the last decade, according to the researchers. [BBC News](#)

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Vaccine shows promise for preventing active TB disease

29 October- An experimental vaccine proved 50% effective at preventing latent tuberculosis infection from turning into active disease in a three-year study of adults in Africa. Doctors were encouraged because protection declined only a little after two years, and even a partially effective vaccine would be a big help against TB. The lung disease kills more than a million people a year, mostly in poor countries, and about one-third of the world's people harbor the bacteria that cause it. Results were reported Tuesday at a conference in India, the country hardest hit by TB, and published by the New England Journal of Medicine. There is a TB vaccine now, but it's given only to very young children and partly prevents severe complications. Researchers have been seeking a vaccine that also works in adults, to curb spread of the disease. GlaxoSmithKline's experimental vaccine was tested in nearly 3,600 adults in Kenya, South Africa and Zambia who were infected with TB but who did not also have HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Half were given two doses of vaccine a month apart and the rest got dummy shots. Thirteen people in the vaccine group and 26 in the other group developed active TB. [VOA News](#)

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Xanax recalled over 'foreign substance' concerns, FDA says

28 October- At least one lot of a popular anti-anxiety drug is facing a nationwide recall over concerns there is a “potential presence of [a] foreign substance,” in the product, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced late last week. Mylan Pharmaceuticals is voluntarily recalling one lot of its Alprazolam Tablets, a prescription drug typically sold under the name brand Xanax. “Clinical impact from the foreign material, if present, is expected to be rare, but the remote risk of infection to a patient cannot be ruled out,” reads the recall notice posted to the FDA’s website on Friday. As of the same day, the federal agency had not received any reports of adverse events related to the recalled batch. It’s unclear what the foreign material is. [Fox News](#)

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INFLUENZA

WHO: Influenza Update

28 October 2019 - Update number 353, based on data up to 13 October 2019:

- In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels in most countries. However, influenza activity continued to increase across the countries of the Arabian Peninsula.
- In the Caribbean, and tropical South American countries, influenza activity was low overall. In Central American countries, influenza activity increased in El Salvador and Nicaragua.
- In tropical Africa, increased influenza activity was reported from Western Africa.
- In Southern Asia, influenza activity was low across reporting countries.
- In South East Asia, influenza activity increased in Lao PDR and the Philippines in recent weeks.
- In the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity was low in most countries, though influenza B virus detections continued to be reported in Chile.
- Worldwide, seasonal influenza A viruses continued to account for the majority of detections, though the proportion of influenza B viruses increased in recent weeks. [WHO](#)

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25 sick in Swedish Salmonella outbreak

30 October- Swedish officials are investigating a national Salmonella outbreak with 25 people having fallen sick in the past two months. Folkhälsomyndigheten (Public Health Agency of Sweden) reported that the source of the Salmonella Newport infections is unknown and still under investigation, but it could be a widely distributed food item. Whole genome sequencing has linked 25 people to the outbreak. Isolates from domestic cases of Salmonella are sequenced with WGS as part of the national microbial surveillance program. There are infected people spread across 12 counties. Their symptom onset dates range from Aug. 16 to Oct. 12. People aged one to 82 years old have been affected and slightly more women, 14, than men, 11, have become sick. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has been informed but it is not yet known if other countries have also been affected. Local disease control units, Livsmedelsverket (Swedish Food Agency) and Folkhälsomyndigheten are investigating to identify the source of the infections. As part of this, those ill are interviewed about what they ate before becoming sick. [Food Safety News](#)

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Beef patties recalled for containing metal

29 October- OSI Industries, LLC, in Fort Atkinson, WS has recalled approximately 4,218 pounds of ready-to-eat beef patty products that may be contaminated with extraneous materials, specifically metal, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). The frozen, ready-to-eat beef patty items were produced on August 10, 2019. The products subject to recall are:

- 38-lb. bulk lined boxes of frozen, ready-to-eat "CHAR-BROILED BEEF PATTIES (CARMEL COLOR ADDED)" with lot code 22219.

The recalled products bear establishment number "EST. 1300" inside the USDA mark of inspection. The beef was shipped to firms that further process the product in Iowa and Wisconsin. It was during such further processing that the extraneous metal was discovered. There have been no confirmed reports of adverse reactions due to consumption of these products. Anyone concerned about an injury or illness should contact a healthcare provider.

[Food Safety News](#)

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McIntosh, Honeycrisp, Jonathan, Fuji, Jonamac and Red Delicious apples recalled for Listeria

29 October- Traverse City, MI-based North Bay Produce Monday recalled 2,297 cases and two bulk bins of fresh apples due to the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. Recalled varieties include McIntosh, Honeycrisp, Jonathan, Fuji, Jonamac and Red Delicious apples. They were being sold in eight states. Recalled apples were sold in plastic bags under the brands; Great Lakes, North Bay Produce Pure Michigan as well as unbranded in clear plastic tote bags, white paper tote bags, and individually from retailers display trays. The recalled apples were shipped between October 16, 2019, and October 21, 2019, from one North Bay facility to wholesalers, retailers, and brokers in Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin. Apples purchased at retail prior to October 16 are not affected by this recall, and no other North Bay Produce products are affected by this recall. At this time, the company is not aware of any illnesses linked by health officials to this recall. Anyone who has the recalled product in their possession should not consume it. The product should be discarded or returned to the place of purchase. [Food Safety News](#)

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Walmart, Costco recall baby formulas because of potentially deadly bacteria

30 October- Retail giants Walmart and Costco are recalling Parent's Choice and Kirkland branded baby formula because of possible contamination with *Cronobacter* spp., which has a fatality rate up to 80 percent in newborns and young infants. The recalls posted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) follow two in early October by Loblaw Companies Ltd. that involved President's Choice. All of the recall notices say the actions were initiated because of CFIA test results. Walmart reported distributing the implicated Parent's Choice brand "Infant Formula for Babies Sensitive to Lactose" nationwide in Canada. Similarly, Costco reported national distribution of its Kirkland Signature brand "Non-GMO Infant Formula for Babies Sensitive to Lactose." None of the four notices say how much formula is subject to recall. None of the notices name of the formula manufacturer(s) or ingredient suppliers. [Food Safety News](#)

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WELLNESS

Exercising before breakfast burns more fat, study says

18 October- Should you eat before or after exercise in the morning? The debate has raged for years. The eat-first camp says food before exercise boosts blood sugars, giving the body fuel to increase the intensity and length of a workout. It also keeps you from being fatigued or dizzy. The eat-after camp says you burn fatter if you fast before exercise. A small UK study published Friday supports the latter point of view: In 30 obese or overweight men, those who exercised before breakfast burned twice the fat as men who ate breakfast before they worked out. That's because exercising with no fuel forces the body to turn to stored carbs, and when those are quickly gone, too fat cells. [CNN](#)

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How food companies use packaging to fool you into thinking an item is healthful

23 October-Next time you grab a package off the grocery store shelf thinking it looks like a healthful choice, take a beat before you toss it into your cart. The better-for-you allure of it could be as superficial as the wrapper itself. From print color to bottle shape, specific package design elements can have a real influence on the perceived health benefits of the food inside. But unlike explicit written nutrition claims such as "low sodium," which are subject to strict governmental regulation, the implied health messages of package design are entirely up to the manufacturer. While design techniques are often used fairly to communicate the presence of a more healthful product, they are also sometimes employed in misleading ways. Keep an eye out for these tricks of the trade to avoid being duped by a product with a deceptively healthful veneer. [Washington Post](#)

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USAFRICOM

Burundi malaria cases top 7 million

28 October- The World Health Organization (WHO) released updated numbers of the malaria epidemic in Burundi and the total cases has eclipsed 7 million for 2019. From 1 January to 20 October 2019, a cumulative total of 7,233,138 malaria cases with 2,691 deaths (case fatality ratio 0.03%) have been reported across the country. An average of 60 deaths have been reported every week in the year 2019. The eastern region of the country is more affected, WHO reports. The last malaria epidemic in Burundi was recorded in 2017. It affected all districts of the country and resulted in 6,218,058 cases and 2,752 deaths (case fatality ratio 0.04%) being recorded from January to October 2017. Malaria is endemic in most parts of Burundi with an increase in cases usually observed from April to May and

from November to December. However, in 2019 the usual decrease observed after May has not been seen. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Nigeria outbreaks 2019

27 October- In this video, I look at some of the important infectious disease outbreaks in the most populous country in Africa, Nigeria. The recent yellow fever outbreak in Bauchi State, with the epicenter being the Yankari game reserve of Alkaleri LGA. In addition, I examine the outbreak in the country outside of Bauchi. A monkeypox outbreak has been occurring for the past 2-plus years and I give an update on the situation through Sept. 2019. Nigeria has also been battling a large Lassa fever outbreak and I take a look at that. Lastly, Nigeria appears on the verge of being officially declared free of wild poliovirus type-1 (it's been over three years since the last case) and I talk about the latest on polio there.

[Outbreak News Today](#)

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USCENTCOM

WHO and partners mark World Polio Day throughout Pakistan

29 October- World Polio Day (24 October) was marked with a myriad of events across Pakistan, all paying tribute to the efforts of frontline health workers. Events recognized the contributions of polio workers, caregivers, civil society and donors to ending polio in Pakistan. Pakistan, along with Afghanistan, is one of the two remaining countries in the world with ongoing wild poliovirus type 1 transmission. Despite an increase in the number of children paralysed by polio in Pakistan this year, the polio eradication programme and partners affirmed that they will not be deterred and urged all to get behind the national cause. "The rise in cases and continued detection of polio in environmental samples this year has been disappointing. But our frontline health workforce has not let this or any of the other challenges they face in the field deter them," WHO Representative to Pakistan, Dr. Palitha Mahipala said. "They are truly the heroes of this effort, and with our continued support, they will prevail." WHO, UNICEF and other key partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative remain committed to supporting the Government of Pakistan in the drive to eradicate all types of the poliovirus. WHO also announced that the second strain of wild poliovirus – type 3 – has been certified as globally eradicated by an independent commission of experts. Global wild poliovirus type 3 eradication is a tremendous achievement and an important milestone on the road to eradicate all poliovirus strains. In Pictures: World Polio Day was celebrated with zeal and zest throughout the country. Have a quick glance through these pictures and videos for a glimpse of different events taking place in Pakistan. [WHO](#)

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USEUCOM

England: Tick-borne encephalitis virus reported for the first time in ticks

29 October- UK health officials have detected Tick-borne encephalitis virus (TBEV) in ticks in two areas of England. This is the first time the virus has been detected in ticks in the UK. Public Health England reports, the virus has been detected in a small number of ticks in Thetford Forest and an area on the border between Hampshire and Dorset. Earlier this year a European visitor became ill after being bitten by a tick in the New Forest area. This is considered to be a highly probable case of tick borne encephalitis (TBE). To date, no other cases of TBE considered likely to have been acquired in the UK have been identified. Dr. Nick Phin, Deputy Director, National Infections Service, Public Health England, said "The risk to the general public is currently assessed to be very low. Ticks carry a number of infections including Lyme disease, so we are reminding people to be 'tick aware' and take tick precautions, particularly when visiting or working in areas with long grass such as woodlands, moorlands and parks." Most people who catch TBE will not have any symptoms – though it can cause flu-like symptoms, and in a small number of cases can progress to more serious disease involving the central nervous system. Tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) is endemic in mainland Europe and Scandinavia, as well as Asia. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USINDOPACOM

Bangladesh dengue outbreak update

28 October- In an update on the dengue fever outbreak in Bangladesh, the Directorate General of Health Services reported an additional 251 cases on Sunday, bringing the total for the month to 7,168 and for the year to 95,121. In addition, the official dengue death toll stands at 107; however, unofficial and local media numbers are closer to 200. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Philippines reports 3rd polio case, this one in Maguindanao province

28 October- Philippines health officials reported Monday on a third confirmed polio case in the country. The case is a four-year old female from Datu Piang in the Province of Maguindanao who did not receive any dose of the oral polio vaccine (OPV). The patient was initially reported as a case of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) last September 26, 2019, after seeking consultation at the Cotabato Regional Medical Center. On October 24, stool samples sent to the National Institute of Infectious Diseases – Japan tested positive for

vaccine-derived poliovirus 2 (VDPV2). The polio virus isolated was genetically linked to the VDPV2 from the confirmed Polio case in Morogong, Lanao del Sur. [Outbreak News Today](#)
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USNORTHCOM

U.S.: Oregon- Measles exposures linked to Portland International Airport

27 October- Oregon state and local health officials are reporting two measles exposures linked to an individual with the disease who passed through Portland International Airport earlier this month. The two cases, a Lane County resident and a visitor to Washington County, have been diagnosed with measles. The two new cases reportedly were on the same international flight that landed in Portland on Oct. 12, according to the Oregon Health Authority. OHA epidemiologists are working with public health staff in both counties to confirm sites where others may have been exposed. None of the cases have been fully vaccinated against measles. "Measles is a highly infectious disease, and it doesn't take much to spread it from one person to another, particularly in the close quarters of an airline flight," said Ann Thomas, MD, public health physician at OHA. "It's a good reminder of how important it is to make sure all adults and children in your household are up to date on vaccines." Most Oregonians have been vaccinated against measles and their risk is low. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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U.S.: San Diego- 3 high schools report mumps cases, County reports the most cases in 25 years

30 October- Health officials in San Diego County are reporting three mumps cases in three unrelated people at three different high school campuses in the county—High Tech High School International, La Jolla High School and San Pasqual High School. "We are working closely with school officials to inform the school communities about the symptoms of mumps and vaccine recommendations," said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County public health officer. "Because there is no prevention after exposure for mumps, people should be watching for symptoms and make sure they have all the recommended doses of measles, mumps and rubella immunizations." Mumps is a highly contagious viral disease. It is spread by coughing, sneezing or close contact with an infected person. Mumps causes a fever, headache, earache, and inflammation of the salivary glands which results in swelling and tenderness at the angle of the jaw. Severe complications are rare, but can include meningitis, decreased fertility, permanent hearing loss, and, in extreme cases, fetal loss during first trimester of pregnancy. There is no treatment for mumps. Most people recover without problems. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Dengue: Brazil tops 2 million cases in 2019, Mexico cases double from last year

24 October- UN health officials released the latest dengue fever numbers for the Region of the Americas recently and the total cases now stand at 2,668,877, including 1,162 deaths. Brazil has reported more than 1 million dengue cases in a year several times—1.5 million in 2016, 1.65 million in 2015 and 1.47 million in 2013. In 2019, for the first time they have topped 2 million cases (2.04 million). Brazil has also reported 676 fatalities. Mexico has also seen a dramatic increase in dengue this year. In fact, the number of cases have doubled compared to 2018. To date, Mexico has seen 163,662 cases, while last year they reported 78,621. Other countries in the western hemisphere reporting high numbers of dengue cases include Nicaragua (135,901), Colombia (98,739) and Honduras (81,854). [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Dengue in Central America 2019: Incidence rate higher than in the previous five previous years

31 October- Central American countries in 2019 have seen an increased incidence of dengue fever, in fact, the cumulative incidence rate of dengue in the Central America region is higher than in the previous five previous years, with an incidence of more than 100 people with dengue per 100,000 people, according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. To date in Central America, close to 250,000 people in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua have been reported to have dengue in 2019. Considering that dengue cases are typically underreported (with a 14 to 28 time ratio), the number of people who have been infected with dengue is likely much higher. Three countries in Central America have declared an Epidemiological Alert for the current outbreak: Honduras (14 June 2019), Guatemala (29 July 2019) and Nicaragua (31 July 2019). El Salvador and Costa Rica are reporting an increase in dengue cases compared to previous years, and ministries of health of both countries are implementing response activities to reduce the incidence of cases. Honduras, for example, is experiencing the worst dengue outbreak in its history, with 81,858 cases of dengue and 142 deaths. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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