

23 August 2019

Army Public Health Weekly Update

Army Public Health Center



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Vaccines: A public health success story

7 August- Throughout U.S. history, people have benefited from improvements in the field of public health. The availability of clean water, the development of sewage systems, and other effective interventions worked to cut the rate of disease in entire segments of the population at relatively low cost. Vaccination is an intervention that has proved effective in terms of cost and effort in protecting the population from disease. Individuals clearly benefit from the disease protection offered by vaccinations. In addition, if vaccination levels are high enough within a population, protection may be extended to those unable to be vaccinated, either due to a medical restriction or because they are too young. This is because without enough susceptible individuals acting as "carriers," the disease can't effectively be transmitted from person to person. The ideal situation is when the disease is eradicated. This has only happened once in recorded human history, with smallpox. We need enough participation in vaccination programs so both individuals and society can enjoy the benefits of freedom from disease. As a scientist, the recent backlash against vaccines and decision by some parents not to have their children vaccinated concerns me. The use of vaccines is a societal process of risk and benefit, not only for individuals but for everyone. We have a basic tenet in society: balancing an individual's right to choose with that person's duty to protect him or herself, any children, other loved ones, and society as a whole. Some of the information circulating in today's media about vaccines isn't scientifically based; instead, it's based on emotion. Measles was declared eliminated in the United States in 2000 because people were vaccinated against it at such high rates that there was no continuous disease transmission. Measles is now making a comeback as a substantial portion of the population has chosen not to be vaccinated against it. Approximately 1 per 1,000 individuals who gets measles will have a serious adverse outcome that can include life-long disability or death. Neurological complications can occur from measles – it's a potentially dangerous disease that's completely preventable. Complicating issue for society is that some individuals who would normally take a vaccine for some diseases can't be vaccinated for medical reasons. They're either too young or have an immune deficiency or some other limiting factor. These people are now being exposed to unnecessary risk by others who have declined to take a vaccine because they have a belief against it for whatever reason. [Health.Mil](#)

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

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



GLOBAL

10 Fixes for global health consulting malpractice

12 August- Recently, an African researcher I met expressed her frustration about how American “kids” with little or no experience come all the time to “advise” her government on what to do about health. I have seen this myself, but her rant really hit a nerve. For the want of a better phrase, I am calling this “global health consulting malpractice.” Now, imagine this scenario. A couple of newly minted MPH graduates from an African university, say in Rwanda, land in Washington DC for a 2-week visit. They visit a few hospitals, speak to a few health care workers and policymakers, read a few reports, and write up a nice assessment of the US health system with several recommendations on how to fix the issues they saw. They submit their manuscript to the American Journal of Public Health. Can you imagine AJPH even sending it out for review? Even if the paper got published somewhere, would US health researchers take it seriously? (They should, I suppose. After all, the broken US health care system needs all the help it can get.) Clearly, it’s an impossible scenario yet American MD, MPH, or MBA grads land in low-income countries to advise them on global health issues all the time. American graduates aren’t the only problem. It happens with all high-income country (HIC) folks. And it is not just naïve rookies stepping into advisory roles. The professionalized consulting industry (McKinsey, BCG, Bain, etc.), NGOs (CHAI, PATH, PSI, CARE, etc.) and donor agencies send HIC “experts” to low- and middle-income countries to offer “technical assistance” when they might know little about the countries they are advising or the problems they are trying to fix. This problem of consulting malpractice is merely one facet of a larger issue of how global health, even today, is still colonial in many ways, and how HIC experts and institutions are valued much more than expertise in LMICs. Analyses of research studies’ authorship show that HIC authors dominate and lead publications even when the work is entirely focused on or done in LMICs. While parachute research is increasingly being discouraged, there is little discussion about parachute global health consulting. [Global Health Now](#)

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AI may detect AFib in just 10 seconds

17 August- Millions of Americans live with the potentially dangerous condition called atrial fibrillation (AFib), but many may never get diagnosed. Dr. Vinay Mehta, medical director of cardiac electrophysiology at Aurora Bay Care Medical Center in Green Bay, Wisconsin, said someone with atrial fibrillation can experience symptoms of the condition at irregular times. It could happen at night one day and in the afternoon the next. Or symptoms could occur for five minutes today but two hours tomorrow. [Fox News](#)

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**The Surgeon
General Weekly
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<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.

Alzheimer's and migraine; Duchenne drug nixed; Ritalin on the brain

20 August- ... Pfizer issued a voluntary recall of two lots of the acute migraine drug eletriptan (Relpax) due to possible contamination. Thumbs down from the FDA for golodirsen (Vyondys 53), Sarepta Therapeutics' second exon-skipping drug for Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The agency cited infusion-port infection risk and kidney toxicity seen in preclinical studies as concerns, Sarepta said. That's Sarepta's second slap in 5 days: Last week, the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) did not find sufficient evidence of a net health benefit for Sarepta's controversial Duchenne drug eteplirsen (Exondys 51) or golodirsen over supportive care alone. [MedPage Today](#)

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CDC, state health officials investigating link between vaping and severe lung disease

19 August- At least 15 states have identified more than 120 cases of lung disease or injury that could be linked to vaping, a CNN survey of state health departments has found. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Saturday it's investigating severe pulmonary disease among people who use e-cigarettes in some states. States with the most cases include Wisconsin, with 15 confirmed cases and 15 more under investigation, according to CNN's survey. Illinois has 10 confirmed cases, while 12 more are under investigation. California is looking into 19 such cases. The New York State Department of Health said Friday it was "actively investigating" 11 cases. Indiana and New Jersey both reported nine cases, of which Indiana has confirmed six. Health officials in Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and Utah also said they were aware of confirmed or potential cases. A total of 42 states and Washington, DC, provided CNN with a response. "These latest reports of pulmonary disease in people using vaping products in New York and other states are proof that more study is needed on the long-term health effects of these products," Dr. Howard Zucker, health commissioner for New York State, said in a statement Friday. The CDC said Saturday it had counted 94 possible cases of severe lung illness associated with vaping in 14 states from June 28 to August 15. [CNN](#)

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Cigarettes can't be advertised on TV -Should Juul ads be permitted?

20 August- Why does e-cigarette maker Juul advertise its product on TV when cigarette ads are banned? The short answer: Because it can. For nearly 50 years, cigarette advertising has been banned from TV and radio. But electronic cigarettes — those battery-operated devices that often resemble oversized USB flash drives with flavored nicotine "pods" that clip in on the end — aren't addressed in the law. Since launching its product in 2015, Juul Labs, based

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in San Francisco, have come to dominate the e-cigarette market, now accounting for 75 percent of e-cig sales at convenience stores and mass retail outlets, according to Bonnie Herzog, a senior analyst at Wells Fargo Securities. Until recently, TV ads haven't played a role in Juul's marketing, which relied primarily on social media. But this year, the company launched a \$10 million TV advertising campaign, "Make the Switch," that it says is aimed at helping adults find a healthier alternative to smoking cigarettes. The campaign also features print and radio ads. Many public health advocates are skeptical of the company's repeated assertions that adult smokers are their target audience. When the company launched its sleek e-cigarette four years ago, it relied on social media outlets such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to promote its product in ads that, especially at the beginning, featured playful, partying 20-somethings. [NPR](#)

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FDA approves novel antibiotic for community-acquired pneumonia

20 August- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) yesterday announced the approval of lefamulin, a novel antibiotic for the treatment of community-acquired bacterial pneumonia (CABP). The approval was for both oral and intravenous (IV) formulations of the drug, developed by Nabriva Therapeutics of Dublin. Lefamulin is a first-in-class, semi-synthetic pleuromutilin antibiotic designed to inhibit the synthesis of bacterial protein, which is required for bacterial growth. It's indicated for treatment of CABP caused by the most common gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria associated with the disease, including *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, methicillin-susceptible *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, and *Haemophilus influenzae*. [CIDRAP](#)

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Packed dorm may have spurred MERS spread, study says

19 August- New findings from an investigation into a large MERS-CoV cluster in a women's dormitory revealed that crowded living conditions can lead to higher attack rates and hints that even healthcare workers who don't directly care for patients can play a role in disease spread. In other developments, Saudi Arabia reported one new MERS-CoV (Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus) case. [CIDRAP](#)

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Premature babies lag in vaccinations

19 August- Many premature babies, who are at increased risk for vaccine-preventable diseases, are not getting their vaccinations on time. Researchers in Washington State retrospectively studied vaccination rates among 10,367 infants born between 2008 and 2018 at academic medical centers or affiliated health care settings. About 20 percent were born prematurely. Preterm babies — those born before 37 weeks of gestation — were 23 percent less likely than full-term babies to have had the required shots by 19 months, and

27 percent less likely to have completed the series by the time they were 3 years old. The study, in *Pediatrics*, recorded completions of the currently recommended combined seven-vaccine series, which includes one or more shots for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis; measles, mumps and rubella; polio, *Haemophilus influenzae* type B, hepatitis B, varicella and pneumococcus. According to current guidelines, these vaccines should be given by the age of 18 months, with additional doses for some given later in childhood. The researchers also assessed use of the vaccines for rotavirus, hepatitis A and flu, recommended shots not included in the seven-vaccine program. [New York Times](#)

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Proteins that control sound-detecting cells may restore hearing in people with irreversible deafness

6 August- ...The discovery, which was reported in *eLife* on June 12, could pave the way for future treatment that can help restore hearing in people with irreversible deafness. The researchers said that this research in hair cell development may have potential applications in treating deafness caused by damaged hair cells. "We are interested in how hair cells evolved because it's an interesting biological question," she said. "But we also want to use that knowledge to improve or develop new treatment strategies for hearing loss." [Tech Times](#)

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Spraying antibiotics to fight citrus scourge doesn't help, study finds

16 August- When the Environmental Protection Agency approved the spraying of certain antibiotics three years ago to fight a deadly bacterial infection decimating Florida's orange groves, growers thought they might have found a silver bullet. But public health advocates reacted with alarm, warning that the large-scale use of medically important drugs in agriculture could help fuel antibiotic resistance in humans. Now a new study by citrus researchers at the University of Florida suggests the spraying of one of the recommended drugs could be for naught. The study, published last week in the journal *Phytopathology*, found that spraying the drug oxytetracycline on trees had no detectable impact on the bacterial disease known as citrus greening that slowly kills orange and grapefruit trees. Citrus greening has led to a 70 percent drop in citrus production across Florida since the pathogen first arrived from Asia in 2005. Nian Wang, a microbiologist at the University of Florida's Citrus Research and Education Center and a lead author of the paper, said researchers sprayed the leaves of infected orange trees with the oxytetracycline over a six-month period at concentrations recommended by the drug's manufacturer but found no difference in the progression of the disease compared to trees that were sprayed with just water. "Under our test conditions, the concentration is just not enough to suppress the pathogen," he said. That's not to say the drug is completely useless in the fight against citrus greening, which is spread by a pinhead-sized insect called the Asian citrus psyllid.

Researchers carried out a parallel experiment by injecting the drug into the trees' trunks, instead of spraying, and they found a notable decline in citrus greening bacteria. [The New York Times](#)

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Vaping sickness rising: 153 cases reported in 16 states

21 August- Sixteen states have now reported 153 cases of serious, vaping-related respiratory illnesses in the past two months, and many of the patients are teenagers or young adults. In a statement on Wednesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that all of the cases occurred in people who acknowledged vaping either nicotine or tetrahydrocannabinol, known as THC, the high-inducing chemical in marijuana. Federal and state officials say that they are mystified as to what is causing the illnesses, but that it does not appear that an infectious disease is responsible. No one product or device is common among the cases, the agency said. It also was unclear whether a contaminant in a used cartridge or a home-brewed concoction of vaping liquids contributed to some of the ailments. The patients, most of whom were adolescents or young adults, were admitted to hospitals with difficulty breathing. Many also reported chest pain, vomiting and fatigue.

[New York Times](#)

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INFLUENZA

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

2018-2019 Influenza Season Week 32 ending August 10, 2019

-U.S. Virologic Surveillance: WHO and NREVSS collaborating laboratories, which include both public health and clinical laboratories located in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the District of Columbia, report to CDC the total number of respiratory specimens tested for influenza and the number positive for influenza by virus type. In addition, public health laboratories also report the influenza A subtype (H1 or H3) and influenza B lineage information of the viruses they test and the age or age group of the persons from whom the specimens were collected.

-Pneumonia and Influenza (P&I) Mortality Surveillance: Based on National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) mortality surveillance data available on August 15, 2019, 4.8% of the deaths occurring during the week ending August 3, 2019 (week 31) were due to P&I. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 5.6% for week 31.

-Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality: Two influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC during week 32. One death was associated with an influenza A (H3) virus and occurred during week 4 (the week ending January 26, 2019) and one death was associated with an influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 virus and occurred during week 18 (the week

ending May 4, 2019). A total of 129 influenza-associated pediatric deaths occurring during the 2018-2019 season have been reported to CDC. [CDC](#)

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WHO: Influenza Update

19 August 2019 - Update number 348, based on data up to 04 August 2019:

- In the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity appeared to have peaked in most countries.
- In the Caribbean, Central American, and tropical South American countries, influenza activity was low overall.
- In tropical Africa, influenza activity was low across reporting countries, with the exception of a few countries in Eastern Africa.
- In Southern Asia, influenza activity was low across reporting countries.
- In South East Asia, influenza activity was decreasing or low across reporting countries except in Myanmar.
- In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels.
- Worldwide, seasonal influenza A viruses accounted for the majority of detections. [WHO](#)

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VETERINARY/FOOD SAFETY

Hepatitis E infections up; Irish warning cites pork as contributor

20 August- The Health Protection Surveillance Center in Ireland has issued a warning about hepatitis E and undercooked pork following an increase in the number of people infected during summer and autumn this past year. The agency reported a small increase in clinical notifications during the summer and autumn periods in 2018. Health Protection Surveillance Center (HPSC) officials reminded consumers of the risk associated with undercooked meat, particularly when barbecuing. Meat cooked on a grill is more likely to char on the outside, while remaining undercooked in the middle. [Food Safety News](#)

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More pig ear dog treats recalled in multistate outbreak

17 August- Dog Goods USA LLC of Tobyhanna, PA joins the list of companies involved in a federal and state investigation regarding contaminated pig ear dog treats that are likely responsible for a multistate, multidrug-resistant Salmonella outbreak. Dog Goods USA LLC has recalled its Chef Toby Pig Ears Treats because they have the potential to be

contaminated with Salmonella, according to a notice posted by the Food and Drug Administration. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is working with the FDA and several state agencies on the outbreak investigation. According to the recall notice, the affected product includes non-irradiated bulk and packaged pig ears branded Chef Toby Pig Ears, due to potential Salmonella contamination. The Product lot codes are:

-428590, 278989, 087148, 224208, 1168723, 428590, 222999,

-074599, 1124053, 226884, 578867, 224897, 1234750, 444525,

-1106709, 215812, 230273, 224970, 585246, 327901, 052248,

-210393, 217664, 331199, 225399, 867680, 050273, 881224,

-424223, 225979, 431724, 226340, 880207, and 334498. [Food Safety News](#)

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USDA finds religious exempt chicken, small operators have pathogen problems

20 August- Tests showed a higher than average prevalence of Salmonella and Campylobacter in chicken that is produced under religious exemptions and at low-volume facilities, but the government is not going to propose rules for them. In a process that began in June 2017, the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) collected and tested more than 3,600 samples, according to an update this week. The sub-agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that it will no longer sample or test the specific products for Salmonella and Campylobacter. "FSIS found that generally religious exempt poultry products and a subset of the low volume products sampled have a higher than national average rate of Salmonella and Campylobacter contamination," the government reported. But, saying those products make up a small portion of the country's food supply, the USDA does not plan to take action toward regulation. A campaign to raise awareness is planned instead. "The agency does not intend to propose performance standards for these products at this time," according to the update. "FSIS will use these results to conduct outreach with the industry and consumers to encourage the safe production and handling of these raw poultry products." The FSIS testing project specifically involved religious exempt chicken carcasses and low-volume poultry products. The agency "will no longer sample or test the products for Salmonella and Campylobacter." [Food Safety News](#)

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WELLNESS

Exercise may boost mood for women with depression- Having a coach may help

21 August- For women with serious depression, a single session of exercise can change the body and mind in ways that might help to combat depression over time, according to a new study of workouts and moods. Interestingly, though, the beneficial effects of exercise may depend to a surprising extent on whether someone exercises at her own pace or gets coaching from someone else. Already, a wealth of recent research tells us that exercise buoys moods. Multiple studies show that physically active people are more apt to report being happy than sedentary people and are less likely to experience anxiety or depression. In a few experiments, regular exercise reduced the symptoms of depression as effectively as antidepressant medications. But science has yet to explain how exercise, a physical activity, alters people's psychological health. Many exercise scientists speculate that working out causes the release of various proteins and other biochemical substances throughout our bodies. These substances can enter the bloodstream, travel to our brains and most likely jump-start neural processes there that affect how we feel emotionally. [New York Times](#)

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Herring and pumpernickel, anyone? Introducing the Nordic diet

12 August- The traditional Mediterranean diet has a substantial body of research to support its healthfulness, but there's a new contender in town — the Nordic diet. This way of eating was designed by a team of scientists, nutritionists and chefs to improve public health and bolster the culinary appeal of seasonal Nordic ingredients — foods available in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Though it differs from the Mediterranean diet in ingredients, it is similar in principle. "The Nordic diet, much like the Mediterranean diet, promotes lifestyle habits that focus on choosing fresh and local ingredients that are sustainably sourced," said registered dietitian Layne Lieberman, author of "Beyond The Mediterranean Diet: European Secrets of the Super-Healthy." [The Washington Post](#)

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Nigeria's three-year milestone takes Africa towards polio eradication

21 August- Nigeria marked three years free of endemic wild polio on Wednesday with health officials saying the nation's progress in fighting the crippling viral disease could result in the whole of Africa being declared polio-free early next year. The three-year milestone sets in motion a continent-wide process to ensure that all 47 countries of the World Health Organization's African region have eradicated the virus, health officials said. Africa's last case of wild polio was recorded in Nigeria's Borno State in August 2016. "We are confident that soon we will be trumpeting the certification that countries have, once and for all, kicked polio out of Africa," the WHO's regional director for Africa, Matshidiso Moeti, told reporters in a telebriefing. Polio is a viral infection that attacks the nervous system and can cause irreversible paralysis within hours. Children under five are the most vulnerable, but people can be fully protected with preventative vaccines. [Reuters](#)

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Uganda reports malaria upsurge: 40 percent increase

18 August- The Uganda Ministry of Health is reporting an increase in malaria cases in 2019. The cases of malaria have increased by over 400,000 cases when compared with 2018 and 2019 from about 1 million cases in June 2018 to 1.4 million in June 2019 (40% increase). However, it is worth noting that cases are still low compared to 2017 and 2016 in the same period. With all the efforts of government and my ministry, major gains have been made in the national malaria response over the last decade. Malaria prevalence dropped from 42% in 2009 to 19% in 2014 and now to 9% in 2019; annual malaria deaths dropped by 57% from 30 to 13 deaths/100000 people. Reported malaria deaths dropped from 6100 in 2015 to 5800 in 2016, to 5100 in 2017 and to 3000 in 2018 over 40% drop in one year. A trend of drop of malaria cases have followed the same trend over the years. The Malaria upsurge has affected half the country with approximately 65 districts involved. The affected regions include: West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Busoga, Bunyoro, Buganda, Karamoja, Teso, Eastern and Western Uganda. The increase in Malaria cases is attributed to a number of reasons to include seasonality, climate change, reduced bed net ownership and more. People in areas with low Malaria such as Kampala and Kigezi region (parasite prevalence less than 1%) are prone to severe malaria due to reduced/low immunity. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USCENTCOM

Yemen: Lymphatic filariasis eliminated as a public health problem

2 August- The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GAELF) reported this week that Yemen has eliminated lymphatic filariasis as public health problem, making them the second country in the Eastern Mediterranean Region of the World Health Organization (WHO) to achieve this. Yemen's success comes after almost two decades of tremendous efforts of sustained elimination measures as recommended by WHO of the two pillars—mass drug administration (MDA) and morbidity management and disease prevention (MMDP) of the Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GPELF) strategy. After several rounds of MDA implementation, surveys since 2011 have validated that infection has been reduced to below transmission thresholds. Transmission assessment surveys (TAS) conducted in 2013 and 2016 confirmed that Yemen had met all criteria for achieving elimination as a public health problem while, at the same time, management of morbidity in affected patients continued. Yemen will continue to improve its morbidity management programme treating patients with clinical symptoms as well as maintaining the appropriate level of surveillance to ensure continued zero transmission. Lymphatic filariasis is caused by infection with parasitic worms living in the lymphatic system. The infection impairs the lymphatic system triggering abnormal enlargement of body parts, causing pain, severe disability and social stigma. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USEUCOM

Finland reports increase in Cryptosporidium infections

18 August- Finland's National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) report an increase in cases of infection with the protozoan parasite, Cryptosporidium. In 2018, 348 cases of cryptosporidiosis were reported to the Registry of Infectious Diseases, an increase of almost 20 times compared to the early 2010s when an average of 19 (5-78 cases per year) were reported in the last 10 years. In just the first five months of 2019, 136 cases of cryptosporidiosis have already been reported. THL is investigating the sources of the cases through questionnaire and laboratory studies in cooperation with the Food Agency. Cryptosporidiosis is a diarrheal disease caused by a microscopic parasite called Cryptosporidium. The illnesses spread when people come into contact with fecal matter from an infected person or animal. The parasite is able to survive outside the human body for long periods of time and is highly resistant to chlorine. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Listeria outbreak hits Spain, most in Andalusia

22 August- An outbreak of listeriosis in Spain has sickened about 155 people to date, killing one, according to the health authorities. The Spanish Health Ministry said it was looking into another 523 suspected cases. The outbreak has primarily affected Andalusia in the Seville region; however, cases have also been recorded in Asturias, Extremadura, Madrid, Catalonia and Aragon. Unfortunately, a 90-year-old Andalusia woman has become the first fatal victim. The Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN) has already warned about a roasted meat product of the brand "La Mechá" made by Magrudis SL not to consume it. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Measles in the UK: 'Elimination status' is lost

20 August- Officials with Public Health England (PHE) reported yesterday that due to several reasons, the United Kingdom has lost its WHO measles elimination status. In 2017 the World Health Organization declared that the UK had eliminated measles. However, that elimination status has not been maintained. WHO defines measles elimination as the absence of circulating measles, in the presence of high vaccine coverage, along with good systems to identify cases of the disease. In countries that have eliminated measles, measles can still occur, but these will be isolated cases that only have limited spread within the community. However, in 2018, there was a marked increase in the number of confirmed measles cases, with 991 confirmed cases in England and Wales, compared with 284 cases in 2017. Furthermore, the same strain of measles virus (called B3 Dublin) was detected for more than 12 months across 2017 and 2018. Based on this, WHO determined that the UK could no longer be considered as 'eliminated' and that transmission of measles had been re-established. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USINDOPACOM

Auckland measles top 500 cases

19 August- Officials with the Auckland Regional Public Health Service have reported some 100 additional measles cases during the past week. On August 13, officials were reporting 410 cases and this morning the total has risen to 507 with some 50 cases reported just over the weekend. Nationally, New Zealand's measles total has reached 639 cases, including 237 (37.1%) hospitalizations after another 106 cases were reported during the past week.

[Outbreak News Today](#)

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Thailand chikungunya case tally nears 6,000

18 August- In an update on the chikungunya situation in Thailand, the Ministry of Health reports that since the beginning of the year through August 4, 5,996 cases from 44 provinces have been reported, an increase of some 1,500 in about one month. Pattani has reported the highest incidence, followed by Ranong, Phuket, Tak and Songkhla provinces. Chikungunya is a viral disease transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes. It causes fever and severe joint pain, which is often debilitating. Other symptoms include muscle pain, headache, nausea, fatigue, and rash. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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USNORTHCOM

Canada: West Nile virus reported in Toronto, 1st case of 2019

14 August- Toronto health officials reported Tuesday the first human West Nile virus (WNV) case of 2019 in an adult resident. "As we head into late summer, we know that residents and visitors to Toronto are maximizing their time outside to enjoy the weather and outdoor activities. We encourage everyone to take the appropriate precautions to minimize the risk of exposure to West Nile virus through the bite of an infected mosquito", said Dr. Eileen de Villa, Toronto's Medical Officer of Health. Toronto Public Health notes that while the risk of getting infected in Toronto remains low, Toronto Public Health advises residents to take these precautions to avoid bites from infected mosquitoes:

- Wear light-colored clothing, long pants and long-sleeved shirts when outdoors.
- Apply insect repellent containing DEET or icaridin and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Take extra care during peak mosquito-biting hours, dusk and dawn, by using repellent and covering up.
- Make sure your home has tight-fitting screens on windows and doors.
- Remove standing water from your property, where mosquitoes can breed. Standing water includes any water that collects in items such as buckets, planters, toys and waste containers. In 2018, 39 laboratory-confirmed human cases of West Nile virus were reported to health officials. Last year, Canada reported 427 human WNV cases. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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

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

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U.S.: Massachusetts- Reports 2nd human EEE case

18 August- In a follow-up on the human Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) case reported in Massachusetts last week, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced that laboratory testing confirmed the second case of EEE virus infection, in a male between the ages of 19-30 from eastern Worcester County. This is the second human case of EEE in Massachusetts this year. The risk level in seven communities has been raised to critical as a result. The ten communities now at critical risk are Hopkinton in Middlesex County, and Grafton, Northbridge, Shrewsbury, Southborough, Upton, and Westborough in Worcester County. Easton, Norton and Raynham are also at critical risk. In addition, Framingham and Marlborough in Middlesex County, and Millbury, Northborough, and Sutton in Worcester County are considered at high risk. "The most intense level of EEE activity is still being seen in Bristol and Plymouth Counties," said Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel, MD, MPH. "However, in active EEE years, the virus may move outside of southeastern Massachusetts. This is evidence of that movement, and residents in the area of increased risk should use mosquito repellent and avoid outdoor activities at night. " [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Chikungunya: Brazil reports nearly 100K cases through July

18 August- From the beginning of the year through July, Brazil health authorities have reported 97,900 probable cases of chikungunya in the country. This is up from 72,000 cases reported during the same period in 2018. Southeast and Northeast regions represent the highest incidence of the mosquito-borne viral disease, with Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande North and Pará states being highlighted. In addition, 40 fatalities have been reported by health authorities with 34 in Rio de Janeiro alone. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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