

4 October 2019

# Army Public Health Weekly Update

Army Public Health Center



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## U.S. MILITARY

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### International medics tackle Tactical Combat Casualty Care

23 September- FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. — Nearly two hundred medics from the Air Force and Army, as well as partner countries Australia, New Zealand and Canada, underwent Tactical Combat Casualty Care training recently during Exercise Mobility Guardian 2019. TCCC has become the new standard of medical training proficiency for military personnel, which is set to replace Self Aid Buddy Care training, to prepare them for potential combat situations in an ongoing effort to heighten medical readiness. Students included non-medics, medical providers and TCCC instructor trainees. Instructor trainees, including two from the 92nd Medical Group, underwent certification evaluations to grant them the ability to continue TCCC training of personnel at their home locations. “It was an awesome opportunity to work with our sister services and allied forces medics,” said Air Force Tech. Sgt. James Pennington, 336th Training Group independent duty medical technician and TCCC instructor. “We were able to facilitate such a large and diverse training due to everyone already being here for the Mobility Guardian 2019 exercise, allowing us to add to the deployment readiness of everyone.” The TCCC training is an intensive two-day immersion on stabilizing trauma victims from common battlefield injuries such as hemorrhage, airway obstruction and shock. [Health.mil](#)

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## GLOBAL

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### CDC's opioid overdose mortality reduction goal is 15%

2 October- Opioid vaccines hold the potential to counteract the ongoing plague of opioid-affiliated deaths that have swept the United States in recent years, according to the Government Accountability Office (GAO). In 2017 alone, GAO estimated more than 10 million people abused opioids, such as heroin and fentanyl, leading to more than 47,000 overdose deaths. Opioid use disorder (OUD) can involve the misuse of prescribed opioid medications, the use of diverted opioid medications, or the use of illicitly obtained heroin. OUD is typically a chronic, relapsing illness, associated with significantly increased rates of morbidity and mortality. Opioids act on the nervous system to produce feelings of pleasure and pain relief. Opioids create dependence almost immediately. Although they promise a temporary prescription for pain, when users become dependent, the drugs deliver a long-term subscription to misery. The GAO says in a September 2019 bulletin, an opioid vaccine could offer advantages over existing treatment options. Opioid vaccine studies were first proposed in the 1970s. Most opioid candidate vaccines are currently viewed primarily as adjunctive to other treatment modalities. Furthermore, because these vaccine candidates specifically target the opioid, rather than the opioid receptor, they should not interfere with

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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.



OID treatments or rescue drugs, such as methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone; and naloxone. But, as of October 2019, the Food and Drug Administration has yet to approve any opioid vaccines for use, and clinical trials have thus far failed. [Precision Vaccinations](#)

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## Dengue in the Americas tops 2.5 million cases, a record year?

The number of dengue fever cases reported to date in the western hemisphere has eclipsed 2.5 million cases, surpassing the 2.415 million cases reported in 2015. According to the latest data from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), 2,508,799 cases have been reported, including 1,035 deaths. This is the highest number of cases reported in a year in the region going back to 1980 (as far back as the PAHO data go back). Brazil has accounted for nearly 2 million cases (1,993,271 and 634 deaths). This is followed by Nicaragua (114,584), Mexico (112,591), Colombia (89,781) and Honduras (78,727). [Outbreak News](#)

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## Factbox: Vaping-related illness causes 12 U.S. deaths – CDC

30 September- U.S. health officials are investigating a mysterious vaping-related respiratory illness that has so far caused 12 deaths and sickened 805 people. In its latest recommendation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) urged people to not use e-cigarettes with marijuana ingredient tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) as latest data suggests that the high-inducing component may play a role in causing the illness. The CDC updates the number of cases every Thursday as the investigation deepens. [Reuters](#)

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## German hospital's washing machine harbored superbug that was 'transmitted repeatedly' to newborns: Report

2 October- It seems "energy saver" washing machines may not be killing all the potentially harmful pathogens on your clothing — as was reportedly the case at a hospital in Germany. Researchers, in a study published last week in the journal *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, detailed a case of the superbug *Klebsiella oxytoca* in a German hospital's neonatal intensive care unit. Routine screenings "revealed the presence of the pathogens on infants in the ICU," according to a press release regarding the findings. *Klebsiella oxytoca* bacteria are naturally occurring in the mouth, nose and intestinal tract, and are considered "healthy gut bacteria." But outside of the intestines, these pathogens can cause "serious infections," per Healthline. [Fox News](#)

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**The Surgeon  
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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.

## Legionnaire's disease: More than 100 cases reported in North Carolina outbreak

3 October- The number of Legionnaires' disease cases linked to the NC Mountain State Fair continues to grow at a quick pace. According to North Carolina health officials, as of Tuesday, 116 total Legionella infections have been reported, including 109 cases of Legionnaires' disease and seven cases of the less serious Pontiac fever. One death has been reported. Seventy-five of the cases were reported from two counties—Buncombe and Henderson. Part of the total (6 cases) were reported in residents of South Carolina. Legionella bacteria can cause two illnesses which may be considered legionellosis: Legionnaires' disease, a kind of pneumonia (lung disease), and a milder infection without pneumonia, known as Pontiac fever. These bacteria are found naturally in the environment, usually in wet places like natural bodies of water and moist soil, as well as in man-made water handling systems. The bacteria grow best in warm water like the kind found in hot tubs, cooling towers, hot water tanks, large plumbing systems, and parts of the air-conditioning systems of large buildings. People get legionellosis when they breathe in a mist or vapor (small droplets of water in the air) that has been contaminated with the bacteria. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## Many vaping illnesses linked to black market 'dank vapes' or other THC products

27 September- The mystery of the outbreak of vaping-related lung illnesses is still not solved. But investigators in Illinois and Wisconsin have found some clues, they announced Friday in a press briefing. Investigators in these two states conducted detailed interviews with 86 patients — mostly young men — and 66% said they had vaped THC products labeled as Dank Vapes. THC is the psychoactive ingredient in cannabis. What are Dank Vapes and how could they be fueling the outbreak? "Dank Vapes appears to be the most prominent in a class of largely counterfeit brands, with common packaging that is easily available online and that is used by distributors to market THC-containing cartridges," said a report from state investigators published Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [NPR](#)

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## Mumps: College of Charleston outbreak rises to 5

3 October- In a follow-up on the mumps outbreak at the College of Charleston, school officials report two additional cases yesterday, bringing the outbreak total on campus to five. Per S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control guidelines, College health officials are in the process of notifying the close contacts of people confirmed to have the virus. Officials state that if you have had close contact with someone symptomatic with the mumps, monitor yourself for any possible symptoms. If you have never received the MMR

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vaccine, the recommendation is to receive the full two-dose MMR series. Mumps is a highly infectious disease passed through saliva and respiratory secretions. While the incubation period ranges from 12 to 25 days, symptoms often appear 16 to 18 days after exposure. People with mumps are considered infectious from two days before swelling begins through five days after the start of swelling. Symptoms of mumps include influenza-like/cold-like illness, tender swollen glands below the ear and along the jawline on one or both sides of the face and neck, headache, fever, muscle aches, fatigue, loss of appetite, testicular swelling and pelvic pain. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## Nebraska reports death related to vaping illness

1 October- On Monday, Nebraska health officials reported the state's first death related to severe lung disease associated with e-cigarettes or vaping and the 14th in the nation. The person was over 65 and from the Douglas County Health Department area. Public health officials said the death in Nebraska occurred in May. "Prior to the outbreak of lung injury associated with vaping in Wisconsin and Illinois this past August, vaping-associated lung injuries were unreported and not tracked by public health agencies," said Dr. Tom Safranek, State Epidemiologist for DHHS. "Once the problem was recognized, states quickly ramped up surveillance and found current cases, but have also discovered cases that occurred before the August outbreak." The state currently has 11 cases of vaping-related illness and two under investigation. The majority are males. Age range is late teens to late 60s. Some of those affected were hospitalized. As of September 24, 2019, 805 confirmed and probable patient cases of lung injury associated with e-cigarette product use, or vaping, were reported by 46 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## 'Revolutionary' drug for prostate cancer

30 September- Olaparib could become a revolutionary treatment for prostate cancer - the first genetically targeted drug for fighting the disease, say experts. The precision medicine is already used by the NHS for ovarian cancer and has been called a game-changer by cancer doctors. A cancer conference heard how, in trials, it slowed tumour growth in men with advanced prostate cancer. This could improve survival for some men, researchers hope. Experts say it could be made available to patients in the next couple of years. The drug, made by AstraZeneca, was fast-tracked to NHS ovarian cancer patients in England, paid for through the Cancer Drugs Fund, in July. [BBC News](#)

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## Software vulnerabilities in some medical devices could leave them susceptible to hackers, FDA warns

2 October- Nefarious individuals hacking into your pacemaker? It's not just the plot of some sci-fi movie. It's a real-life threat, according to the Food and Drug Administration. The FDA is warning patients, medical providers and hospitals that software vulnerabilities in some medical devices might allow a hacker to take control of items that connect to wireless networks -- think pacemakers and infusion pumps -- or find a back door into entire hospital networks. "These cybersecurity vulnerabilities may allow a remote user to take control of a medical device and change its function, cause denial of service, or cause information leaks or logical flaws, which may prevent a device from functioning properly or at all," according to a statement from the agency. The FDA identified 11 cybersecurity holes in operating systems that run third-party software called IPnet, which computers use to communicate with each other. IPnet is used in many medical devices. [CNN](#)

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## There's a teen drug trend called 'Robo Tripping' that Fort Bend deputies want parents to be aware of

26 September- "Robo Tripping" involves a product called Robo Cough that can be easily purchased off Amazon. FORT BEND, Texas — The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office wants parents to be aware of a teen drug trend called "Robo Tripping." According to deputies, "Robo Tripping" involves a product called Robo Cough that is marketed as a powerful cough suppressant. Teens are apparently consuming this product only to get high, according to deputies. The active ingredient in Robo Cough is listed as a concentrated dose of Dextromethorphan HBr (DXM), which is also the active ingredient in most over-the-counter cough suppressants. Robo Cough can be easily purchased through Amazon, and deputies recently discovered the product is being manufactured in Katy. Two Fort Bend juveniles have already been hospitalized and treated after they were found unresponsive due to consuming Robo Cough along with cough suppressant pills. The Sheriff's Office said because the drug is legal, they want to warn parents of the dangers of taking Robo Cough incorrectly. [KHOU](#)

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## Washing machines may spread drug-resistant bacteria that can make you sick

29 September- Washing machines are meant to clean clothes but a new study shows that the device may still harbor drug-resistant bacteria that can pose health risks. Doctors in Germany, for instance, think that a washing machine could have helped spread a superbug to newborns and children in a hospital. According to a case report published in the Journal of Applied and Environmental Microbiology on Friday, a routine sweep at a children's hospital in Western Germany in 2012 found that newborns in the neonatal intensive care

unit were carrying a strain of bacteria called *Klebsiella oxytoca*. The drug resistant bug was also found in a child housed in a pediatric ward. At least 14 children were eventually found carrying the superbug. The bacteria did not cause any sickness but is known to cause pneumonia, urinary tract infection, and wound infections, particularly in individuals with weakened immune systems. [Tech Times](#)

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## **WHO: 29 new Ebola cases in past week, down from 57 in week before**

27 September- According to the latest update from the World Health Organization (WHO), daily Ebola case counts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have dropped nearly by half in the past few weeks, but violent skirmishes may be obscuring more cases. In an outbreak news update yesterday, the WHO said officials confirmed 29 cases this past week, compared with 57 the week before. "This decrease in the number of cases should be interpreted with caution, as operational and security challenges in certain health zones make it difficult to undertake case detection and response functions," the WHO said in its latest update on the 13-month-long outbreak in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri provinces. A recent increase in security incidents have caused problems with surveillance, the WHO said. For the past 9 days response activity has been stopped in Lwemba, within Mandima health zone, which has limited contact-tracing efforts, with 169 and 162 contacts lost to follow-up in Lwemba and Mambasa, respectively. "After more than a week with no response operations in Lwemba Health Area, within Mandima Health Zone, an increase in the number of reported cases is expected in the coming weeks as response activities resume," the WHO said. Mambasa, Mandima, and Kalunguta remain the outbreak hot spots. In the past 3 weeks, the DRC recorded 126 confirmed cases from 13 health zones. The case-fatality rate of the outbreak remains at 67%, with 56% of confirmed or probable cases in females, and 28% of cases involving children. Health workers represent 5% of cases (161). [CIDRAP](#)

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## INFLUENZA

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

2018-2019 Influenza Season Week 38 ending September 21, 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 September 26, 2019, 4.6% of the deaths occurring during the week ending September 14, 2019 (week 37) were due to P&I. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 5.7% for week 37.

Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality: One influenza-associated pediatric death was reported to CDC during week 38. The death was associated with an influenza A (H3) virus and occurred during week 37 (the week ending September 14, 2019). A total of 136 influenza-associated pediatric deaths occurring during the 2018-2019 season have been reported to CDC. [CDC](#)

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## WHO: Influenza Update

30 September 2019 - Update number 351, based on data up to 15 September 2019:

- In the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity was low in most countries, except Chile where a second wave of influenza activity of predominately B viruses was reported.
- In the Caribbean, and tropical South American countries, influenza activity was low overall. In Central American countries, influenza activity continued to increase in El Salvador.
- In tropical Africa, influenza activity was low across reporting countries.
- In Southern Asia, influenza activity was low across reporting countries except in Bhutan where influenza activity continued to be reported above alert threshold.
- In South East Asia, influenza activity was low in most reporting countries and continued to be reported at moderate level in Malaysia and Myanmar.
- In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels overall.

-Worldwide, seasonal influenza A viruses accounted for the majority of detections. [WHO](#)  
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## **VETERINARY/FOOD SAFETY**

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### **Cyclospora basil outbreak ends with 24 sick in 11 states**

30 September- The basil cyclospora outbreak has ended, according to the FDA, with 241 sick in 11 states. Exposures occurred in five states: Minnesota, Florida, New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Six people were hospitalized because they were so sick. A recall was issued for basil imported from Mexico. The basil was exported to the U.S. by Siga Logistics de RL de CV, which is located in Morelos, Mexico. The basil imported by that company was recalled on July 24, 2019. The firm has been cooperative with the investigation, and stopped production and distribution when the outbreak was discovered. Patients live in these states: Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Wisconsin. There is no information on the number of cases in each state, or the patient age range. The FDA did also not provide information on illness onset dates, although the last person got sick on July 26, 2019. [Food Poisoning Bulletin](#)

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### **Recall update adds diced chicken products amidst Listeria outbreaks**

1 October- Health officials are reporting that dozens more imported frozen chicken products are being recalled in Canada because of Listeria contamination. Outbreaks in the U.S. and Canada have been traced to such products that are under recall. Today, food safety officials in Canada issued an updated recall notice for chicken products. The frozen chicken imported to Canada is packaged under multiple brands. Neither the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention nor the Public Health Agency of Canada has posted outbreak updates since Aug. 23. The dozens of frozen chicken products under recall in Canada are listed below. The chicken is labeled as ready-to-eat and is diced or shredded. Canadian and U.S. officials report that the products were shipped to distributors, retailers, and food service establishments such as hotels, restaurants, cafeterias, hospitals, and nursing homes. The Canadian government is saying no one should sell or use the recalled products described below. [Food Safety News](#)

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## Whole Foods Dorset Cheese recalled for possible Listeria

1 October- Whole Foods Dorset Cheese is being recalled in the Northeast and North Atlantic regions for possible *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination. No illnesses are being reported to date in connection with this recall. This recall is in response to a recall from Consider Bardwell Farm. The recalled Dorset Cheese was sold at Whole Foods Market stores in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island. The cheese was cut and wrapped in plastic with a Whole Foods Market scale label. The PLU code on the cheese is 97776. Sell by dates that are recalled go through 10/30/2019. If you bring a valid receipt to the store where you purchased this cheese, you can get a full refund. [Food Poisoning Bulletin](#)

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### WELLNESS

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## Being young, active and physically fit may be very good for your brain

2 October- Physically fit young adults have healthier white matter in their brains and better thinking skills than young people who are out of shape, according to a large-scale new study of the links between aerobic fitness and brain health. The findings suggest that even when people are youthful and presumably at the peak of their mental prowess, fitness — or the lack of it — may influence how well their brains and minds work. We already have plenty of tantalizing evidence that aerobic fitness can beneficently shape our brains and cognition. In animal experiments, mice and rats that run on wheels or treadmills produce far more new neurons in their brains than sedentary animals and perform better on tests of rodent intelligence and memory. Similarly, studies involving people show strong relationships between being physically active or fit and having greater brain volume and stronger thinking abilities than people with low fitness or who rarely exercise. But most of these past studies focused on middle-aged or older adults, whose brains often are starting to sputter and contract with age. For them, fitness and exercise are believed to help slow any decline, keeping brain tissue and function relatively youthful. Much less has been known about whether fitness likewise might be related to the structure and function of healthy, younger people's brains. [The New York Times](#)

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## Just a handful of nuts may help keep us from packing on the pounds as we age

30 September- Eating a handful of almonds, walnuts, peanuts or any type of nut on a regular basis may help prevent excessive weight gain and even lower the risk of obesity, new research suggests. It may be that substituting healthy nuts for unhealthy snacks is a simple strategy to ward off the gradual weight gain that often accompanies aging, according to the researchers. Nuts also help us feel full longer, which might offset cravings for junk food. Researchers looked at the diet and weight of more than 280,000 adults taking part in three long-term research studies. Over more than 20 years of monitoring, participants were asked every four years about their weight and, among other things, how often, over the preceding year, they had eaten a serving (about one ounce) of nuts. On average, U.S. adults put on one pound of weight every year, according to researcher and epidemiologist Deirdre Tobias, a co-author of the new study, which appears in the online journal *BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health*. "We wanted to know whether nuts were associated with long-term weight gain," says Tobias, who's with Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Tobias and her colleagues hypothesized that nuts might be beneficial, given the association of nuts with a lower risk of heart disease and Type 2 diabetes. [NPR](#)

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### USAFRICOM

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## Ethiopia chikungunya outbreak: Slight decrease in cases reported

1 October- In update on the chikungunya outbreak in Ethiopia, officials report an additional 3618 new suspect cases during the past week from neighborhoods in the Dire Dawa City. This is a slight decrease in cases compared to recent weeks. To date, 46,326 chikungunya cases have been reported since the end of July. No deaths have been recorded. The World Health Organization (WHO) says chikungunya is a viral disease transmitted by the bite of infected mosquitoes such as *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*. It can cause high fever, joint and muscle pain, and headache. Chikungunya does not often result in death, but the joint pain may last for months or years and may become a cause of chronic pain and disability. There is no specific treatment for this infection, nor any vaccine to prevent it. Pending the development of a new vaccine, the only effective means of prevention is to protect individuals against mosquito bites. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## Measles deaths are double Ebola deaths in DRC in 2019

29 September- While more attention, but not nearly enough, has been given to the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in 2019 to date, the number of fatalities due to measles has been more than double the EVD total. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports 183,837 suspected cases of measles and 3,667 deaths. Since the beginning of the year, 1,760 EVD deaths were seen in that same period. "Usually, we organize a countrywide vaccination campaign for measles every three years," says Dr. Stéphane Hans Bateyi Mustafa, regional coordinator for the expanded programme for immunization in North Kivu. "But this time we're late. In North Kivu, many human resources and funding sources were directed into the Ebola outbreak. Other routine activities have been underresourced." Measles vaccination campaigns, which involve bringing lots of people together, are also risky in Ebola settings and require putting in place extra measures like temperature screening. This takes up yet more resources. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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### USCENTCOM

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## Pakistan reports 4 additional polio cases, battling anti-vaccination propaganda on social media

26 September- Pakistan reported an additional four wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases during the past week. Three cases were reported from Lakki Marwat district and one from Torghar district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. This brings the total cases to 66 in 2019 to date. This compares to seven this time last year and 12 cases for all of 2018. Anti-vaccine propaganda has been an issue in Pakistan. During a National Immunization Days (NID) campaign in Peshawar for example, a rumor that the polio vaccine would make children unwell, led to more than 37 000 children rushed to hospital in one day, a basic health unit set on fire, and indirectly the death of several vaccinators and security staff. This has prompted The Global Polio Eradication Initiative and the Pakistan Polio Programme to seek out innovative ways to help quickly detect, control and/or respond to the spread of anti-vaccination propaganda on social media in an urban population. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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### USEUCOM

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## France reports two autochthonous dengue cases

28 September- Health officials in France have reported two locally-transmitted dengue fever cases from two departments in the past week. In Alpes-Maritimes department in southeast France, officials reported (computer translated) a case in Vallauris. The individual had no

recent travel history and has since recovered. A few days later, The Préfecture of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region reported (computer translated) a case in an individual from Caluire-et-Cuire who had not made a recent trip abroad. This patient has also recovered. This is the first autochthonous dengue fever case in the Rhône department. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## **USINDOPACOM**

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### **Malaysia dengue cases top 100,000 for 2019**

29 September- Malaysian health officials report the number of dengue fever cases have surpassed 100,000 for 2019 to date. Through Sep. 29, 100,803 cases have been reported with Selangor state reporting more than half with 55,908 cases. This is followed by Kuala Lumpur (11,615) and Johor (8,610). In addition, 143 dengue fatalities have been reported through Sep. 21. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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### **Timor-Leste is the latest country to report African swine fever**

29 September-Officials in Timor-Leste, an island country just north of Australia, became the 10th country to report an outbreak of African swine fever (ASF). According to a meeting of the Council of Ministers this week (computer translated), the Acting Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Fidelis Leite Magalhães, made a presentation to the Council concerning the disease that has caused the death of hundreds of pigs on national territory. Samples were taken from these animals and sent for laboratory analysis in Australia confirming that these animals have African swine fever. It also notes that the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, in collaboration with the Government of Australia, has taken all necessary measures to limit the effects of this outbreak, for which there is no remedy, cure or vaccine yet. Official information concerning the outbreak reported to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), one hundred outbreaks have been reported in smallholder pig farms in Dili Municipality, including 405 pig deaths. The total number of pigs in smallholder farms in the Dili Municipality is estimated to be 44,000 pigs based on 2015 census data. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## U.S.: Connecticut reports 3rd human EEE death

2 October- In a follow-up on the Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) situation in Connecticut this year, state health officials announced the death of a third person with EEE this year. An East Haddam resident who died during the third week of September was confirmed today to have had Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This person, who is between 60 and 69 years of age, became ill during the second week of September 2019. In addition, officials also report that EEE to be the cause of illness for a resident of Colchester who became ill during the third week of August and who remains hospitalized. This person is between 40 and 49 years of age. This is the fourth case of the year. "Sadly, this has been an unprecedented year for EEE activity in Connecticut," said Dr. Matthew Cartter, the DPH State Epidemiologist. "Before this year we have had only one human case of EEE in Connecticut, and that was in 2013." [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## U.S.: North Carolina- Legionnaires disease outbreak rises to 79 cases, 1 death

1 October- North Carolina state health officials were first notified about an increase in the number of Legionnaire's disease cases in Buncombe and Henderson counties about one week ago. The investigation focused on people who attended the NC Mountain State Fair held Sept. 6-15 at the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center in Fletcher, NC. To date, health officials have reported 83 Legionella cases (79 Legionnaires' disease and 4 Pontiac fever), including one fatality. The most cases have been reported from Buncombe (34) and Henderson (21) counties, with 11 other counties affected plus 5 South Carolina cases. Legionnaires' disease gained national notoriety in 1976 when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) discovered it during an epidemic of pneumonia among American legion members at a convention in Philadelphia. The causative organism is the bacteria, Legionella pneumophila. The legionella bacteria are found throughout nature, because of this most people become exposed to it but few develop symptoms. The primary place in nature it's found is water sources particularly at warmer temperatures; lakes, rivers and moist soil. It is also found in man-made facilities (frequently the source of outbreaks) such as air-conditioning ducts and cooling towers, humidifiers, whirlpools and hospital equipment. People get exposed through inhaling infectious aerosols from these water sources. There is no transmission from person to person. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## **U.S.: North Carolina- Mumps reported at Elon University and High Point University**

28 September- North Carolina state health officials have reported seven confirmed mumps cases at two schools—Elon University and High Point University. Officials are working with student health services at the schools to coordinate response measures, including vaccination of susceptible groups. “Anyone who thinks they might have mumps should contact their physician and have appropriate laboratory testing,” said Dr. Zack Moore, North Carolina State Epidemiologist. The most effective way to prevent mumps is to get vaccinated. “Although it’s still possible for people who have been vaccinated to get mumps, the risk is much higher in people who are unvaccinated,” Dr. Moore said. “The risk for complications from mumps is also lower in people who are vaccinated compared to those who are not vaccinated.” Mumps is a vaccine-preventable viral illness best known for causing swelling of the salivary glands below the ears and above the jaw, called parotitis. Mumps can cause several complications including inflammation of the testicles (orchitis) in men and inflammation of the ovaries (oophoritis) in women. Mumps is spread by droplets from the nose, mouth or throat of an infected person. A person with confirmed or suspected mumps should stay home from work or school and limit close contact with others for five days after the salivary glands swell, or until mumps is ruled out. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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## **Mosquito parasite, *Crithidia*, shown to mimic visceral leishmaniasis: Study**

1 October- A new study published this week online in *Emerging Infectious Diseases* suggests that transmission of a protozoan parasite from insects may also cause leishmaniasis-like symptoms in people. The parasite, however, does not respond to treatment with standard leishmaniasis drugs. The research was conducted by scientists at the Federal Universities of Sergipe and São Carlos, the University of São Paulo, and the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, all in Brazil, along with investigators at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the U.S. National Institutes of Health. Leishmaniasis is a parasitic disease found in parts of the tropics, subtropics, and southern Europe. It is classified as a neglected tropical disease and is often transmitted by the bite of some sandflies. The most common forms of leishmaniasis are cutaneous, which causes skin sores, and visceral, which affects several internal organs (usually spleen, liver, and bone marrow). According to the World Health Organization, each year between 50,000 and 90,000 people become sick with visceral leishmaniasis (kala-azar), a form of the disease that attacks the internal organs and is fatal in more than 95 percent of cases left untreated. During the last several decades, researchers have described rare cases of patients co-infected with both *Leishmania* and other groups of protozoan parasites that usually infect

insects, including Crithidia. The current study of parasites isolated from a Brazilian patient confirms that Crithidia parasites also can infect people. [Outbreak News Today](#)  
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