5 May 2017

Army Public Health Weekly Update

Army Public Health Center

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The Army Public Health Update is a collection of articles taken verbatim from public sources to offer awareness of current health issues and the media coverage given to them. The articles do not necessarily represent US Army Medical Department opinions, views, policy, or guidance, and should not be construed or interpreted as being endorsed by the US Army Medical Command.
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**U.S. MILITARY**

Disability can linger years after mild wartime brain injuries

1 May - Military service members who sustain concussions in combat may experience worsening symptoms for several years after their injuries, particularly if they have psychiatric problems, a small U.S. study suggests. ... [R]esearchers compared health outcomes over five years for 50 active-duty service members with combat experience who sustained combat concussions and 44 who didn’t suffer brain injuries. With concussions, combat veterans were more likely to have post-traumatic stress disorder, severe depression, anxiety and sleep difficulties. The study also found that after a concussion, symptoms got worse from one to five years following the injury. ... At one and five years after joining the study, 36 of the 50 concussion patients, or 72 percent, had declining scores on an evaluation that measures overall disability. In addition, satisfaction with life, disability, and the severity of neurobehavioral and psychiatric symptoms were worse with patients who had concussions than participants who didn’t have brain injuries. Reuters

Funding deal requires Pentagon to report water contamination at bases

1 May - The government-funding deal struck Sunday by Congress requires the Department of Defense to identify all military bases where a long-used firefighting foam contaminated drinking water wells and to establish uniform clean-up procedures. Under the resolution, the Pentagon must give Congress a list of affected sites within 120 days, and include its plans for telling communities about the contamination and when it was detected. The provision amounts to the first federal mandate to the Defense Department to deal with the potentially widespread contamination, and what is likely to be billions of dollars’ and years’ worth of cleanup. The chemicals, known as PFOS and PFOA, have been linked to health risks, but are not regulated by the EPA. Philly.com

Shortage of properly sterilized instruments leads Brooke Army Medical Center to curtail surgeries

30 April - Commanders at the Army health system’s flagship Brooke Army Medical Center have shut more than half of the San Antonio hospital’s 28 operating rooms and curtailed elective surgeries because of a shortage of properly sterilized instruments. [T]he hospital famous for treating victims in its burn ward found 73 cases of improperly sterilized
Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month
The Army observes the month of May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, as designated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The observance coincides with the beginning of riding season for many Soldiers and serves as an early kickoff for the critical days of summer.

U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center will continue to provide information on motorcycle safety tips, best practices, and training, as well as upcoming motorcycle safety events at Army installations. The Army’s Motorcycle Mentorship Program (MMP) is a voluntary unit or installation-level organization where inexperienced and seasoned motorcycle riders are paired together to create a supportive learning environment that promotes safe and responsible riding.

instruments last month, including 16 where organic material like bone or skin fragments or blood was left on surgical tools. Army Times

There were 14,900 sex assaults in the US military last year, new Pentagon data show
1 May - The prevalence of sexual assault in the U.S. military is declining, according to the Pentagon’s most recent report to Congress, but retaliation and ostracism remain significant problems among the victims who formally report such crimes. Published Monday, the findings indicate an estimated 14,900 service members surveyed last year experienced a sex assault, down from 20,300 when the last comprehensive canvass was conducted in 2014. The military services received reports of sexual assault involving 6,172 servicewomen and men in 2016, either as victims or subjects of criminal investigation, a number that’s remained consistent for the last three years. The preponderance — 5,350 — were submitted by victims and, of those, about 10 percent made a report for incidents occurring before they entered the military. Yet while a greater percentage of victims are reporting crimes, nearly 6 in 10 say they’ve experienced some sort of negative reaction as a consequence for coming forward, officials acknowledge. Military Times

U.S. House sends budget deal to Senate
3 May - The U.S. House overwhelmingly approved spending legislation through September that is expected to sail though the Senate to the president’s desk. President Donald Trump is expected to sign it before government funding runs out Friday night. The lower chamber on Wednesday voted 309 to 118 to advance the $1.1 trillion bill unveiled Monday after weeks of talks. The 1,665-page omnibus bill includes the 11 remaining appropriations bills, including $598.5 billion for defense, which is roughly $25 billion above 2016 levels. Defense News

Veterans at risk of suicide negotiate a thorny relationship with guns
2 May - ... Suicide is rising in American society, and in the past decade, veterans’ suicide was higher than civilians’ for the first time. The causes are notoriously hard to study, since it’s still a relatively rare event. But researchers say there is one clear way to reduce the chances of veterans killing themselves: Put their guns out of reach. ... [T]aking away guns is a politically sensitive idea — and one of the first acts of the new Congress has been to move on a bill that would make it more difficult to do that. The VA's current policy is to flag the names of veterans who have been declared mentally incompetent in the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System so they can't buy a new gun. But that violates their Second Amendment rights, says Republican Rep. Phil Roe of Tennessee, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. ... He and other advocates for gun rights say veterans shouldn't be barred from buying guns unless they've undergone some kind of due process and had a chance to make their case. NPR
GLOBAL

DNA fingerprinting throws doubt on Glaxo malaria vaccine effort

3 May - Groundbreaking research has shown the potentially deadly malaria parasite has greater genetic diversity than scientists previously understood, a finding that throws doubt on the efficacy of vaccines in development by companies such as GlaxoSmithKline Plc. A study involving more than 600 children from a single village in the West African nation of Gabon found that each had malaria caused by a different strain of the Plasmodium parasite -- or a different composite of as many as 60 genes. The research is the first to rely on DNA fingerprinting to show how malaria's genetic diversity enables it to evade the human immune system and establish a chronic infection. The results suggest that scientists need to rethink their approach to malaria vaccines, since full immunity against all strains is needed to halt the disease. Bloomberg

Here's a look at new exosuits for the civilian world

2 May - After years of tinkering and military adventures, the first exoskeleton suits are finally walking out of the lab and into the market. They're poised to change life for millions of construction workers, warehouse employees, and paraplegics (the battlefield may come later). If there is a mantra in the industry right now, “it’s endurance first, then power,” says Russ Angold, the president and co-founder of Ekso Bionics, which designs wearable mobile suits that use motors, braces, or levers to increase the users’ strength and endurance. Entrepreneurs realized the real market opportunity was for simpler devices that help everyday workers with mundane, repetitive tasks such as lifting screwdrivers or moving pallets. Instead of batteries and motors, these devices strap on to workers bodies and transfer much of the weight to an exoskeleton through a system of wires and counterweights. Objects feel almost weightless allowing workers to manipulate heavy objects using a fraction of the typical energy. Today, many of the 36 or so exoskeleton companies offer lightweight passive designs using metal and carbon-fiber frames for construction and logistics workers. Defense One

Neurological complications and death in children with dengue virus infection: report of two cases

27 April - Dengue virus infection can have different complications; the best known is hemorrhagic dengue fever. However, other effects such as neurological disorders may endanger the lives of patients. Dengue neurological manifestations can be confused with encephalitis symptoms and can lead to cerebral edema and death. We present the cases
Classified Version of the Weekly Update

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Look under Hot Topics & Current Issues.

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

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of two patients from the state of Morelos, Mexico, with 17 and 14 years of age. Both cases presented a rapid evolution characterized by fever, seizures and neurological deterioration secondary to severe cerebral edema that evolved to cerebral death in both cases. The diagnosis of brain death was confirmed by electroencephalogram in both patients. The two patients were submitted to serology for NS1 that tested positive in both cases. They died between the second and fifth day after admission. Retrospective studies have found that up to 4% of the patients have dengue virus infections, which leads us to believe that in endemic areas, this infection should be suspected in cases of encephalic and febrile symptoms. RT-PCR should be performed to identify cases of encephalitis caused by the dengue virus, and early interventions should be performed to attempt to reduce the morbidity and mortality of these cases. BioMed Central

New WHO/Europe report sheds light on antibiotic consumption in eastern European and central Asian countries

1 May - A new WHO/Europe report collates and reviews surveillance data on the consumption of antimicrobial medicines in 11 non-European Union countries and Kosovo* from 2011–2014, gathered through the WHO Antimicrobial Medicines Consumption (AMC) Network. The report indicates that consumption across the surveyed countries varies widely. It concludes that the variation recorded may not be explained by population health problems alone, and calls for further investigation. WHO

Report: Health workers attacked in 23 countries last year

3 May - On November 18 last year, as fighter jets roared overhead, explosions ripped through the Omar bin Abdul Aziz Hospital in Aleppo Syria. The airstrikes destroyed the last operating hospital in the eastern part of the city. ... These bombings occurred despite the fact that attacking a medical clinic is a war crime under international law. Leonard Rubenstein ... says there were a staggering number of assaults on health care facilities in 2016. ... Rubenstein is the editor of a new report called "Impunity Must End" about aggression against health facilities and health workers globally last year. Syria is definitely the most dangerous place to practice medicine "in terms of the intensity and impact of the attacks." But Rubenstein found that health care facilities were under assault last year in many other parts of the world. The report was not able to compile data on the total number of attacks in each country. NPR

The next plague: Leishmaniasis - the world’s second greatest parasitic killer, after malaria

27 April - Parasitic infections remain among the great neglected scourges in the world. These diseases include malaria, leishmaniasis, African sleeping sickness, Chagas disease, giardia, pneumocystis carinii, toxoplasmosis, Cryptosporidium and Entamoeba histolytica. ...
The drugs required to treat many of these bugs were developed during the first half of the 20th Century to prevent these exotic illnesses in troops engaged in expeditionary military misadventures in the parasite hot zones. By the 80s, most pharmaceutical companies had shuttered their anti-parasitic drug research. Consequently, many of the drugs used today were discovered over a half century ago and display awful side effect profiles, very unattractive dosing regimens and are now having issues with drug resistance. Even the newer agents suffer from these deficiencies. ... Pharmaceutical companies show little interest in inventing drugs for these diseases, because there is no money in any of them. ... All the while we are brewing up drug and even multi-drug resistant strains of parasites, which are especially prevalent in malaria today. American Council on Science and Health

WHO vaccine advisors weigh in on polio, cholera, Ebola, diphtheria

28 April - World Health Organization (WHO) vaccine advisors ... released a summary of its 15-member Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) meeting. ... Several countries are switching over from oral polio vaccine (OPV) to inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), but ongoing shortages of IPV are complicating efforts. ... SAGE said that in the short term, regional and national advisory groups should recommend two fractional IPV doses in immunization schedules. ... SAGE recommends that [whole-cell killed cholera vaccines] be used in endemic countries, in humanitarian crises that carry a high risk of cholera outbreaks, during outbreaks, and alongside other control and prevention strategies. ... [T]he group noted that there are 12 candidate Ebola vaccines, but phase 3 studies have only shown clinical efficacy and effectiveness for one: VSV-EBOV. In the event of an outbreak before any of the vaccines are licensed, SAGE recommends that VSV-EBOV promptly be deployed in a ring vaccination strategy under the Expanded Access framework, with informed consent, and with good clinical practices. ... Experts discussed stalled efforts over the past 5 years in reducing diphtheria levels, with cases still occurring in unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated people. ... They also aired grave concerns about limited or expired global supplies of diphtheria antitoxin. CIDRAP

ZIKA VIRUS

Clues to Zika damage might lie in cases of twins

1 May – ... [N]ine sets of twins [have been] identified in Brazil’s Zika crisis, and scientists hope they can shed light on how the virus works generally and why it inflicts ruthless damage on some babies and not others. Twins often yield clues to medical mysteries because their biological similarities allow scientists to identify relevant differences. Determining why one twin became infected in the womb while the other did not may illuminate how Zika crosses the placenta, how it enters the brain, and whether any genetic mutations make a fetus more resistant or susceptible to Zika infection. Until recently, Brazil’s Zika twins seemed to follow a pattern, said Mayana Zatz, a geneticist and molecular
biologist at the University of São Paulo. The cases include two sets of identical twins, and both babies in each pair have microcephaly, she said. There are also six sets of fraternal twins, in which one twin has microcephaly, while the other appears unaffected. Since identical twins share one placenta while fraternal twins almost always have separate placentas, Dr. Zatz and other experts suggested that the Zika virus may have penetrated one placenta and not the other. ... But one set of twins has broken the pattern. Those twins are fraternal and had separate placentas — but both have microcephaly and other Zika complications. The New York Times

Leaked document says Puerto Rico underreporting Zika complications

1 May - A document leaked to Stat says that Puerto Rico is miscounting the number of birth defects seen in that country due to prenatal Zika infections. According to a Stat story today, the Puerto Rico Department of Health (PRDH) has been accused by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of obscuring the count since December, and recording only cases of confirmed microcephaly while disregarding other birth defects linked to the mosquito-borne disease. "There is a large discrepancy between the number of cases identified by ZAPSS that meet CDC surveillance case definition and numbers reported by PRDH," the article says. ZAPSS is the Zika Active Pregnancy Surveillance System. The leaked document is an outline of a CDC plan to get PRDH Zika surveillance on the same page as the Atlanta-based agency. According to sources, Puerto Rico has not registered "dozens and dozens" of babies born with birth defects.
CIDRAP News Scan (second item)

New Zika test streamlines detection, offers new outbreak response tool

3 May - A new test that doesn't require costly reagents can accurately and quickly detect Zika in human samples and in mosquitoes. ... The testing method uses a specialized technique called loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) assay to amplify Zika virus genomes, and tests on unprocessed human samples that included blood, saliva, and semen found that sensitivity was similar to the gold standard for testing, reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). Also, the test distinguishes between the African and Asian strains and is sensitive enough to identify one single infected mosquito from a collection pool of 50 uninfected insects. Another advantage was that the LAMP test did not deliver false-positives for closely related viruses such as chikungunya and dengue.
CIDRAP News Scan (second item)

Postmortem findings on 7 Zika infants show microcephaly, other issues

2 May - In a study yesterday in Emerging Infectious Diseases, results of postmortem examinations of seven babies born in Ceara, Brazil, highlight microcephaly and other major
defects. The babies were likely exposed to Zika virus through their mothers during the first trimester of pregnancy in early 2015. The babies died 30 minutes to 6 days after delivery, and cerebrospinal fluid tested positive for Zika virus. Only one of the seven neonates suffered from intrauterine gross restriction, but six had low brain weight for their gestational age. Six of the babies also had obvious microcephaly, and all had several neurologic malformations, including calcifications in the brain stem and thinning of the parenchyma. Besides brain malformations, all seven neonates had pulmonary hypoplasia, and several had small lungs for their respective gestation ages. "In addition, variable liver damage, a finding commonly seen with infection by other flaviviruses, was found in these neonates," the authors concluded. CIDRAP News Scan (second item)

South America sees Zika rise

28 April - Zika cases are once again on the rise in Brazil, Ecuador, and Peru where Zika upticks are expected this time of year, according to the latest epidemiologic update from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). ... The sub-region of South America containing Brazil, Ecuador, and Peru has reported 1,247 suspected and confirmed cases of Zika so far this year. Argentina is also reporting new cases in three new provinces (Formosa, Salta, and Chaco). In addition to rising cases, Ecuador and Barbados reported their first babies born with Zika-related congenital defects. Finally, Barbados has reported its first case of Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) associated with Zika infection. Elsewhere, the only increase seen in the Caribbean was in Aruba. PAHO said Mexico and the United States are still reporting a downward trend in Zika cases. CIDRAP

Zika virus persists in the central nervous system and lymph nodes of rhesus monkeys

28 April - Zika virus can persist in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), lymph nodes and colorectal tissue of infected rhesus monkeys for weeks after the virus has been cleared from blood, urine and mucosal secretions, according to a study published online today in Cell. ... Although virus was cleared from peripheral blood within 7-10 days, they detected Zika virus in CSF for up to 42 days and in lymph nodes and colorectal biopsies for up to 72 days. Immunologic data showed that the emergence of Zika virus-specific neutralizing antibodies correlated with the rapid control of the virus in plasma. However, Zika-specific antibodies were not detected in CSF, which could be why the virus remained in CSF longer. The authors also found that viral persistence in CSF correlated with the activation of the mechanistic target of rapamycin (mTOR) pathway, which has been shown to be related to the development of brain tissue and brain malformations. The findings suggest that persistent virus in the central nervous system may contribute to the neurological issues associated with Zika virus infection in people. NIH
AFHSB: DoD Seasonal Influenza Surveillance Summary

For Week 16:
- NORTHCOM: Influenza activity remained minimal for the majority of the U.S.
- EUCOM: Influenza activity was minimal across EUCOM.
- PACOM: Influenza activity was minimal across PACOM except for the ROK, which had low activity.
- CENTCOM and AFRICOM: Influenza activity was minimal across PACOM except for the ROK, which had low activity.
- SOUTHCOM: Influenza activity was minimal in Honduras this week based on DMSS data. DHA - Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch

APHC: U.S. Army Influenza Activity Report

For the week ending 22 April 2017 (Week 16):
Influenza activity in Army and civilian populations as well as the number of respiratory specimens tested continue decreasing. Over the past four weeks, there have been more positive influenza B specimens than positive influenza A specimens.
- ILI Activity: Army ILI (influenza-like illness) outpatient visits in week 16 were 9% lower than the same week last year.
- Influenza cases: Two hospitalized influenza-associated cases were reported to APHC through DRSi in week 16: an Active Duty (AD) Service Member (SM) and a non-AD beneficiary.
- Viral specimens: During week 16, 188 of 901 (21%) lab specimens tested positive for respiratory pathogens. Of 69 influenza A-positive specimens, RHC-A reported 42 (60.9%), followed by RHC-C that reported 20 (29%), and RHC-P that reported 7 (10.1%). RHC-E and CENTCOM did not report any positive influenza A specimens. APHC

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

During week 16 (April 16-22, 2017), influenza activity decreased in the United States.
- Viral Surveillance: The most frequently identified influenza virus type reported by public health laboratories during week 16 was influenza B. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza in clinical laboratories decreased.
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality: The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the system-specific epidemic threshold in the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Mortality Surveillance System.
- Deaths: Six influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. CDC
China: Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus

1 May - On 21 April 2017, the National Health and Family Planning Commission of China (NHFPC) notified WHO of 28 additional laboratory-confirmed cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus in mainland China. Of these 28 cases, 11 were female. The median age is 55 years old (age range among the cases is 34 to 79 years old). At the time of notification, of the 27 cases with information on medical condition, there were eight deaths, 17 cases were diagnosed as having either pneumonia (4) or severe pneumonia (13), and two cases were diagnosed as mild. Twenty-two cases were reported to have had exposure to poultry or live poultry market. One was reported to have had no known poultry exposure, and one was reported to have exposure to a person who had severe pneumonia. No clusters of cases were reported. WHO

ECDC: Flu News Europe

Week 16/2017 (17 – 23 April 2017).

- Influenza activity across the region decreased further with 38 of 39 countries reporting low influenza activity.
- The proportion of sentinel specimens testing positive for influenza viruses was 13%, slightly lower compared to the previous week (15%).
- The proportion of type B viruses exceeded the proportion of type A viruses in sentinel detections, similar to recent weeks. However, the overall number of type B virus detections remained low. European Center for Disease Prevention and Control/WHO

NHRC: Febrile Respiratory Illness Surveillance Update

For the week ending 22 April 2017 (Week 16):

- Influenza: Four cases of NHRC laboratory-confirmed influenza (A/H3) among U.S. military basic trainees at NRTC Great Lakes.
- FRI surveillance at all eight U.S. military basic training centers indicated FRI rates were elevated at NRTC Great Lakes. Naval Health Research Center

USAFSAM & DHA: DoD Global, Laboratory-Based, Influenza Surveillance Program

During 9 - 22 April 2017 (Surveillance Weeks 15 & 16), a total of 192 specimens were collected and received from 38 locations. Results were finalized for 181 specimens from 37 locations. During Week 15, 20 influenza A(H3N2), one influenza A(H3N2) & coronavirus & RSV coinfection, and 20 influenza B viruses were identified. During Week 16, two influenza A(H3N2) and 11 influenza B viruses were identified. Approximately 31% of specimens tested positive for influenza during Week 15. Approximately 23% of specimens tested positive for influenza during Week 16. The influenza percent positive for the season is
WHO: Influenza Update

1 May - Based on data up to 16 April, 2017. Influenza activity in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere continued to decrease. Influenza activity remained low in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere. Worldwide, influenza A(H3N2) and B viruses were predominant, with an increased proportion of influenza B viruses detected in recent weeks. WHO

VETERINARY/FOOD SAFETY

Navy dolphins train in Key West to find mines

2 May - Constellation, an Atlantic bottlenose dolphin, has been training in Key West with three of her teammates as part of the Navy's Marine Mammal program, based in San Diego, reports WLRN. Constellation's job is vital — she and her dolphin teammates search for mines on the ocean floor and drop transponders that allow the crews to safely retrieve the explosives. "Probably their most impressive capability is their ability to find objects that are completely buried underneath the seafloor," said Bob Olds, business manager for the Marine Mammal program. Navy Times

Raw milk products cause 840 times more illness than pasteurized milk

2 May - According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Emerging Infectious Diseases report for June 2017, unpasteurized milk products cause 840 times more illness and 45 times more hospitalizations than pasteurized milk products. Only about 3.2% of the population consume raw milk, and 1.6% of consumers eat raw cheese, but those products cause 96% of the illnesses linked to contaminated dairy products in this country. The number of states that allow raw milk sales increased to 30 in 2011, from 21 in 2004. Food Poisoning Bulletin

Tea made from deer antlers may cause botulism; health officials issue alert

29 April - Tea made from deer antlers may have sickened two Orange County residents with botulism, a serious illness caused by a bacteria that can cause paralysis, breathing
difficulty and is potentially deadly. One adult has a confirmed case of botulism, and the other has a suspected case, the Orange County Health Care Agency said Friday. An investigation by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health suggests the botulism illnesses may be connected with drinking deer antler tea obtained in March. Health officials said anyone who purchased products in March should dispose of them. Photographs of the package released by L.A. County health officials feature illustrations of deer and roots. Los Angeles Times

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WELLNESS

A new generation overthrows gender

2 May - Max, age 13, is agender — neither male nor female. When referring to Max, you don’t use "he" or "she;" you use "they." Once strictly a pronoun of the plural variety, "they" is now doing double duty as singular, too — referring to individuals, like Max, who do not see gender as an either/or option. ... "Gender identity is different from gender expression, being different from biology," says Adam Chang, a consultant with Gender Spectrum, a provider of gender identity resources and services in Berkeley, Calif. "Identity is what you know in your heart and mind, and expression is external — hair, makeup, the roles you take on in society. "Biology, of course, means the physical attributes that have always been used as a proxy for gender," Chang says. "And all of those are different from sexual orientation." NPR

Come on in. The water’s fine (mostly).

1 May - ... [A] team of chemists at the University of Alberta in Canada has devised a new way to estimate the amount [of urine in a swimming pool] by measuring levels of an artificial sweetener commonly present in people’s urine. The scientists sampled 29 pools and hot tubs in British Columbia and Alberta, and found the artificial sweetener, called acesulfame potassium, in every one. In one residential, 110,000-gallon pool, they estimated the amount of urine to be nearly eight gallons. ... In a 220,000-gallon pool (one-third the size of an Olympic pool), the researchers estimated there were nearly 20 gallons of urine. ... Acesulfame potassium is often found in condiments, beverages, desserts, toothpaste and chewing gum. It’s an ideal proxy for urine, said Lindsay Blackstock, a graduate student who helped lead the study, because it passes through the body without being metabolized. The New York Times

Fasting studies clash with our desire to eat what we want, when we want it

1 May - ... The study published Monday in JAMA Internal Medicine did not set out to investigate the hardships of abstaining from food. The main question was: Is alternate-day
fasting more effective for weight loss and weight maintenance compared with daily calorie restriction? The answer to that question appears to be "No." The study of 100 people over the course of one year suggests that fasting every other day is no better than restricting calorie intake every day for people trying to lose weight or keep it off. ... About a third of the study participants who were asked to fast didn’t follow the study requirements and ended up dropping out. ... Thirty-eight percent of those who were supposed to fast every other day dropped out because they didn’t adhere to the diet. Twenty-nine percent of those who were supposed to restrict their calories every day dropped out for the same reason. NPR

FDA delays enforcement of stricter standards for e-cigarette, cigar industry

2 May - The Trump administration has delayed enforcement of a rule finalized last year that imposed strict oversight over electronic cigarettes and cigars for the first time. The move ... comes as the vaping and tobacco industries are launching a concerted effort to roll back the Food and Drug Administration regulation through both legislation and litigation. ... According to FDA officials, the agency is postponing any deadline established under the rule — which extends the FDA’s regulatory authority to all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, cigars, and hookah and pipe tobacco — set for May 10 or later. As a result, as of next week, cigar manufacturers will not have to submit their plans for putting addictiveness warnings on their products. Information on what ingredients are contained in e-cigarettes and cigars will not have to be submitted starting Aug. 8, and interstate commerce of products including the label of “light,” “low” or “mild” will not be banned as of that date. The Washington Post

For bad backs, it may be time to rethink biases about chiropractors

1 May - ... Physicians are traditionally wary of spinal manipulation (applying pressure on bones and joints), in part because the practitioners are often not doctors. ... Recently, in The Journal of the American Medical Association, researchers looked for new studies since 2011, as well as those that had been performed before. The evidence from 15 randomized controlled trials, which included more than 1,700 patients, showed that spinal manipulation caused an improvement in pain of about 10 points on a 100-point scale. The evidence from 12 randomized controlled trials — which overlapped, but not completely with the other trials — of almost 1,400 patients showed that spinal manipulation also resulted in improvements in function. In February, in Annals of Internal Medicine, another systematic review of nonpharmacologic therapies generally agreed with the other recent trials. Based upon this review, and other evidence, the American College of Physicians released new clinical practice guidelines for the noninvasive treatment of subacute back pain. They recommended that patients should try heat, massage, acupuncture or spinal manipulation as first-line therapies. The New York Times
NIH discovery in mice could lead to new class of medications to fight mid-life obesity

3 May - A team of scientists led by researchers from the National Institutes of Health has identified an enzyme that could help in the continuous battle against mid-life obesity and fitness loss. The discovery in mice could upend current notions about why people gain weight as they age, and could one day lead to more effective weight-loss medications.

"Our society attributes the weight gain and lack of exercise at mid-life (approximately 30-60 years) primarily to poor lifestyle choices and lack of will power, but this study shows that there is a genetic program driven by an overactive enzyme that promotes weight gain and loss of exercise capacity at mid-life," said lead study author Jay H. Chung. ... Chung and his team used mice to test the potentially key role this enzyme plays in obesity and exercise capacity. They administered an inhibitor that blocked the enzyme in one group being fed high-fat foods, but withheld it in another. The result was a 40 percent decrease in weight gain in the group that received the inhibitor. NIH

Performance enhancing drugs now a public health problem

28 April - ... Use of performance-enhancers such as anabolic steroids, weight-loss products, and dietary supplements is actually a "major unrecognized public health problem," said Shalender Bhasin, MD, an endocrinologist with Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Most users are non-athletes, with men ages 15-34 the most likely, and use among men in their late 30’s and women is emerging as well. ... "We need a Marshall Plan" to save the aforementioned generation of young men, said Bhasin, lead author of such a 2013 Endocrine Society statement. It should include preventative education for both men and providers, as well as new studies funded by the likes of the Department of Defense and National Institutes of Health. MedPage Today

Trump administration loosens Obama-era school lunch requirements

2 May - In a move to roll back former first lady Michelle Obama’s healthy lunch initiative, the Trump administration unveiled a rule on Monday to eliminate some of the nutritional standards currently set in place. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said schools will no longer have to try so hard to cut the salt in students’ meals or work in whole grains and non-fat milk. ... The announcement is the first major move from Perdue, and complies with pleas from school nutrition directors who decried many of the standards under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act signed into law by President Obama in 2010. In particular, they argued for changes to the act’s whole grain and sodium requirements, saying it was hard to find foods that kids would eat under those standards. Fox News
USAFRICOM


5 May - In 2012, the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) estimated first dose of measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) coverage in countries of the WHO African Region (AFR) to be 73% and >90% in 13 (28%) of 46 AFR countries. Among 35 measles supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) conducted during 2011–2012, 23 (66%) had >95% administrative coverage. Nineteen (44%) countries met the two key surveillance performance indicator targets. In 2012, only 16 (37%) countries met the incidence target of <5 cases per 1 million population. In 2015, WHO-UNICEF estimated MCV1 coverage in AFR to be 74%; seven (15%) countries reported ≥95% MCV1 coverage. Among 52 measles SIAs conducted during 2013–2016, 41 (79%) reported ≥95% administrative coverage. In 2016, 19 (40%) countries met both surveillance performance indicator targets. In 2016, only 15 (32%) countries met the target of <1 case per 1 million population. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Update

Ethiopia is facing a killer drought. But it’s going almost unnoticed.

1 May - ... On Thursday, the Ethiopian government increased its count of the number of people requiring emergency food aid from 5.6 million to 7.7 million, a move that aid agencies say was long overdue. The figure is expected to rise further as southeast Ethiopia confronts another fierce drought. But with food crises erupting across the continent and the government’s budget strained by last year’s drought, the money isn’t there to fight it. There could eventually be as many people in Ethiopia needing emergency food assistance as in Somalia and South Sudan combined. Ethiopia ... was hit by severe drought in the highland region [last year], affecting 10.2 million people. ... Now it’s the turn of the lowland region, particularly the area bordering Somalia, where a drought brought on by warming temperatures in the Indian Ocean has ravaged the flocks of the herders in the region and left people without food. The Washington Post

Kenya: Why people with a treatable flesh-eating disease don’t want the cure

2 May - ... In the Utut Forest in Kenya’s Nakuru County, [a traditional] treatment is believed to help heal a condition that people living here call “shetani,” meaning curse or devil. [Amos] Kiptui was actually the victim of a rare flesh-eating disease called cutaneous leishmaniasis, which is spread by blood-sucking sandflies living in rocky areas and caves. Without medical treatment, the injected parasites can keep growing and gnawing
their way through the skin ... But for Kiptui and some 300 other people living in caves ... even basic health care is hard to find. A localized outbreak of cutaneous leishmaniasis has spread here in recent years, though the disease is not commonly found in Kenya. For most people with cutaneous leishmaniasis, the only available treatment involves weeks of excruciating injections straight into the affected area. ... The treatment is said to be 90 percent effective, but many patients do not stay the course. “Some patients have been absconding especially due to the pain, whereas others abscond due to distance,” said David Kamau, the local disease surveillance coordinator for the Kenyan government.

**Liberia: Second Monrovia death reported in unexplained Liberia illness cluster**

2 May - Health officials in Liberia have reported a second death in Monrovia linked to an unexplained illness cluster in people who attended the funeral of a religious leader in Greenville, located about 4 hours’ drive south of the country’s capital in Sinoe County, according to local media reports. Frances Kateh, MD, Liberia’s deputy health minister and chief medical officer, told the Monrovia-based Daily Observer that the latest death raises the cluster’s fatality count to 12. The new case raises the overall cluster total to 21. He said tests have repeatedly ruled out Ebola and Lassa fever. A media report from Liberia News Agency (LINA) yesterday said the second Monrovia death involved a female contact of a man who also died after returning from Greenville. ... [T]he US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the WHO is still trying to determine if the cluster is related to ingestion of contaminated food or drinks served at funeral events in Greenville around Apr 22. CIDRAP News Scan (first item)

**Sierra Leone: Isolated case of monkeypox confirmed**

2 May - Per World Health Organization (WHO) Communications Officer Laura Keenan, an isolated case of monkeypox was confirmed in Pujehun district, Sierra Leone, but not related to any of the 17 possibly-related cases or 9 deaths recently reported in Liberia. The patient, a 35-year old male, was admitted to Pujehun District Government Hospital on March 25, never quarantined and discharged from the hospital on Saturday afternoon. ... [H]e is being recognized as the country’s third known occurrence of the disease since 1970. ... In the patient’s community, no new cases have been identified. Thirteen people in close contact with the patient are being monitored, but none have developed any feverish illness and/or skin lesions since their latest exposure. Rare Disease Report

**Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe anthrax outbreak - 14 sickened, 1 death; linked to eating hippo**

1 May - In a follow-up on the anthrax outbreak in Binga district in western Zimbabwe, health officials put the outbreak tally at 14 cases of anthrax including 1 death (case fatality rate of 9.1%) reported from two communities, Siansundu and Binga. This anthrax outbreak in humans was preceded by an epizootic in hippopotamus. On 2 April 2017, a community
leader reported the deaths of hippos along Mlibizi River in Binga. The National Parks and Wildlife authority confirmed the outbreak of anthrax in hippos on 12 April 2017 when animal samples tested positive for *Bacillus anthracis*. A total of 14 hippos have been reported dead and it was openly known that the local communities consumed the carcasses. Outbreak News Today

USCENTCOM

Pakistan: Chickenpox outbreak claims 16 lives in past 4 months in Faisalabad

30 April - Since the beginning of the year, health officials in Faisalabad, Pakistan have reported 81 chickenpox cases, including 16 deaths during the last four months, according to Pakistani media. Sources tell The Nation that more than 100 patients visited both Civil Hospital and Allied Hospital for medical consultation regarding the epidemic. Some patients complained they were not given proper care. The report notes that there is a shortage of chickenpox vaccine and lifesaving drugs in these hospitals as these drugs are taken by the doctors and paramedical staff. Outbreak News Today

Saudi Arabia: MERS patient in critical condition after indirect camel contact

3 May - The Saudi Arabian Ministry of Health (MOH) said there was a new case of MERS-CoV today linked to indirect camel exposure. A 74-year-old Saudi man from Al Bukayriyah is in critical condition after presenting with symptoms of MERS-CoV (Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus). The man had indirect camel exposure, a known risk factor for contracting the coronavirus. Indirect camel exposure can mean exposure in a household or by visiting a site where animals are kept. CIDRAP News Scan (first item)

Syria: Syria, slums, and health security

28 April - ... Although much has been made of refugees fleeing Syria, 6.3 million people remain internally displaced, with a further 4.7 million believed to be trapped in besieged cities and hard-to-reach areas. Rather than escaping cities or seeking refuge in humanitarian camps or shelters, millions are simply taking shelter where they can in the cities, with little or no access to health care. These conditions have fostered outbreaks of polio, measles, meningitis, and drug-resistant tuberculosis. With immunization coverage rates in Syria almost halving since the conflict began—falling from 80% to just 41%, the fourth lowest in the world—the chance of epidemics of vaccine-preventable diseases increases daily. Getting vaccines and other humanitarian aid to those in need could
substantially lower the risk. However, such efforts are severely hampered by the ever-increasing dangers that aid workers face in a country where health care has been described as “weaponized.” Science

USEUCOM

Europe: Europe hepatitis A outbreak rises

1 May - In a follow-up on the hepatitis A outbreak in Europe, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) reports an additional 387 new confirmed cases of hepatitis A from 10 countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom) since Feb. 24. In total, 674 confirmed cases have been reported as associated with these outbreaks since 1 June 2016. Of the 665 cases with available information on gender, 531 (95%) are in males; of the 622 of these with available information on age, 558 (90%) are between 18 and 50 years of age. The majority of the cases with available information on sexual orientation (n=353 – 83%) are men who have sex with men (MSM). Outbreak News Today

Europe: West Nile virus surveillance in Europe: moving towards an integrated animal-human-vector approach

4 May - This article uses the experience of five European countries to review the integrated approaches (human, animal and vector) for surveillance and monitoring of West Nile virus (WNV) at national and European levels. The epidemiological situation of West Nile fever in Europe is heterogeneous. No model of surveillance and monitoring fits all, hence this article merely encourages countries to implement the integrated approach that meets their needs. Integration of surveillance and monitoring activities conducted by the public health authorities, the animal health authorities and the authorities in charge of vector surveillance and control should improve efficiency and save resources by implementing targeted measures. The creation of a formal interagency working group is identified as a crucial step towards integration. Eurosurveillance

Italy - Measles outbreak nears 2000 cases

3 May - In an update on the measles outbreak in Italy, since the beginning of the year through the end of April, 1,920 cases have been reported, according to Italian health officials. The cases are reported from 18 of the 21 regions in Italy. One-third of the cases had at least one complication with diarrhea, stomatitis, conjunctivitis and pneumonia being the most common. Nine out of 10 cases were fully unvaccinated and 176 cases were reported among health care workers and some nosocomial outbreaks have been reported. The age group most affected is 15-39 years, accounting for fifty-six percent of cases. Ages
40-64 are the second most affected group with 16 percent. Outbreak News Today

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**Mexico: Mexican Congress approves use of medical marijuana**

28 April - Mexico’s Lower House of Congress passed a bill on Friday to legalize the use of marijuana and cannabis for medical and scientific needs, a step closer to outright legalization in a country long scarred by warring drug cartels. The bill sailed through the Senate in December and will now be sent to President Enrique Pena Nieto, who is expected to sign it. "The ruling eliminates the prohibition and criminalization of acts related to the medicinal use of marijuana and its scientific research, and those relating to the production and distribution of the plant for these purposes," the Lower House said in a statement on its website. Reuters

**U.S.: A framework for hazard banding**

1 May - NIOSH scheduled a public meeting in Cincinnati this month to discuss and hear from industrial hygiene stakeholders about a March 2017 draft Current Intelligence Bulletin titled "The Occupational Exposure Banding Process: Guidance for the Evaluation of Chemical Hazards." Weighing in at 141 pages, it explains the process as one seeking "to create a consistent and documented process to characterize chemical hazards so timely and well-informed risk management decisions can be made for chemicals lacking OELs [occupational exposure limits]." ... The executive summary portion of the document explains that, according to EPA, the Toxic Substances Control Act Chemical Substance Inventory contains more than 85,000 chemicals that are commercially available, yet only about 1,000 of them have been assigned an authoritative (government, consensus, or peer reviewed) OEL. "Furthermore, the rate at which new chemicals are being introduced into commerce significantly outpaces OEL development, creating a need for guidance on thousands of chemicals that lack reliable exposure limits," it says. Occupational Health & Safety

**U.S.: CDC: Life expectancy is up for blacks, and the racial gap is closing**

2 May - African Americans have made significant gains in life expectancy, and the mortality gap between white and black Americans has been cut in half since 1999, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Tuesday. Blacks experienced a 25 percent drop in their overall death rate, compared to a 14 percent decrease for whites, between 1999 and
2015. Deaths from heart disease, cancer and stroke declined sharply among blacks 65 and older, and in that age group, blacks now have a lower death rate than whites, the CDC said. But its report shows that the United States has a long way to go before it achieves health equity. Blacks in every age group under 65 continue to have significantly higher death rates than whites. Black life expectancy at birth is about 3½ years lower than that of whites. The Washington Post

U.S.: Experts warn of increases in tick-borne Powassan virus

3 May - Summer is nearly here, and it’s bringing fears of a rare tick-borne disease called Powassan. This potentially life-threatening virus is carried and transmitted by three types of ticks, including the deer tick that transmits Lyme disease. Over the past decade, 75 cases have been reported in the northeastern states and the Great Lakes region, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Though no one can say how many infections will occur this year, warmer winters have led to an increased tick population, so experts predict rising tick-borne infections of many types. ... Infections are most likely during late spring, early summer and mid-fall, when ticks are most active. "About 15% of patients who are infected and have symptoms are not going survive," said Lyons, who is also an assistant professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School. "Of the survivors, at least 50% will have long-term neurological damage that is not going to resolve." CNN

U.S.: Facing pressure, more schools scramble to confront dangers of lead in water

30 April - ... Nearly two years after a water crisis in Flint, Mich., triggered renewed pressure for lead testing and remediation in schools across the country, many districts continue to stumble. School systems throughout the country have wrestled with lead in water for decades, in part because of the intractable problem of lead-bearing fixtures and pipes in aging buildings. In addition, the overwhelming majority of schools face no state or federal laws that require testing, and cramped budgets and understaffed districts mean water testing seldom rises to a top priority. ... [O]ne-time testing isn’t sufficient, [Yanna Lambrinidou] said. ... A better approach, she said, would be one that several states and the District are starting to embrace: Assume any tap or fountain poses a potential health hazard, no matter what a test shows. District schools have placed filters on every drinking-water source, for example, with plans to regularly test even the filtered water. The Washington Post

U.S.: House panel considers OTC hearing aids and more

2 May - ... [T]he "Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act," would direct the FDA to issue regulations establishing a category of over-the-counter hearing aids to be used by patients with mild to moderate hearing loss. Allowing hearing aids to go over the counter is a good idea because of the more than 30 million people who suffer from hearing loss, only 20% of people with hearing loss currently get a hearing aid, Jeffrey Shuren, MD, director of the
FDA’s Center for Devices and Radiological Health, told the subcommittee. "We have to find a better way to provide better access and better ways to market the technology." Subcommittee chairman Michael Burgess, MD (R-Texas) asked Shuren how parents would be prevented from buying a device on behalf of a child with hearing loss. "We’re still maintaining a requirement in place that there is a medical evaluation -- or the signing of a waiver -- for those individuals who are under 18," he replied. ... But the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), the trade group for speech-language pathologists and audiologists, took a different view. "The only aids that should be made available over-the-counter should be those that are useful to persons with mild hearing loss," ASHA president Gail Richard said in a statement. MedPage Today

U.S.: NIH study aims to unravel the illness known as 'chronic fatigue syndrome'

1 May - "[M]yalgic encephalomyelitis / chronic fatigue syndrome,” or ME/CFS for short ... is estimated to affect at least one million people in the U.S. alone. ... [I]n an in-house study at the National Institutes of Health, ... researchers are using state-of-the-art equipment to conduct sophisticated testing they hope will explain the mysterious illness. ... The first phase of the study includes 40 people with ME/CFS, as well as 20 who previously had Lyme disease and another 20 healthy controls. The subjects are receiving a huge battery of tests, including sleep studies, different types of MRI scans and very detailed metabolomics and proteomics, which are studies aimed at identifying the functions of genes. Subjects will also receive immunological testing on all biological fluids and extensive testing following an exercise challenge, when ME/CFS symptoms become most pronounced. NPR

U.S.: Poultry and meat processing industries rank high for severe injuries

1 May - Cargill, Tyson and Pilgrim’s Pride rank within the top 15 companies for severe injuries in the United States, according to the National Employment Law Project. The nonprofit released a report which examined severe injury data compiled by OSHA since 2015. Severe injuries are defined as involving amputation, hospitalization or loss of an eye. ... The NELP found that the poultry industry as a whole has the 12th highest number of severe injuries of all industries reporting ranking above, auto, steel and other high-hazard industries. Companies in 29 states covered by federal OSHA notified the agency of 17,533 incidents of the most severe work-related injuries during the period from January 2015 through September 2016. EHS Today

U.S.: U.S. House passes healthcare bill in major Trump victory

4 May - The U.S. House of Representatives approved a bill on Thursday to repeal major parts of Obamacare and replace it with a Republican healthcare plan, handing President Donald Trump his biggest legislative victory but setting up a tough fight in the Senate.
With the 217-213 vote, Republicans obtained just enough support to push the legislation through the House, sending it to the Senate for consideration. No Democrats voted for the bill. The bill’s passage represented a step toward fulfilling a top Trump campaign pledge and a seven-year Republican quest to dismantle Democratic former President Barack Obama’s signature healthcare law. Reuters

**U.S.: U.S. supply of yellow fever vaccine will run out by midsummer**

28 April - … The U.S. supply of the yellow fever vaccine will run out by about midsummer, the CDC reported. … Officials are working on an emergency importation of an alternative vaccine, which is already licensed Europe, but is not currently licensed in the U.S. Even then, there will be a limited number of doses, available at only a small number of clinics, Skinner says. “We're going from the yellow fever vaccine being available in 4,000 clinics across the country to only 250 clinics,” he says. Yellow fever is surging around the world. Last year, a large outbreak in Angola and Democratic Republic of the Congo triggered a massive immunization campaign, in which 30 million people received the vaccine. That outbreak depleted the global supply of the yellow fever vaccine several times and forced the World Health Organization to give fractional doses of the shot. Now, a growing outbreak in Brazil has health officials stretching the global supply once again. Health officials are concerned that outbreak could spread across South America and even into the U.S. NPR

USPACOM

**China: How has infectious disease incidence in China changed since the 2003 SARS outbreak?**

1 May - … In the first study to assess long-term infectious disease trends since the 2003 outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in the country ... researchers from Zhejiang University have identified 55 million cases of infectious diseases in mainland China, and more than 130,000 fatalities resulting from them, just for the 10-year period between 2004 and 2013. … “In recent decades, the overall incidence and mortality of infectious diseases have shown a striking decline in China,” senior author Professor Lanjuan Li, MD, PhD ... said. ... Dr. Li and colleagues believe these improvements can actually be traced to the SARS outbreak, which they note had highlighted flaws in the country’s disease prevention and control infrastructure. Indeed, since that time, officials in China have taken steps to improve the country’s water supply and sanitation and vector control strategies, while instituting more comprehensive immunization and screening programs. Of the 45 infectious diseases included in their analysis, 20 became less common over the
study period, while only 10 became more common and 11 remained the same.

Contagion Live

India: Battle against dengue and chikungunya with Friendly™ mosquitoes

28 April - India’s GBIT and Oxitec announced the launch of the Friendly™ Aedes project to combat the menace of vector borne diseases including dengue and chikungunya. India recently initiated the outdoor caged trials of Oxitec’s Friendly™ Aedes mosquitoes [at Dawalwadi, Jalna, Maharashtra] to conduct open field trials of the Friendly™ mosquitoes, which are pending approval from the Indian regulatory authorities, to demonstrate the efficacy of the Friendly™ mosquitoes in suppressing the local Aedes aegypti population. ... [A] male sterile strain OX513A is a genetically engineered strain of Aedes aegypti carrying a repressible, dominantly inherited transgene that confers lethality in immature heterozygous progeny. Released male OX513A adults have proven to be effective for the localised suppression of wild Aedes aegypti and thus effectively control vector borne diseases. Outbreak News Today

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Argentina: Argentina reports syphilis increases in Buenos Aires, other provinces

2 May - Argentina health officials are reporting an increase in syphilis cases in a number of provinces and issued an alert concerning using proper protection during sex, according to a Dia a Dia report (computer translated). In the country’s most populous province, Buenos Aires, syphilis cases increased by 30 percent from 2015 to 2016, while increases were also reported in Córdoba (19%), Santa Fe (15 %), Mendoza 55%, Chubut 58% and La Pampa 80%. ... Why the increases? Health officials point to a decrease in condom use particularly in young adults, men who have sex with other men (MSM) and the trans community. “There is a false sense of security in not using condoms because in recent years the fight against sexually transmitted diseases has improved,” said the director of the Ministry of Health’s Aids and Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Outbreak News Today

Chikungunya outbreak in Americas grows by 825 cases

1 May - Countries in the Americas reported 825 new chikungunya cases, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) reported on Apr 28, pushing the total for the year over 30,000. ... The case count for 2017 has now reached 30,666, PAHO said. Nicaragua accounted for a fair share of the increase, reporting its first 317 cases of the year. Panama
had the next largest increase, with 305 new cases and 623 for the year. Peru recorded 69 new cases and 558 for the year. Many nations, however, have not reported on their chikungunya situation for weeks. CIDRAP News Scan (third item)

Colombia: Leishmaniasis outbreak prompts health alert in Neiva

3 May - Health officials have issued an epidemiological alert for the city of Neiva, located in south central Colombia due to a leishmaniasis outbreak, according to a La Nacion report (computer translated). The alert, issued on Apr. 26, came after a number of people became infected, including a four-month-old baby who died from the parasitic infection. In addition, of the approximately 1000 dogs from the street tested for the parasite, 500 turned out infected. The infected dogs were sacrificed, according to the report. According to the Municipal Health Secretary, Faiver Segura Ochoa, the outbreak began in the settlement Lomas de San Pedro, Comuna Nueve in the city of 380,000. Outbreak News Today

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