

26 June 2015

Army Public Health Weekly Update

U.S. Army Public Health Command



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Contents

U.S. MILITARY

- [Army lab didn't properly test method of killing *B anthracis*, report says](#)
- [Fort Detrick Environmental Health Lab welcomes back frogs for research initiative](#)
- [Medics to help Warrior Games athletes compete at highest levels](#)
- [The VA's broken promise to thousands of vets exposed to mustard gas](#)
- [Wait lists grow as many more veterans seek care and funding falls far short](#)

GLOBAL

- [Celebrating first International Day, UN says yoga can boost public health and promote peaceful relations](#)
- [Chemicals considered safe alone may trigger cancer in combination](#)
- [Chemists crowdsource new compounds to speed the fight against antibiotic resistance](#)
- [Climate change presents 'potentially catastrophic' risks to public health, Lancet Commission study finds](#)
- [India offers fellowship to Afghan doctors](#)
- ['Organs-on-chips' wins design award](#)
- [Pollution may age the brain](#)
- [Researchers successfully target 'Achilles heel' of MERS virus](#)
- [Starvation timetable in a pandemic](#)
- [WHO agency says insecticides lindane and DDT linked to cancer](#)

INFLUENZA

- [CDC: Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report](#)
- [Flu News Europe](#)

VETERINARY/FOOD SAFETY

- [Congress gives President Obama fast-track authority for trade deals](#)

NOTICE:

There will be no Army Public Health Weekly Update next week because of the Independence Day holiday. Publication will resume on 10 July.



WELLNESS

- Alzheimer's supplements targeted by U.S. senator
- Cardiac device wearer should keep distance from smartphones
- Dangerous cervical lesions reduced since start of HPV vaccination
- Mexico's sugary drink tax makes a dent in consumption, study claims
- Mushroom used in Chinese medicine 'slows weight gain'
- Planned Parenthood rolls out STD testing apps
- Resiliency training program helps teens deal with today's stresses
- Study: Whooping cough resurgence due to vaccinated people not knowing they're infectious?
- Survey: Many doctors misunderstand key facets of opioid abuse

USAFRICOM

- Liberia: Bush meat trade roaring again despite Ebola ban
- Madagascar: Malaria
- Sierra Leone: Ebola outbreak - new cases in Freetown, Sierra Leone
- South Sudan government declares cholera outbreak
- Sudan facing measles outbreak with 2,500 cases nationwide – UN

USCENTCOM

- Pakistan: Amebic meningoencephalitis
- Pakistan heatwave: Death toll crosses 700 people in Sindh
- Saudi Arabia cites 3 more MERS cases in Hofuf
- Yemen: Thousands in strife-torn Yemen contract dengue

USEUCOM

- Azerbaijan pressured over sex-selective abortions
- United Kingdom: Syphilis and gonococcal disease - rising incidence, men who have sex with men

USNORTHCOM

- U.S.: Chemical safety bill advances
- U.S.: Hawaii becomes first U.S. state to raise smoking age to 21
- U.S.: Labels for edible marijuana often err on potency, study says
- U.S.: Massachusetts launches plan to counter heroin epidemic
- U.S.: More than two-thirds of Americans are overweight or obese
- U.S.: Prevalence of diagnosed and undiagnosed HIV Infection, 2008–2012
- U.S. Supreme Court upholds nationwide health care law subsidies
- U.S.: Teenager killed by plague in rural northern Colorado

USPACOM

- China: In China, illegal drugs are sold online in an unbridled market
- India: Toxic alcohol kills scores in India's Mumbai
- Malaysia: Country faces largest dengue epidemic ever
- South Korea reports 3 more cases, healthy birth after MERS
- South Korea: With more MERS cases, South Korea says outbreak at crossroads

Clinical
Considerations for
the Evaluation of Ill
Travelers from
Liberia to the United
States

CDC recommends that healthcare providers consider not only Ebola virus disease (EVD), but also other much more likely infectious diseases, including malaria, when evaluating ill travelers from Liberia to the United States.

For any patient returning from West Africa and presenting with non-specific signs and symptoms consistent with EVD, providers should use clinical judgment, taking into account the patient's epidemiological history for management, diagnostic testing, and treatment and coordinate healthcare as needed with the state or local health department to ensure that these patients get appropriate care without delay.



USSOUTHCOM

- [Brazil: Co-circulation of Zika and other viruses shows need for lab diagnosis](#)
- [Chikungunya outbreak in Americas grows by 24,000 cases](#)
- [Chile: Santiago declares smog emergency](#)
- [Peru: Rabies, human, vampire bat exposure](#)

U.S. MILITARY

Army lab didn't properly test method of killing *B anthracis*, report says

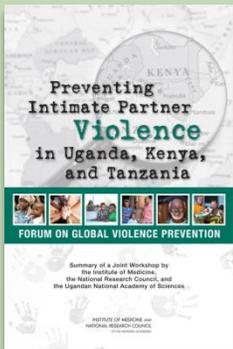
19 June - A US Army facility in Utah that mistakenly shipped live *Bacillus anthracis* to dozens of other labs over a 10-year period did not properly test its method for killing the bacterium, which causes anthrax, according to a *USA Today* story based on a government report. The story said the report, dated Jun 5, was written by lab inspectors with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). They cited the Dugway Proving Ground's Life Science Test Facility in Utah for three violations of federal regulations on working with potential bioterror agents and ordered the facility to immediately stop all shipments of "inactivated" anthrax specimens. Dugway scientists used cobalt-60 gamma radiation to kill *B anthracis* samples before shipping them to government or private labs for further research, the report said. But the lab's standard procedures for irradiating anthrax "did not account for the variable amounts of spores treated in the gamma cell irradiator," said the report. [CIDRAP News Scan](#) (first item)

Fort Detrick Environmental Health Lab welcomes back frogs for research initiative

22 June - It's been a few years since the U.S. Army Center for Environmental Health Research (USACEHR) at Fort Detrick has used frogs in their research, but scientists are excited to welcome them back in a new study aimed at finding an alternative to a potentially harmful chemical found in some water sources. "We're trying to answer a question from the U.S. Army Public Health Command. They want to know the difference between perchlorate and periodate and its effects on the thyroid," said David Trader, a research biologist at the U.S. Army Center for Environmental Health Research. Perchlorate is a chemical commonly used in fireworks, rocket fuel, propellants and ammunition. [Your 4 State](#)

The National Academies Press

Two new releases:



Medics to help Warrior Games athletes compete at highest levels

22 June – Professionals from the military’s medical school are on hand to support the athletes of the 2015 Department of Defense Warrior Games that began Friday, June 19, at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, and run through June 28. The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) in Bethesda, Maryland, is helping by coordinating care from physicians, physical therapists and medics who belong to the school and who are traveling to the games from other bases. They’ll support the approximately 270 athletes taking part in the adaptive sports event. [Health.mil](#)

The VA's broken promise to thousands of vets exposed to mustard gas

23 June - In secret chemical weapons experiments conducted during World War II, the U.S. military exposed thousands of American troops to mustard gas. When those experiments were formally declassified in the 1990s, the Department of Veterans Affairs made two promises: to locate about 4,000 men who were used in the most extreme tests, and to compensate those who had permanent injuries. Charlie Cavell at his home in Virginia. He is one of 60,000 World War II veterans exposed to mustard gas as part of secret experiments by the U.S. military. But the VA didn't uphold those promises, an NPR investigation has found. [NPR](#)

Wait lists grow as many more veterans seek care and funding falls far short

20 June - One year after outrage about long waiting lists for health care shook the Department of Veterans Affairs, the agency is facing a new crisis: The number of veterans on waiting lists of one month or more is now 50 percent higher than it was during the height of last year’s problems, department officials say. The department is also facing a nearly \$3 billion budget shortfall, which could affect care for many veterans. The agency is considering furloughs, hiring freezes and other significant moves to reduce the gap. [New York Times](#)

[top of page...](#)

GLOBAL

Celebrating first International Day, UN says yoga can boost public health and promote peaceful relations



21 June – The first International Day of Yoga is being celebrated around the world today following recognition by the United Nations General Assembly that the holistic benefits of the ancient Indian practice and its inherent compatibility with the principles and values of the UN. The inaugural Day has been marked this morning with an

outdoor event at UN Headquarters in New York that was webcast to thousands in New York's Times Square. [United Nations News Centre](#)

Chemicals considered safe alone may trigger cancer in combination

23 June - New research shows that 50 chemicals people are exposed to daily, all of which are considered non-carcinogenic, may cause cancer when combined. The series of studies which comprise the research, worked on by 174 scientists in 28 countries, considered links between 85 common chemicals thought not to cause cancer. Fifty were found to interact at ordinary environmental exposure levels to support cancer-related mechanisms. [UPI.com](#)

Chemists crowdsource new compounds to speed the fight against antibiotic resistance

23 June - Chemists around the world are being called on to donate samples of novel compounds they have synthesised to a crowdsourcing project that aims to find new antibiotics. The Community for Open Antimicrobial Drug Discovery (CO-ADD) was set up ... in response to the growing problem of antimicrobial resistance. ... [Academics] around the world generate thousands of new compounds every day, but many of these are never considered or investigated as drug candidates. ... CO-ADD is inviting groups to send them their compounds to be screened against various bacteria and fungi, including resistant 'superbugs'. The cost of screening will be met by CO-ADD, and researchers or institutions donating samples are free to commercialise or pursue any leads that are identified.

[Scientific American](#)

Climate change presents 'potentially catastrophic' risks to public health, Lancet Commission study finds

23 June - Climate change poses such a threat to public health it risks undoing the gains of the last 50 years, a major study has found. The Lancet Commission on climate change and health has found the threat continues to be underestimated, but that tackling it could be a

Classified Version of the Weekly Update

An Army Public Health Weekly Update is available with articles classified up to the **SECRET** level from the USAPHC SIPRNet site:

<http://phc.army.smil.mil>

Look under Hot Topics & Current Issues.

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

Links

[A-Z Index](#)

[About USAPHC](#)

[Army Public Health and Health Information Weekly Update Archives](#)

[Medical Surveillance Monthly Report](#)

[Medical Threat Briefings \(AKO\)](#)

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[USAPHC Resource Materials](#)

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huge opportunity to improve global health. ... "The direct effects of climate change include increased heat stress, floods, drought, and increased frequency of intense storms, with the indirect threatening population health through adverse changes in air pollution, the spread of disease, food insecurity and under-nutrition, displacement, and mental ill health." [ABC News](#)

India offers fellowship to Afghan doctors

23 June - India has offered a fellowship programme to the Afghan doctors to enable them provide better health services in the war-affected country. Around 12 doctors from Afghanistan are presently undergoing fellowship programme at Sir Ganga Ram Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research here. The Afghan doctors are receiving training in different specialties like cardiac, cosmetic and reconstruction surgery, chest medicine and liver transplant. [ANI News](#)

'Organs-on-chips' wins design award

23 June – Silicon chips that mimic the function of living human organs have won the Design of the Year award from the Design Museum in London. It is the first time an entry from the field of medicine has won the award. The museum said the project seems to "symbolise the essence of life and also happens to be beautiful to look at". Scientists at Harvard University's Wyss Institute placed human cells from different tissues on to the chips to study how the different organs worked. [BBC](#)

Pollution may age the brain

22 June - Exposure to air pollution may hasten brain aging, a new study has found. Researchers studied 1,403 women without dementia who were initially enrolled in a large health study from 1996 to 1998. They measured their brain volume with M.R.I. scans in 2005 and 2006, when the women were 71 to 89 years old. Using residential histories and air pollution data, they estimated their exposure to air pollution from 1999 to 2006. They used data recorded at monitoring sites on exposure to PM 2.5 — tiny particulate matter that easily penetrates the lungs. Each increase of 3.49 micrograms per cubic centimeter cumulative exposure to pollutants was associated with a 6.23 cubic centimeter decrease in white matter, the equivalent of one to two years of brain aging. [New York Times](#)

Researchers successfully target 'Achilles heel' of MERS virus

22 June – A Purdue University-led team of researchers studying the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, or MERS, have found molecules that shut down the activity of an essential enzyme in the virus and could lead the way to better treatments for those infected. The virus is in the international spotlight again as South Korea faces the largest MERS outbreak outside the Middle East. [EurekAlert](#)

Starvation timetable in a pandemic

19 June - Starvation is a real threat during an extended pandemic, but it is very hard to predict when and where it will start, researchers report in an unusual new study. ... Assuming a pandemic hit the United States in seasonal waves over at least two years and caused work absenteeism averaging 20 percent, rather than substantial deaths, almost no one would starve after three months, the researchers concluded. In a little over a year, however, half the country would be starving, said Andrew G. Huff, a specialist in food supply protection and co-author of the new study. [New York Times](#)

WHO agency says insecticides lindane and DDT linked to cancer

23 June – The insecticide lindane, once widely used in agriculture and to treat human lice and scabies, causes cancer and has been specifically linked to non-Hodgkin lymphoma, the World Health Organization said on Tuesday. The WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) also said that DDT, or dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane, probably causes cancer, with scientific evidence linking it to non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), testicular cancer and liver cancer. [Reuters](#)

[top of page...](#)

INFLUENZA

CDC: Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

- Pneumonia and Influenza (P&I) Mortality Surveillance: During week 23, 6.0% of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System were due to P&I. This percentage was below the epidemic threshold of 6.3% for week 23.
- U.S. Virologic Surveillance: Nationwide during week 23, 0.9% of patient visits reported through the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) were due to influenza-like illness (ILI). This percentage is below the national baseline of 2.0%.
[FluView](#)

Flu News Europe

This site is currently being blocked at the Army NETCOM level. We hope to get access again shortly. [Flu News Europe](#)

[top of page...](#)

VETERINARY/FOOD SAFETY

Congress gives President Obama fast-track authority for trade deals

24 June - A contentious trade bill passed the U.S. Senate on Wednesday and is headed to the president's desk. The Senate voted 60-38 to renew Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), which gives trade deals a "fast track" through Congress where lawmakers would only get an up-or-down vote without being able to add amendments. ... [Critics] say it could impact other realms such as finance, energy and food safety. Some food safety advocates are concerned TPP will result in the "harmonization" of food processing standards in different countries so that they're deemed equivalent, even though one country might actually have higher standards than another. [Food Safety News](#)

[top of page...](#)

WELLNESS

Alzheimer's supplements targeted by U.S. senator

19 June - A United States Senator this week raised concerns about dietary supplements that claim to protect against dementia and Alzheimer's disease and urged 15 major companies and retailers to explain why they sell dubious supplements. The senator, Claire McCaskill of Missouri, sent a letter this week to Amazon, Walmart, GNC and a dozen other top retailers and companies asking what, if anything, they are doing to prevent the sale of fraudulent and potentially dangerous supplements. [New York Times](#)

Cardiac device wearer should keep distance from smartphones

22 June – Cardiac device wearers should keep a safe distance from smartphones to avoid unwanted painful shocks or pauses in function, reveals research presented today at EHRA EUROPACE -- CARDIOSTIM 2015 by Dr. Carsten Lennerz. ... Lennerz said: 'Pacemakers can mistakenly detect electromagnetic interference (EMI) from smartphones as a cardiac signal, causing them to briefly stop working.' [EurekAlert](#)

Dangerous cervical lesions reduced since start of HPV vaccination

23 June - Abnormal changes in the cervix that can lead to cancer are less frequent in young women since the introduction of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines, a new study suggests. But tests to look for these changes are also being done less often in women age 21 and younger, which could account for at least some of the decline in "cervical lesions," the researchers point out. "The decreases in high grade lesions are most likely due to a combination of decreased screening and receipt of HPV vaccine in this population of young women," said study leader Susan Hariri of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. [Reuters](#)

Mexico's sugary drink tax makes a dent in consumption, study claims

19 June - ... Mexico is one of only a few countries in the world that have managed to pass and implement such a tax [on sugary drinks]. (France has done it, too, and Chile is working on it.) In January 2014, the price of all sodas and other sugary drinks in Mexico went up by 1 peso (about 7 cents) per liter — about a 10 percent tax. ... Now, a study ... suggests that the tax is working. To be clear, the [results](#), which were released Wednesday, are highly preliminary. ... But according to the researchers, who analyzed data on household consumption in 53 Mexican cities, purchases of sugary beverages dropped 6 percent on average in 2014 compared with pretax trends. And by December 2014, they'd gone down by 12 percent, compared with previous years. [NPR](#)

Mushroom used in Chinese medicine 'slows weight gain'

24 June - A mushroom used for centuries in Chinese medicine reduces weight gain in animals, say researchers in Taiwan. The study, published in *Nature Communications*, suggested *Ganoderma lucidum* slowed weight gain by altering bacteria in the gut. The researchers suggested the mushroom could eventually be used in the treatment of obesity. Experts said the science was good, but putting mushroom extract in cans of cola would not help people lose weight. [BBC News](#)

Planned Parenthood rolls out STD testing apps

22 June - Planned Parenthood has launched mobile apps that let users in California, Minnesota and Washington state request a home lab kits that tests for two of the most common sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Residents of those states can download Planned Parenthood Direct through Apple or Android app stores and order a kit to test for chlamydia and gonorrhea. Downloading the app is free, but the test kit costs \$149; users pay through the app with a credit or debit card. Test kits arrive in discreet packaging and include simple instructions for use. Users then send a urine sample to Planned Parenthood labs and receive their results, positive or negative, via the app. In the meantime, they can message doctors and nurses with questions. [Reuters](#)

Resiliency training program helps teens deal with today's stresses

22 June – Amid reports that rank today's teens as the most stressed generation in the country, a new study offers hope for helping them effectively manage stress and build long-term resiliency. A pilot study... describes how a stress-reduction/resiliency-building curriculum developed by the Benson-Henry Institute (BHI) at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) helped a group of Boston-area high school students significantly reduce their anxiety levels, increase productivity and effectively manage stress over time. [EurekAlert](#)

Study: Whooping cough resurgence due to vaccinated people not knowing they're infectious?

24 June - Whooping cough has made an astonishing comeback, with 2012 seeing nearly 50,000 infections in the U.S. (the most since 1955), and a death rate in infants three times that of the rest of the population. The dramatic resurgence has puzzled public health officials, who have pointed to the waning effectiveness of the current vaccine and growing anti-vaccine sentiment as the most likely culprits. ... [New] research points to a different, but related, source of the outbreak -- vaccinated people who are infectious but who do not display the symptoms of whooping cough, suggesting that the number of people transmitting without symptoms may be many times greater than those transmitting with symptoms. [EurekAlert!](#)

Survey: Many doctors misunderstand key facets of opioid abuse

23 June - Many primary care physicians – the top prescribers of prescription pain pills in the United States – don't understand basic facts about how people may abuse the drugs or how addictive different formulations of the medications can be, new Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health research suggests. This lack of understanding may be contributing to the ongoing epidemic of prescription opioid abuse and addiction in the U.S. ... [Researchers] found that nearly half of the internists, family physicians and general practitioners surveyed incorrectly thought that abuse-deterrent pills ... were actually less addictive than their standard counterparts. ... One-third of the doctors erroneously said they believed that most prescription drug abuse is by means other than swallowing the pills as intended. [Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health News](#)

[top of page...](#)

Liberia: Bush meat trade roaring again despite Ebola ban



24 June – 'Liberia doesn't have Ebola any more so we should be allowed to eat bush meat again.' 'We've been eating it without any problem for generations.' These are common refrains in Liberian markets, where the trade in bush meat, a known source of the Ebola virus, has picked up once again. As Liberia approaches its

two-month mark of being Ebola-free on 9 July, complacency has set in. ... The Liberian government officially banned the hunting and sale of bush meat in July 2014. The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) said anyone caught with it would be prosecuted and could face time in prison. For a while, the ban worked. People were too afraid of Ebola to consume bush meat and sales plummeted. But now, that fear is gone and customers and vendors are defying the law with growing confidence. [IRIN](#)

Madagascar: Malaria

22 June - Between January and the end of May [2015] the malaria epidemic hit 212 923 people; 187 deaths are recorded in health facilities in the country; 31 districts had their positivity rate increase during the epidemiological season. Dr Arsene Ratsimbasoa, Director NMCP [National Malaria Control Program] explains: "remoteness of areas causing difficulty to the supply of medicines, lack of sanitary training forcing villagers to treat the disease their own way, and inadequate medication for a period, exploded malaria in some localities.

[ProMED-mail](#)

Sierra Leone: Ebola outbreak - new cases in Freetown, Sierra Leone

23 June - Two new cases of Ebola have been recorded in the Sierra Leone capital Freetown, weeks after the city was thought to be free of the disease. Health officials say there are fears of further infections as the cases occurred in a densely populated slum. Sierra Leone's National Ebola Response Centre said there was great concern because all Ebola quarantine facilities in Freetown had been closed. ... The latest cases were found in the Freetown slum of Magazine. The north of Sierra Leone continues to be affected by Ebola, as does neighbouring Guinea. Liberia, the other country affected by the recent outbreak, was declared Ebola free in May after 42 days without a new case. [Al Jazeera](#)

South Sudan government declares cholera outbreak

23 June - South Sudan's government has declared cholera outbreak in the capital city, where at least 18 people died and 171 cases were confirmed. "After subjecting those [suspected] cases to analysis ... we confirm beyond doubt that there is an outbreak of

cholera in Juba," Health Minister Dr Riek Gai Kok told journalists in Juba on Tuesday. ... World Health Organization guidelines indicate that an outbreak should be declared after 10 to 20 confirmed cases. The health minister was reluctant to explain why the government waited for three weeks before going public. [Al Jazeera](#)

Sudan facing measles outbreak with 2,500 cases nationwide – UN

23 June - Sudan is facing a huge nationwide outbreak of measles, with at least 2,500 confirmed cases so far this year, mostly children, and 38 deaths due to the disease, the United Nations said Monday. The number of cases reported up to June in 17 of Sudan's 18 states is more than four times the figure for the whole of last year. [Manila Times](#)

[top of page...](#)

USCENTCOM

Pakistan: Amebic meningoencephalitis

22 June - Karachi health officials have reported the 8th case and fatality due to infection with the parasite *Naegleria fowleri* late last week, according to a Pakistan news source. The adult male died at a private hospital on Wednesday [17 Jun 2015] and it is believed he contracted the amoeba via domestic water use. Director Health Karachi Dr Zafar Ejaz said, "There is no history that the deceased had gone for swimming or outside the area. Water tanks should be kept clean and citizens should at least use boiled and chlorinated water for washing their nose. [ProMED-mail](#)

Pakistan heatwave: Death toll crosses 700 people in Sindh

24 June - The death toll from an ongoing heatwave in Pakistan's southern Sindh province has passed 700, local media said, as mortuaries reached capacity. Dawn newspaper said at least 744 people had died in Karachi and 38 in other areas, citing a government official. The Edhi Welfare Organisation told the AFP news agency that their morgues had received hundreds of corpses and were now full. Officials have been criticised for not doing enough to tackle the crisis. ... On Tuesday as temperatures reached 45C (113F), Pakistan's PM Nawaz Sharif called for emergency measures and the army was deploying to help set up heat stroke centres. There is anger among local residents at the authorities because power cuts have restricted the use of air-conditioning units and fans, correspondents say. Matters have been made worse by the widespread abstention from water during daylight hours during the fasting month of Ramadan. [BBC News](#)

Saudi Arabia cites 3 more MERS cases in Hofuf

22 June - An ongoing trickle of MERS cases in the Saudi Arabian city of Hofuf continued with three more in the past few days, and the World Health Organization (WHO) said the outbreak there involves two hospitals. In an update late on Jun 19, the Saudi Ministry of Health (MOH) reported two MERS-CoV (Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus) cases, one in a 52-year-old Saudi man in stable condition and the other in a 61-year-old Saudi woman in critical condition. Neither one is a healthcare worker, but officials were investigating whether they had contact with other MERS patients in a hospital or elsewhere.

[CIDRAP](#)

Yemen: Thousands in strife-torn Yemen contract dengue

19 June - At least 5,000 people in war-torn southern Yemen have been diagnosed as having dengue fever, the Associated Press (AP) reported yesterday. The top health ministry official in the southern city of Aden, al-Khadr Al-Aswar, put the number of people infected with the mosquito-borne virus at 5,000 or more. The World Health Organization (WHO) said last week that at least 3,000 suspected dengue cases have been reported since March in several provinces, with 3 people dying from their illness. Al-Aswar said that mountains of uncollected garbage, as well as untreated sewage and heat, have contributed to disease spread. [CIDRAP News Scan](#) (fifth item)

[top of page...](#)

USEUCOM

Azerbaijan pressured over sex-selective abortions

22 June - Azerbaijan has one of the highest selective abortion rates in the world, according to government figures, with many Azeri women choosing or being pressured into aborting baby girls. As the largest country in the Caucasus region, Azerbaijan in 2014 had ratio of girls to boys of 100:115. With the inaugural European Games taking place in the country's capital, Baku, increasing pressure is on Azerbaijan to address human rights and social issues.

[Al Jazeera](#)

United Kingdom: Syphilis and gonococcal disease - rising incidence, men who have sex with men

23 June - Cases of syphilis among men who have sex with men [MSM] have risen by nearly half in the past year [2014], according to figures released by Public Health England [PHE]. The body released a report today [23 Jun 2015] that shows "the impact of STIs [sexually transmitted infections] remains greatest in young heterosexuals under the age of 25 years and in men who have sex with men."... PHE notes there have been "large increases in STI

diagnoses were seen in MSM, including a 46 percent increase in syphilis and a 32 percent increase in gonorrhoea. High levels of condomless sex probably account for most of this rise, although better detection of gonorrhoea may have contributed." [ProMED-mail](#)

[top of page...](#)

USNORTHCOM

U.S.: Chemical safety bill advances

23 June - The House on Tuesday easily passed a measure that would make the first major changes in 39 years to a law intended to protect people from exposure to toxic chemicals. The House voted. 398 to 1, to pass a bill designed to update and strengthen the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act, which has been criticized as outdated and toothless by environmental advocates and the chemical industry. The Senate is expected to take up a companion bill next month. The bills would require the Environmental Protection Agency to begin studying the health effects of about 64,000 chemicals that are used in commerce. But public health advocates complain that the pace of study would be too slow. [New York Times](#)

U.S.: Hawaii becomes first U.S. state to raise smoking age to 21

20 June – Hawaii's governor on Friday signed a bill raising the legal smoking age statewide to 21, the first U.S. state to do so. The law takes effect on Jan. 1, 2016, and will also ban the sale, purchase or use of electronic cigarettes for those under the age of 21. "Raising the minimum age as part of our comprehensive tobacco control efforts will help reduce tobacco use among our youth and increase the likelihood that our keiki (children) will grow up to be tobacco-free," Governor David Ige said in a statement. [Reuters](#)

U.S.: Labels for edible marijuana often err on potency, study says

23 June - An analysis of 75 edible marijuana products sold to patients in Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles found that labels on just 17 percent accurately described their levels of THC, the main psychoactive ingredient, researchers reported Tuesday. Sixty percent of the products had less THC than their packages advertised, while 23 percent of them had more THC than claimed. ... "What we have now in this country is an unregulated medical marijuana industry, due to conflicts between state and federal laws," Dr. Abrams said. [New York Times](#)

U.S.: Massachusetts launches plan to counter heroin epidemic

22 June – Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker unveiled a \$27 million plan on Monday to increase the state's capacity to treat drug addicts and reduce the stigma around addiction, as the United States battles a surge in heroin and opioid use. "Opioid abuse is a public health epidemic," said Baker at a press conference. "The solution to eradicating opioids is not a one-size-fits-all approach, and will require all of us to rethink the way we treat addiction." [Reuters](#)

U.S.: More than two-thirds of Americans are overweight or obese

23 June - More than two-thirds of women and three-fourths of men in the United States are now either overweight or obese, according to a new study. Researchers analyzed data gathered from 2007 through 2012 in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), which included more than 15,000 men and women age 25 and older. The researchers estimated that nearly 40 percent of men and nearly 30 percent of women were overweight, and about 35 percent of men and nearly 37 percent of women were obese. [Fox News](#)

U.S.: Prevalence of diagnosed and undiagnosed HIV Infection, 2008–2012

26 June - Persons unaware of their human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection contribute nearly one third of ongoing transmission in the United States (1). Among the estimated 1.2 million persons living with HIV in the United States in 2011, 14% had undiagnosed infections (2). To accelerate progress toward reducing undiagnosed HIV infection, CDC and its partners have pursued an approach that includes expanding HIV testing in communities with high HIV infection rates (3). To measure the prevalence of diagnosed and undiagnosed HIV infection for the 50 states and the District of Columbia (DC), CDC analyzed data from the National HIV Surveillance System...These data demonstrate the need for interventions and public health strategies to reduce the prevalence of undiagnosed HIV infection. Because the percentage of persons with undiagnosed HIV varies by geographic area, efforts tailored to each area's unique circumstances might be needed to increase the percentage of persons aware of their infection. [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#)

U.S. Supreme Court upholds nationwide health care law subsidies

25 June - The Supreme Court has upheld the nationwide tax subsidies under President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, in a ruling that preserves health insurance for millions of Americans. The justices said in a 6-3 ruling Thursday that the subsidies that 8.7 million

people currently receive to make insurance affordable do not depend on where they live, under the 2010 health care law. [VOA](#)

U.S.: Teenager killed by plague in rural northern Colorado

22 June - A teenager in rural northern Colorado has died from a rare form of plague that he may have contracted from fleas on a dead rodent or other animal, health officials have said. The 16-year-old from the Cherokee Park area, who was not named, died on June 8 but plague was only recently confirmed as the cause, the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment said in a statement. ... Department spokesman Katie O'Donnell said on Monday officials had not been alerted to any new cases. [Reuters](#)

[top of page...](#)

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China: In China, illegal drugs are sold online in an unbridled market

21 June - Ordering illegal drugs from [China](#) is as easy as typing on a keyboard. ... In a country that has perfected the art of Internet censorship, the open online drug market is just the most blatant example of what international law enforcement officials say is China's reluctance to take action as it has emerged as a major player in the global supply chain for synthetic drugs. While China says it has made thousands of arrests and "joined hands" with foreign law enforcement agencies, officials from several countries say Chinese authorities have shown little interest in seriously combating what they see as the drug problems of other countries. [New York Times](#)

India: Toxic alcohol kills scores in India's Mumbai

20 June - The death toll from drinking toxic alcohol in a Mumbai slum climbed to 90 in the worst incident of its kind in more than a decade, police said. Deputy police commissioner in the western Indian city, Dhananjay Kulkarni, said it was possible that the number of dead from drinking the illicit moonshine could reach three figures. ... Deaths from illegally brewed alcohol are common in India because the poor cannot afford licensed liquor. Illicit alcohol is often spiked with chemicals such as pesticides to increase its potency. [Al Jazeera](#)

Malaysia: Country faces largest dengue epidemic ever

24 June - The country is probably facing the largest dengue epidemic ever, with over 40,000 cases and 157 deaths reported since January this year. Health Minister S. Subramaniam said the number was staggering when compared to what was reported during the same period

last year. "The number of deaths has doubled this year as compared to the same period last year, and 30 per cent more cases have been reported," he told reporters after attending the breaking of fast with the media here today. [Free Malaysia Today](#)

South Korea reports 3 more cases, healthy birth after MERS

23 June - South Korean health officials reported three more MERS-CoV infections today, lifting the total to 175 cases, and said a 39-year woman who just recovered from her illness safely gave birth to a baby boy. In related developments, experts from three health groups yesterday said South Korea's experience and the continued threat of imported cases is a reminder that US facilities should shore up their infection control practices. They also recommended key preparedness steps so the country doesn't repeat some of the stumbles that occurred in the Ebola outbreak. [CIDRAP](#)

South Korea: With more MERS cases, South Korea says outbreak at crossroads

24 June - South Korea's health ministry, which reported four new cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) on Wednesday, said the outbreak was at a crossroads, backing off from its earlier view that the spread of the often-deadly virus had leveled off. The more guarded assessment came as the government extended the partial shutdown of Samsung Medical Center in Seoul, which had been due to end on Wednesday. About half the 179 infections in the country have been traced to the prestigious hospital, including some of this week's new cases. "We are at a crossroads, whether this is going to spread further or not," Kwon Deok-cheol, the health ministry's chief policy official, told a news briefing. [Reuters](#)

[top of page...](#)

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Brazil: Co-circulation of Zika and other viruses shows need for lab diagnosis

19 June - A new report on the diagnosis of Zika virus infection during a recent outbreak of viral illnesses in Brazil points up the need for lab studies to distinguish the infection from others that cause similar symptoms, such as dengue. Zika cases were reported in Brazil in May, marking the virus's first documented appearance in the Americas. Like dengue and chikungunya viruses, Zika is spread by *Aedes* mosquitoes, and it causes an illness similar to dengue, but generally milder. [CIDRAP News Scan](#) (fourth item)

Chikungunya outbreak in Americas grows by 24,000 cases

22 June - The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) late last week reported 24,163 new chikungunya cases over a 2-week span, bringing the outbreak total in the Americas to 1,525,436 cases. As has been the case for weeks, the increase has been largely fueled by new cases reported in Colombia. The South American country reported 19,108 cases, for a total of 263,785. El Salvador had the next-largest increase, with 3,339 new cases, for a total of 14,082. [CIDRAP News Scan](#) (second item)

Chile: Santiago declares smog emergency

22 June – Authorities in Chile's capital Santiago have imposed emergency measures amid rising pollution. According to city officials, pollution has reached a "critical level". Under the measures, around 40% of cars with a catalyst and 80% of those without are banned from the streets from 07:30 until 21:00 on Monday. This June has been the driest since 1968 and the lack of rain has contributed to the poor air quality in the capital, officials say. [BBC](#)

Peru: Rabies, human, vampire bat exposure

24 June - The Peruvian Ministry of Health (MoH) confirmed that 3 children died because of wild rabies in Napo District, Maynas Province, Loreto region, after being bitten by vampire bats. The 1st case occurred in a 9-year old girl who died 29 May 2015; the 2nd case was a 3-year old girl who died 12 Jun; and the last case was a boy who recently passed away. All infected children lived in Soledad native community. [ProMED-mail](#)

[top of page...](#)

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