

**USACHPPM**  
**HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO) UPDATE**

18 July 2003

The HIO Update provides information regarding global medical and veterinary issues of interest to the United States (US) Army. The update does not attempt to analyze the information regarding potential strategic or tactical impact to the US Army and as such, should not be regarded as a medical intelligence product. Medical intelligence products are available at <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/>. The information in the HIO Update should provide an increased awareness of current and emerging health-related issues.

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## HOT TOPICS

### A Better Mousetrap Is Built, Detecting Deadly Bacteria

11 July – The New York Times reported taking a biological approach toward detecting biological weapons, scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have genetically engineered white blood cells from mice to light up when they come into contact with deadly bacteria or viruses. The researchers said they had already developed cells that can detect a dozen different pathogens, including [smallpox](#), [anthrax](#), [plague](#) and [equine encephalitis](#). While fairly quick, accurate sensors exist for chemical weapons like [mustard gas](#) or [sarin](#), reliable detectors of biological weapons have lagged. Accurate systems are slow, bulky and expensive, while the quick tests are prone to "false positives," finding danger where none exists. [View Article](#)

### Cadmium Mimics Effects of Estrogen

14 July – New Scientist reported [cadmium](#) is astonishingly good at mimicking the effects of the female sex hormone estrogen, new research on rats has revealed. The discovery raises concerns that the metal, and others like it, could increase the risk of illnesses like breast cancer in people. Cadmium is widely used in batteries, and is present in cigarette smoke and sewage sludge spread on agricultural land. It is best known for obvious toxic effects on the liver and kidneys. But new research by Mary Beth Martin's team at Georgetown University in Washington DC shows that, at much lower doses, cadmium can cause very similar effects as estrogen. Martin gave cadmium to female rats whose ovaries had been removed, so they could not make estrogen themselves. The animals received doses comparable to the level set by the World Health Organization as a tolerable weekly intake for people. The results were unexpectedly striking, with the effects of the cadmium appearing almost identical to those of estrogen. [View Report](#)

### Fight Cancer by Fighting Fat

11 July — MSNBC News reported a new study of more than 900,000 American adults reports that cancer is related to excess weight. After following people for 16 years, researchers estimate that current patterns of overweight and obesity in the United States could account for 14 percent of all cancer deaths in men and 20 percent of those in women. This research, reported in the

New England Journal of Medicine, demonstrates that as our weight increases beyond a healthy range, so does our risk of many types of cancer. Looking at the overall risk of cancer death, the lowest level of obesity raises risk nine percent in men and 23 percent in women. More severe obesity raises that risk much higher: 20 to 52 percent in men and 32 to 62 percent in women.

[View Article](#)

## Scientists Find Out How Anthrax Hits Immune System

16 July – Reuters reported scientists have discovered how [anthrax](#) evades the immune system, a discovery that could lead to more effective treatments against the infectious disease. Lethal factor, one of three poisonous proteins in the bacterium, disables dendritic cells -- which form a crucial part of the immune system -- so they cannot launch an attack against the anthrax microbe. Lethal factor and two other toxins, protective antigen and edema factor, increase the deadly potency of anthrax, which killed five people infected by tainted letters in a bioterrorism scare in the United States nearly two years ago. The study was published in the science magazine Nature. [View Article](#)

## Warnings: Increasing the Odds of Heart Trouble

15 July -The New York Times reported heart experts would like doctors and patients to stop focusing just on bad cholesterol and start thinking about "metabolic syndrome," a cluster of warning signs that new research shows is far more accurate in predicting the risk of [diabetes](#) and [heart disease](#). Under recently revised and simplified guidelines, patients are considered to have metabolic syndrome if they have three of the following five conditions: abdominal obesity; high levels of triglycerides, a fatlike substance in the blood; low levels of good cholesterol; high blood sugar levels; and high blood pressure. In an article released yesterday in Circulation, a journal of the American Heart Association, researchers from the Glasgow Royal Infirmary applied those new guidelines to data collected on about 6,000 Scotsmen over five years. They found that those with metabolic syndrome were almost twice as likely to have an incident of heart disease, and more than three times as likely to develop diabetes as those who did not have the syndrome. Those odds worsened significantly for men with four or five of the symptoms. By contrast, measurements of L.D.L., the harmful form of cholesterol, were on average the same in men with metabolic syndrome and without. [View Article](#)

# USEUCOM

## Algeria Hit by Plague Outbreak

10 July – BBC News reported UN health officials are helping Algeria to investigate an outbreak of [plague](#) in the west of the country that has claimed at least one life. A team from the World Health Organization and other international bodies went to the Oran region after reports of plague emerged last month. Algeria's health ministry has announced 10 laboratory-confirmed cases to date and one probable case. France, the former colonial power that has a large ethnic Algerian community, has tightened sanitary controls at its ports to guard against contaminated rats and insects. The WHO said preliminary studies had been carried out but more work was needed to establish the source of the plague that has taken both bubonic and septicemic forms. Of the 10 confirmed cases, eight were of bubonic plague and two of the deadlier septicemic kind, one of which proved fatal. [View Article](#)

## Avian influenza: Crisis Over

15 July – ProMed reported on 15 July all restrictions imposed after outbreaks of [avian influenza](#) in the Netherlands will expire except in the surveillance zones around the outbreaks. On 16 July exports of live poultry, hatching eggs and fresh, unprocessed poultry manure and litter can restart from the whole country. Repopulation of the affected holdings is now taking place after "sentinel birds" demonstrate that the virus is not longer present in the holding. Restrictions in Belgium and the Land of North-Rhine Westphalia in Germany were lifted in June. The avian influenza crisis that started at the end of February with outbreaks in the Netherlands can now be considered as over. [View Report](#)

## EBRD Provides Funds to Make Chernobyl Safe

09 July – Reuters reported a European development bank agreed to provide Ukraine millions of dollars to build a new shield over Chernobyl, site of the world's worst civil nuclear disaster. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development said it would give the ex-Soviet state about \$85 million this year to stabilize the old "sarcophagus" covering the gaping hole in reactor No. 4, which some experts say is crumbling and leaking radiation into nearby towns and cities. And it said it would start funding the \$750 million project to kick-start work on a new arc to surround the reactor. Chernobyl closed in 2000, nearly 15 years after the reactor exploded, spewing a deadly cloud of radioactivity over Ukraine, neighboring Belarus, Russia and some of Western Europe and leaving a legacy of health problems in the ex-Soviet states. [View Article](#)

## England: Roadside Drugs Tests on the Way

09 July – Reuters reported police will be able to test drivers for drugs at the roadside if Parliament passes a bill as expected later this week, the Transport Department says. The Railway and Transport Safety Bill would give police the power to test a driver for substances from "soft" drugs like cannabis to opiates such as heroin if they suspect the motorist of having taken any, a transport department spokesman said. Police would have kits that can test for drugs using a sample of the driver's saliva or sweat. Currently, police can check a driver's alcohol level but motorists have the right to refuse a drug test. [View Article](#)

## Greece: Listeria in Cheese

11 July – CBS News reported Greece vowed to form a special "feta police" after three tons of the famous Greek product arrived in Norway tainted with [listeria](#). Agriculture Minister Giorgos Dris said that a cheese-control squad was needed to avoid further blows to the reputation of one of Greece's main exports. Listeria can cause serious illness in children, frail or elderly people, and those with weakened immune systems. Healthy individuals may suffer short-term symptoms such as high fever, headaches, stiffness and nausea. The infection can be especially serious among pregnant women, causing miscarriages or stillbirths. [View Article](#)

## Liberia: UNICEF Vaccinates Children And Women Despite War

13 July – IRIN News reported the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Liberia has ended a campaign to vaccinate 128,000 children under five years old and 230,000 women of childbearing age around the capital, Monrovia, despite the recent escalation in fighting between

government troops and rebels. Cyrille Niameogo, UNICEF Country Director for Liberia, told IRIN that the vaccination against [measles](#) and [tetanus](#) was carried out by staff who remained in Monrovia after UN agencies evacuated their international staff last month. UNICEF said only 32 registered doctors, 185 nurses, 120 physicians assistants and 42 trained nurses are available for the entire country in the public health sector. Nearly two thirds of the people are illiterate and 60 percent of children 3-18 years and 81 percent between 6-12 years are out of school. [View Article](#)

## Outbreak of Monkeypox in Republic of Congo Confirmed

10 July – ProMed reported the CDC Poxvirus Section in Atlanta has confirmed an outbreak of [monkeypox](#) in DR Congo (Impfondo). The epidemic was initially centered at the government hospital among close contacts of health-care staff that have ongoing exposure to patients with active lesions at the hospital. [View Report 1](#) A delegation from Congo's Ministry of Health & Ministry of Water and Forests, have visited the sites, interviewed and examined patients, took samples, and sent them to a lab in South Africa. They also transported the greater white-nose monkey that was kept as a pet at the index patient's house for testing in Brazzaville and/or South Africa. Radio spots have been aired, and the population is starting to realize some of the dangers of keeping/hunting/eating monkeys. The disease continues to spread however. 2 new suspected monkeypox patients just presented to church's clinic. They live in the same neighborhood as the government hospital. It's not clear yet whether they had any contact with previous patients or exotic animals. [View Report 2](#)

## Russia (Perm): High Incidence of Tick Bites and TBE

16 July – ProMed reported 23,000 people have suffered [tick bites](#) in the Perm region of Russia. According to the Sanitary-Epidemiologic Surveillance Center (SESC), 23,674 people were referred to the SESC laboratory to be investigated after tick bites, among them 5,853 children. For comparison, last year the total number of people affected did not exceed 20,000. This year, almost every tenth tick is infected. In total 494 people have been admitted to hospital under suspicion of tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) and 283 people under suspicion of borreliosis [Lyme disease]. [View Report](#)

# USCENTCOM

## Kenya: Poor Life Quality Blamed On Pollution

15 July – AllAfrica.com reported the quality of life within Lake Victoria region has greatly deteriorated due to pollution, a regional Task Force was told. The Task Force was told that pollution was partly to blame for spread of diseases within the lake region. A member of the task force said local industries and councils should be stopped from polluting the lake. [View Article](#)

# USNORTHCOM

## Arizona: Suspected Norovirus Outbreak

10 July – ProMed reported nearly 30 missionaries returning from the Navajo Reservation likely contracted a stomach virus in Arizona that caused them to be briefly quarantined in Pittsburgh after their flight from Phoenix landed on Sun 6 Jul 2003. Authorities speculated that the virus was a [norovirus](#), a member of the Caliciviridae, a family of common intestinal viruses. Noroviruses have caused havoc on Grand Canyon trips every year, and an outbreak last year killed an Ahwatukee teen and sickened more than 70 teen golfers during a tournament at a golf course in south Phoenix. While many of the passengers aboard US Air Flight 150 showed the classic symptoms of norovirus infection, paramedics checked all passengers at the Pittsburgh airport and pronounced them fit to continue traveling. [View Report](#)

## Colorado: Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome Cases now Total 31 with 15 Deaths

14 July – ProMed reported 2 Coloradans have been stricken with [Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome](#) so far in 2003, and one of them has died. A 22-year-old Adams County man died of the disease on Fri 11 Jul 2003. He had traveled through several western states shortly before he became ill, and state health officials do not believe he was exposed in Adams County. A 26-year-old Alamosa County farm worker tested positive for the disease on 27 May 2003, according to state health officials. He was admitted to hospital and is recovering. He was the 31st Coloradan to contract Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome. 15 (48 per cent) of the Colorado victims died. [View Report](#)

## Delaware: Legionnaires Disease

13 July – ProMed reported 12 cases of [Legionnaires' disease](#) have been reported in Delaware since 29 May 2003, health officials said. 2 people died from the disease. Dr. Maureen Dempsey, director of the Delaware Division of Public Health, said the cases do not appear to be related and there is no public health risk. But health officials will continue to investigate whether there is any connection because of the number of cases reported in a short time period, she said. The range for Legionnaires' cases in the state is 16 to 22 in any given year, Dempsey said. There was an average 13.8 cases per year in Delaware between 1995 and 2002, she said. [View Report](#)

## Exotic Newcastle Disease Update

14 July – ProMed reported [Exotic Newcastle disease](#) (END) was confirmed on 1 Oct 2002, in the state of California and is now in the final phase of total eradication. No new positive premises have been detected since 31 May 2003, and no new positive commercial premises have been detected since 26 Mar. APHIS is currently conducting END strategy meetings planning for final eradication and surveillance activities. Although all indicators show that END is nearing total eradication in the US, APHIS is still conducting an enhanced national END surveillance program throughout the US. In order to keep the epidemic under control, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has declared an extraordinary emergency for the states of

Arizona, California, Nevada, Texas, and New Mexico. These declarations allow USDA to apply federal authority within Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas. [View Report](#)

## First West Nile Virus Test for Patients Cleared

09 July – Reuters reported the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said on Wednesday it has approved the first test for doctors to give to patients they suspect have [West Nile virus](#). The test, made by Australian medical diagnostics company Panbio Ltd., can find antibodies to the virus in people who have severe symptoms such as meningitis or encephalitis. West Nile first appeared in the United States in 1999. It has now spread to virtually the entire country and parts of Canada, carried by birds. Mosquitoes that bite infected birds and then bite people can transmit the virus. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported the first West Nile case in a person for 2003 in South Carolina. [View Article](#)

## Health Officials Baffled by Rising Number of Legionnaires' Cases

12 July – The New York Times reported the number of reported cases of [Legionnaires' disease](#) has risen sharply this year, baffling federal and state health officials. The number of cases of legionellosis reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this year totaled 624 as of last week, compared with 436 for the corresponding period last year. In some regions of the country, the numbers are double or triple those reported at this time last year. Officials say that the cases appear to be random, and that they have not identified any specific outbreak or source of the bacteria that causes the disease. Among the questions officials are trying to answer is whether the increase in the prevalence of the disease is real, whether there might be problems with the urine antigen test used to diagnose most cases, or whether reporting simply has improved. [View Article](#)

## HHS to Expand Mobile Public Health Force

09 July – CIDRAP News reported the Bush administration has announced plans to expand and strengthen the Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corps, the nation's uniformed force of health professionals who can be mobilized to respond to health emergencies around the country. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson said his goal is to recruit more health professionals for the corps and to better equip them to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies. The HHS announcement, issued last week, said the plan calls for "the most sweeping transformation" of the corps since it was founded in 1889. [View Article](#)

## Mexico Declares West Nile Virus Emergency

14 July – Reuters reported the mosquito-borne [West Nile virus](#), which has killed hundreds of people in the United States since appearing in 1999, has reached Mexico and is spreading fast, health officials said. The government announced a state of emergency in the fight against the virus after a campaign to vaccinate horses failed to halt the spread of the disease, discovered in the state of Tabasco on May 16. There have been no human cases of West Nile reported in Mexico this year, and no indication at all that it is affecting the human population. The Mexican government's official gazette said West Nile has since appeared in animals in the states of Chihuahua, Tamaulipas, Coahuila, Veracruz, Quintana Roo and Yucatan. Mexican authorities have asked horse owners to vaccinate their animals and report any suspected cases of West Nile immediately. [View Article](#)

## Nine Quarantined in Texas as Precaution to SARS

11 July – Reuters reported nine people at Dyess Air Force Base in the Texas city of Abilene have been quarantined as a precaution for possible exposure to [SARS](#), but they do not appear to have the disease, an air base spokeswoman said. Some of the nine had shown some symptoms associated with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, such as fever and coughing and the group had passed through Toronto's airport the day after the city was removed from the World Health Organization's list of SARS-affected areas. The Canadian province of Ontario, where Toronto is located, was the only location outside of Asia on the WHO's list of SARS-affected areas, and the organization declared Toronto free of the deadly respiratory illness on July 2. The air base is located about 185 miles west of Dallas. Medical personnel are treating them as they have been quarantined at their homes since earlier this week, the spokeswoman said. [View Article](#)

## North Carolina: Bacterial Outbreak Grows in Gaston County

13 July – ProMed reported Gaston County health officials are urging parents and day-care centers to continue following guidelines issued to deter a contagious intestinal disease spread by contact with feces. The number of [shigellosis](#) cases in Gaston County is now 54 at 9 centers, according to Renee Clark, a county health department nursing supervisor. The total is nearly double the confirmed cases reported last week. Only 4 cases were confirmed countywide in 2002, Clark said. County health officials have urged day-care centers, where nearly all the cases likely have originated, to follow hand-washing and sanitizing guidelines. Nurses assigned to each center also are testing children's stool samples for the bacteria. [View Report](#)

## Perceptions about Bioterrorism Could Impair Nation's Response

14 July – Science Blog reported a new study has found that while a majority of health care professionals surveyed believe the United States is at a high or somewhat high risk of bioterrorism, the same professionals believe that their individual communities are at low risk of an attack. "It appears to be an it-can't-happen-to-me response," said Brooke Shadel, Ph.D., M.P.H., assistant professor of public health and associate director of the Center for the Study of Bioterrorism and Emerging Infections at Saint Louis University School of Public Health. "But here's the problem. If you perceive the risk is low in your community then you may not value training information and you may be less likely to seek out information or maintain current references. This low perception of risk may leave the professionals who are supposed to be on the frontlines of such an event unprepared, and that's our concern." [View Article](#)

## South Carolina: State Investigating Whooping Cough Outbreak

16 July – ProMed reported state health officials have reported more than 40 confirmed cases of [whooping cough](#) after an outbreak was first seen in Georgetown County 3 months ago. The state Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) said on Tuesday that there are 15 more probable cases of whooping cough, or pertussis. Over 300 people who have come in close contact with the patients have begun taking antibiotics as a preventive measure. Parents are urged to make sure children are up-to-date on required vaccinations, particularly for whooping cough. The first cases of the outbreak in Georgetown were seen in early May 2003 and continued into July. Related cases have been found in Horry, Williamsburg and Charleston counties. [View Report](#)

## Southeast: Eastern Equine Encephalitis Spreading Rapidly

16 July – ProMed reported the number of horses infected with [eastern equine encephalitis](#) (EEE) has tripled in the last 2 weeks in Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, health officials said on Tuesday. "We usually don't see this level of activity until late in the summer, so we're concerned," said Debbie Crane of North Carolina's health department. South Carolina has 45 horse cases of the disease, which is almost always fatal to unvaccinated horses. Georgia has reported 32 horse cases and 10 infected birds. North Carolina has reported 13 horse cases. EEE kills about 50 per cent of people who catch it. Health officials are urging people to be vigilant about the disease. [View Report](#)

## Study: U.S. Rate of Hypertension Rises in 1990s

08 July – Reuters reported almost one in three U.S. adults had [high blood pressure](#) at the end of the last decade, reversing a downward trend and raising another warning flag about Americans' health, researchers said. The prevalence of high blood pressure, which is a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease, rose to 29 percent among adults, up 4 percent since the last survey in 1988-1991 and halting the decline since 1960 in hypertension rates. Of the estimated 58.4 million hypertensive U.S. adults in 1999-2000, nearly one-third were unaware of their illness, wrote study authors Ihab Hajjar of the University of South Carolina, Columbia, and Theodore Kotchen of the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, based on their analysis of government data. [View Article](#)

## Surveillance for Acute Insecticide-Related Illness Associated with Mosquito-Control Efforts --- Nine States, 1999--2002

11 July – The CDC has released a report that summarizes investigations of illnesses associated with exposures to [insecticides](#) used during 1999--2002 to control mosquito populations in nine states (Arizona, California, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, New York, Oregon, Texas, and Washington) (estimated 2000 population: 118 million). The findings indicate that application of certain insecticides posed a low risk for acute, temporary health effects among persons in areas that were sprayed and among workers handling and applying insecticides. To reduce the risk for negative health effects, public health authorities should 1) provide public notice of application times and locations and appropriate advice about preventing exposures, 2) ensure that insecticide handlers and applicators meet state-mandated training and experience requirements to prevent insecticide exposure to themselves and the public, and 3) implement integrated pest management control strategies that emphasize mosquito larval control, reduction of mosquito breeding sites, and judicious use of insecticides to control adult mosquito populations. [View Report](#)

## Virginia: Tests Confirm Chesapeake Yearling Died of EEE

10 July- ProMed reported Laboratory tests confirmed a yearling in southern Chesapeake is the state's first horse to die in 2003 from [eastern equine encephalitis](#) (EEE). Its owner had vaccinated the horse, said Dr. John Sangenarino Jr., a veterinarian. The horse had not received a booster to the shot administered in early spring, Sangenarino said. Tests in sentinel chickens and a mosquito pool in Deep Creek and Western Branch were positive last week for EEE, a potentially fatal disease spread to humans, horses, and emus through the bite of an infected

mosquito. The mosquito becomes infected after biting an infected bird. Veterinarians say horses should be vaccinated for EEE at least twice a year. [View Report](#)

## USPACOM

### Australia: Total of Locally Acquired Cases of Dengue in Townsville Reaches 14

14 July – ProMed reported 2 more locally acquired dengue fever cases have been confirmed in the twin cities in the past week. This takes the number of locally acquired cases to 14 while the number of imported cases still stands at 7. This is Townsville's greatest number of [dengue fever](#) cases in 10 years. Last month the Townsville Bulletin reported that health authorities feared the city was heading towards a Cairns-type epidemic, with 12 cases having been confirmed at that time. The Tropical Public Health Unit said yesterday the low numbers had reduced any risk of the outbreak escalating. But if this pattern continued in low numbers until the warmer weather arrived, there was a risk of an explosion. [View Report](#)

### Bangkok: How to Handle Victims of WMD

08 July – The Bangkok Post reported more than 120 Thai medical personnel yesterday received the first ever US-sponsored training outside the United States on how to cope with casualties of weapons of mass destruction. The Thai Red Cross Society and the US Office of Anti-terrorism Assistance joined hands to organize a five-day training course for doctors, nurses, police and army officials to prepare them for possible terrorist attacks from [nuclear, chemical or biological weapons in](#) Thailand. They were trained in detection, identification and protection of such weapons, hospital management and how to handle the victims. [View Article](#)

### China Launches Sexual Health Website

11 July – BBC News reported China has launched what is believed to be the first website aimed at giving young Chinese people advice on sexual health. The interactive service, You and Me, is supported by the United Nations and aims to encourage young people to discuss openly their sexual relations and other sexual matters. Correspondents say most Chinese people have limited access to accurate information about sex, and the government is worried about the spread of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Leading experts on infectious diseases say China and India - the world's two most populous countries - are facing a potential AIDS disaster. Sexual activity outside marriage has increased and this has increased young people's vulnerability to [HIV and AIDS](#). China says it has at least a million people with AIDS, but the UN estimates this could reach 10 million by the end of the decade. Shared use of intravenous needles by drug users and infection through contaminated blood donations account for about three-quarters of current cases in China. The new website is supported by the non-profit organization Marie Stopes International China (MSIC). [View Article](#)

### Floods, Rains Spread Disease in India's Assam

13 July – Reuters reported [water-borne diseases](#) are attacking thousands of people forced to live in the open after heavy monsoon rains caused flooding in eastern India, officials said. Tens

of thousands of people are suffering from malaria and diarrhea in India's northeastern state of Assam, where surging river waters have made 400,000 people homeless. The floods so far in eastern India and neighboring Bangladesh have killed at least 250 people. Roughly another 400 people were killed when an overcrowded ferry capsized in a rain-swollen river in Bangladesh last week. [View Article](#)

## Encephalitis Kills Almost 150 Children in India

15 July – Reuters reported an outbreak of [encephalitis](#) -- an inflammation of the brain caused by a mosquito-borne virus -- has killed at least 146 children in India in the past two weeks, many because they were not treated in time. Hundreds of children are in hospitals and more suffering convulsions and high fever are being admitted every day in southern Andhra Pradesh state and neighboring Maharashtra. The outbreak has been severe because of the onset of the annual monsoon, which creates ample breeding ground for mosquitoes. [View Article](#)

## USSOUTHCOM

### Ash Rains Down on Montserrat

13 July – BBC News reported the dome of the volcano on Montserrat has collapsed, sending ash and rocks hurtling down onto the Caribbean island. The clouds of dust have spread across a wide area, causing flights to several Caribbean destinations to be cancelled. The explosions that rocked the Soufriere hills volcano sent ash up to 12,200 metres (40,000 feet) into the air. The debris fell mainly outside the "safe zone" to where most of the island's residents retreated after a 1995 eruption that devastated the British territory. There are no confirmed reports of injuries so far. However water and power supplies have been disrupted. [View Article](#)

### Costa Rica: 9 Cases of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever so Far in 2003

14 July – ProMed reported 2 new cases of [dengue hemorrhagic fever \(DHF\)](#) have been reported in Santa Cruz, Guanacaste. This brings the total of cases of DHF in 2003 to 9. In Santa Cruz about 80 cases of dengue are being seen per week. In the whole country, 3430 cases of dengue have been reported in 2003, including 9 of DHF. [View Report](#)

### Paraguay Finds Foot and Mouth Near Argentina, Bolivia

12 July – Reuters reported Paraguay has detected an outbreak of [foot-and-mouth disease](#) in a herd just miles from its northwestern borders with Argentina and Bolivia, health officials said on Saturday. Animal health service officials said 13 animals had tested positive for the disease in a herd at the Indian settlement of Pozo Hondo, 500 miles northwest of the capital Asuncion. The herd is about 1 mile across the border from Argentina and 4 miles from Bolivia. The infected animals were due to be destroyed. [View Article](#)

## Peru: Hepatitis D Virus-related Deaths of Children in Villa Rica

12 July – ProMed reported there is an outbreak of [hepatitis D](#) in the village of Cedropampa, Villa Rica-Peru. A total of 4 deaths have been reported, 3 of them children belonging to the same family. The other case was a 27-year-old man from Maine (Villa Rica). Villa Rica is a jungle-like area, endemic for viral hepatitis B, but there has been no previous report of hepatitis delta virus. Yellow fever, malaria, and listeriosis have been occasionally reported in this district. Currently, there are no data about the transmission of hepatitis delta virus to the first case. The Ministry of Health may declare an epidemiologic emergency for Villa Rica. The plan is: education about transmission, vaccination against hepatitis B virus for all the people living in Cedropampa (Hepatitis D is dependent on hepatitis B virus for replication), and serologic surveillance. [View Report](#)

Please contact the below-listed POC for suggested improvements and/or comments regarding this report. This report is also available on the USACHPPM website at <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/Hiupdate/>.

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