

USACHPPM
HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO) UPDATE

17 October 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

Bone Disease Worry for Former SARS Patients

10 October – Reuters reported dozens of former [SARS](#) patients in Hong Kong are suffering from bone degeneration, known as avascular necrosis, sources said, throwing the spotlight back on the controversial cocktail of drugs used to treat many patients during the epidemic. "A substantial number of cases have already been proven. We are now trying to ascertain the severity," said Leung Ping-chung, an orthopedics specialist at the Prince of Wales Hospital, where the first wave of SARS infections in Hong Kong were treated. Almost all SARS patients in Hong Kong were treated with the anti-viral drug ribavirin and steroids earlier this year, but many health experts said at the time the efficacy of the combination was unproven and could lead to serious side-effects. [View Article](#)

Bugs Boost Cold War Clean-up

13 October – The journal Nature reported uranium-contaminated groundwater can be cleaned up by resident microbes, say microbiologists. Cold War-era uranium processing has left contaminated sites across the United States and the world. Traditional pump-and-treat methods can take decades and expose workers to toxic levels of uranium. Now a better solution is being proposed by Robert Anderson, of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and his colleagues. Anderson's team has found a way to encourage microbes called Geobacter to convert soluble uranium to insoluble uraninite. Uraninite stays put instead of mixing with water used for drinking or irrigation....The bacteria turn up in sediments across the United States, but usually in small quantities. Anderson's team stimulated the bugs to multiply in a contaminated underground aquifer in Colorado by injecting acetate, a favorite nutrient. Within days the Geobacter population boomed, and soluble uranium levels began to drop. After 50 days, 70% of the uranium had been converted into uraninite. [View Article](#)

Genes May Make Smoking Stick

10 October – CBS News reported researchers from the Tobacco Use Research Center at the University of Pennsylvania may have found part of the answer to why some people stop smoking cold turkey and never look back, while others struggle to quit again and again. In a study published in the October issue of Health Psychology, 418 people were studied who were enrolled in a clinical trial to test the effectiveness of the antidepressant bupropion for smoking

cessation. The study participants either received a placebo or bupropion for 10 weeks and behavioral counseling. Blood samples were taken from all of the participants for genetic analysis. Smoking status was assessed at the end of the 10 weeks and then again after six months. People who had particular variants of a dopamine transporter gene (SLC6A3) and a dopamine receptor gene (DRD2) were more successful at staying off cigarettes and avoiding relapse than people who didn't have those variants. [View Article](#)

Health Care Staff Shortages to Tuberculosis Treatment

13 October – AllAfrica.com reported a worldwide shortage of health care workers and high crime in some areas of greatest medical need are obstructing efforts to control [tuberculosis \(TB\)](#) by 2005, the United Nations World Health Organization said in a report. Staff recruitment and retainment are difficult because of low pay, unhealthy and often unsafe work environments, poor career prospects and HIV-related worker illnesses. These are factors restricting progress towards the goal of detecting 70 per cent of cases and curing 85 per cent of the people diagnosed by the target date, WHO said. Of the 22 high-burden countries (HBCs) that account for 4 out of 5 of the world's TB cases, 17 have reported that their efforts to reach the 2005 targets are being hampered by staffing problems. The HBCs include China, India, Indonesia and Nigeria. [View Article](#)

High Dairy Intake Linked to Testicular Cancer Risk

13 October – Reuters reported Canadian men who consume comparatively high amounts of dairy products have an increased risk of [testicular cancer](#), according to a new study. "Although testicular cancer is a relatively rare lesion, accounting for only 1.1% of all malignant neoplasms in males in Canada, it is the most common cancer among Canadian men 20 to 45 years of age," Dr. Michael J. Garner, of the University of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, and others write in the International Journal of Cancer. The researchers obtained dietary information from 601 patients with testicular cancer and 744 similar men without cancer. They used a 69-item food-frequency questionnaire to collect data on 17 food groups, 15 nutrients, and 4 individual foods. Subjects who consumed high levels of dairy products had an increased risk of testicular cancer. In particular, a high intake of cheese was tied to an 87 percent higher likelihood of developing testicular cancer. Luncheon meat intake was also associated significantly with testicular cancer risk in the total sample, Garner's team found. [View article](#)

Marijuana Smoking Damages Sperm

13 October – BBC News reported men who smoke marijuana frequently damage their fertility in several different ways, research suggests. Scientists at Buffalo University found regular smokers had significantly less seminal fluid, and a lower sperm count. Their sperm were also more likely to swim too fast too early, leading to burn-out before they reach the egg. [View Article](#)

USEUCOM

Cases of a Virulent Stomach Bug have Rocketed in Scotland, Leaving Scientists Baffled.

14 October – ProMed reported in the past month more than 160 confirmed samples of [cryptosporidium](#) infection have been reported to Scotland's main infectious disease center, more than 3 times the number in the same period in previous years. Cases have been reported from all 12 mainland NHS board areas. Some boards have reported as much as 44 percent of this year's identifications during this 4-week period. SCIEH is aware of one recent outbreak associated with a swimming pool in the Greater Glasgow area, but this does not account for most of the present rise, the reason for which remains unknown. [View Report](#)

Northeast France: Increased Number of Cases of Hantavirus Infection in 2003

09 October – ProMed reported a total 104 cases of [hantavirus infection](#) resulting in hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome or HFRS, have been reported by the Centre National de Reference (CNR) des Fievres Hemorragiques Virales (the National Reference Center for Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers) during the period from the end of December 2002 to the end of August 2003. This number is higher than the number of cases observed for the preceding 3 years; during the whole of 2002 only 61 cases of infection were observed. [View Report](#)

Poliomyelitis in West Africa: Togo, Burkina Faso and Ghana

09 October – WHO reported a case of [poliomyelitis](#) due to wild poliovirus was confirmed in Togo, with date of onset 22 July 2003. This case, as well as cases reported in 2003 from Burkina Faso and Ghana, were found to be due to wild poliovirus type 1 that is genetically related to a lineage of wild poliovirus circulating in northern Nigeria and southern Niger. To date in 2003, 1 case of poliomyelitis following importation of wild poliovirus has been reported in Togo, 1 case in Burkina Faso, and 6 cases in Ghana. For Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo, the appearance of cases in 2003 follow long periods without isolation of wild poliovirus, in the presence of high-quality surveillance. Burkina Faso has been polio-free since 2001 with the exception of one case following importation of wild poliovirus in 2002. Ghana has been polio-free since 2001. Togo has been polio-free since 2000. Given the close proximity to Nigeria, one of the three main poliovirus reservoirs in the world, the ongoing risk of importations remains high. [View Article](#)

Russia: Human Dirofilariasis Diagnosed in Orenburg Province

12 October – ProMed reported the 1st human case of [dirofilariasis](#) was registered in Orenburg [bordering Northern Kazakhstan], according to the OrinNews newspaper. The dog is the main host of *Dirofilaria*, and the infection can be transmitted to humans through mosquito bites. Mosquitoes pierce the skin, and larvae of the parasite, after insertion, grow into worms about as thick as a thread, up to several centimeters in length. A furuncle (purulent inflammation of a hair follicle in the skin) develops and needs to be removed surgically. [View Report](#)

Russia: Increased Prevalence of Animal Rabies in Moscow Region

12 October – ProMed reported the epizootic and epidemiological situation with regard to animal [rabies](#) has worsened considerably in Moscow. According to the online newspaper "Podmoskoviye" [Today], cases of animal rabies have been recorded in 22 areas of suburban Moscow. The worst affected regions are the Mojayskiy, Podolskiy, and Ruzskiy regions. Simultaneously, the number of people treated for bites from domestic and street animals has also increased. [View Report](#)

Russia: Meningitis Epidemic Warning in Moscow

08 October – ProMed reported pre-school and elementary school children in Moscow will be vaccinated because of the increase in [viral meningitis](#) cases, according to the Moscow Center for Sanitary Epidemiological Surveillance. According to an epidemiologist, there were 230 cases of meningitis in Moscow during the last 8 months. This is almost 2 times more than average but is less than the epidemic threshold. [View Report](#)

Russia: Outbreak of Meningitis Recorded in Novodvinsk (Arkhangelsk)

08 October – ProMed reported 18 cases of enteroviral infection were registered in Novodvinsk during the period Wed 3 Sep to Mon 29 Sep 2003. 12 cases of [serous meningitis](#) were confirmed by serological analysis. According to Viktor Sosnizkiy of the Epidemiological Surveillance Center, these were cases of serous meningitis and not purulent meningitis, which often has a fatal outcome. Most of the infected are children. According to Sosnizkiy, the children probably contracted infection after swimming. The fact that the epidemic occurred in September can be explained by the long incubation period of the illness. According to Sosnizkiy, enteroviral infections [resulting in meningitis] are caused by coxsackieviruses or echoviruses. [View Report](#)

Uganda: New cases of Plague

12 October – ProMed reported on 7 new cases of [Plague](#) in Uganda. The Arua district has 6 cases (no deaths) and the Nebbi district has 1 case (no deaths). [View Report](#)

U.N. Urges Uganda Truce for Measles Immunization

09 October – Reuters reported U.N. agencies urged the Ugandan army and northern rebel foes to agree a week's truce to permit the immunization of children against [measles](#), which kills 5,000 children in the east African country every year. "No cause and no conflict can be greater or more urgent than the cause of protecting all the children of Uganda from this deadly disease," the World Health Organization and the U.N. Children's Fund said in a joint statement. The agencies said they wanted the combatants to lay down their guns between October 14 and 21 to enable 50,000 health workers and volunteers to vaccinate every child in the country from the age of six months to 15 years. [View Article](#)

Western Australia: Early Detection of Ross River Virus in Mosquitoes

08 October – ProMed reported Shire of Dardanup Environmental Health Officer Tim Batt said Tue 7 Oct 2003 that people were being urged to take extra care when outdoors and take

measures to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. The warnings come after similar advice from the Health Department, following the detection of [Ross River virus](#) in mosquitoes collected at several South West locations last week. "There was actually a case of Ross River virus infection confirmed in Mandurah last week," Mr Batt said. Mr Batt said detection so early in the season was unusual, but Ross River virus outbreaks came in 7-year cycles. Shires will use chemicals - that are environmentally friendly where possible - to try and prevent mosquitoes from breeding. [View Report](#)

Yellow Fever in Burkina Faso

10 October – WHO reported they have received reports of an outbreak of [yellow fever](#) in the district of Gaoua in the southwest of the country, near the border of Côte d'Ivoire. One case has been laboratory confirmed by Centre Muraz, Burkina Faso and by the WHO Collaborating Center for Yellow Fever, the Institut Pasteur, Dakar, Senegal. Additional samples are being tested. A team from the Ministry of Health and WHO quickly investigated the outbreak. The Crisis Committee of Gaoua met and a rapid vaccination campaign was carried out covering all those more than 6 months old living in a 20 kilometre area around Gaoua. Surveillance has been intensified. [View Article](#) [View ProMed Report](#)

USCENTCOM

Kyrgyzstan: Salt Iodization Diseases Still Widespread

09 October – IRIN News reported iodine deficiency related illnesses remain a problem in Kyrgyzstan mainly due to a shortfall in iodized salt production and imports of low quality salt flooding the market. "The situation as of today is very difficult. Domestic production is only 30-40 percent of what the country needs," Aleksandr Politkov, an expert at the Kyrgyz sanitary and epidemiological department, said at a recent seminar on salt iodization in the capital, Bishkek. During the Soviet era, iodine deficiency related diseases were brought under control in Kyrgyzstan, and in the 1980s only occasional incidences occurred. However, that situation deteriorated after the mountainous republic gained independence in 1991. According to some estimates, almost 90 percent of the population in the south and some 55 percent in north of Kyrgyzstan are now once again suffering from iodine-deficiency disorders. [View Article](#)

Pakistan: UNHCR Returnee Iris Testing Tops 200,000

13 October – IRIN News reported the number of Afghan refugees checked through a unique iris-recognition system before they are repatriated to Afghanistan under an assistance program run by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) passed the 200,000 mark last week, according to a UNHCR official. The use of the biometric data enabled UNHCR to detect anyone who had previously been through the test and was seeking assistance for a second time, an agency press statement said. Returnees are entitled to a travel grant that varies with the distance to be traveled, as well as food and some non-food items like shelter material. If the test reveals that the refugee has been enrolled before, the individual is refused assistance. [View Article](#)

Sudan: Whooping Cough Death Toll Rises

08 October – ProMed reported a total of 175 children have died of a [whooping cough](#) outbreak in Kimatong Budi county, Equatoria state, according to NGO sources. Almost 1000 suspected cases have been observed to date, with over 560 this week alone. He said 860 cases had been confirmed, with most of them under 5 years of age. A mass treatment and prevention campaign is being carried out in several locations around the villages of Chawa, Kimatong, Thurunge, and Kali, with families being treated once a member has become infected. So far 82 of those infected have also tested positive for malaria, said Medair, another NGO. [View Report](#)

USNORTHCOM

California: Sentinel Chickens Detect St. Louis Encephalitis Virus

11 October – ProMed reported the virus that causes [St. Louis encephalitis \[SLE\]](#) has turned up in sentinel chickens in Blythe, prompting Riverside County health officials to advise the public to take precautions. Riverside County vector control workers found the virus in blood drawn from sentinel chickens used to monitor mosquito-borne diseases, such as those caused by St. Louis encephalitis virus and West Nile virus. The results were confirmed on Wed 1 Oct 2003. Health officials advise the public to avoid areas with lots of mosquitoes, wear long-sleeve shirts and long pants, and use repellents with DEET. [View Report](#)

Cigarette Smoking among Adults — United States, 2001

10 October – The MMWR reported one of the national health objectives for 2010 is to reduce the prevalence of cigarette smoking among adults to <12%. To assess progress toward this objective, CDC analyzed self-reported data from the 2001 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Adult Core questionnaire. This report summarizes the findings of this analysis, which indicate that, in 2001, approximately 22.8% of U.S. adults were current smokers compared with 25.0% in 1993. Current smoking prevalence data from 1965 to 2001 indicate a slow but steady decrease among blacks and whites. This prevalence has declined more rapidly among black men than white men and among black women than white women, especially during the 1990s. However, the overall decline in smoking is not occurring at a rate that will meet the national prevalence objective of <12% by 2010. [View Article](#)

FDA Warns of 'Food Terrorism'

11 October – Reuters reported there is a 'high likelihood' within the coming year of a deliberate attack or accidental outbreak in the US food supply that sickens a large number of people, the Food and Drug Administration said yesterday. Although no specific threats were identified, the FDA said it came to the conclusion because of recent foodborne outbreaks and reports that the Al Qaeda terrorist network was plotting to poison the food supply....The food supply is especially vulnerable to an attack because of the broad range of biological and chemical agents that can be used, the FDA said. The agency said salmonella, E. coli 0157:H7, and ricin pose a significant threat because they can be disseminated easily to food. [View Article](#)

Flu Gallery

13 October – The CDC has several downloadable items for the 2003-4 flu season. Included are brochures, flyers, information sheets and consent forms. To view, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/flu/gallery.htm>

Green Onions Responsible for Hepatitis A Outbreaks

14 October – ProMed reported [Hepatitis A](#) outbreaks that affected nearly 300 people in Georgia and Tennessee appear to be caused by green onions, health officials said. The onions were probably contaminated before being shipped to several restaurants in Georgia and one in Knoxville, Tennessee. According to officials, more than 200 cases were reported in Georgia. Many were tied to a restaurant in metro Atlanta, while others were connected to dining establishments in the northern part of the state. In addition to the cases reported in Georgia, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that at least 70 cases of hepatitis A have been reported in the Knoxville, Tennessee, area. Officials say that the Food and Drug Administration is trying to pinpoint how the contamination occurred. [View Report](#)

Hispanic Heart Patients Have Best Survival Rates

13 October – Eurekalert reported a study looking at more than 47,000 cardiac patients at two Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers over 12 years found that Hispanics had the best survival rate, compared to whites and African-Americans. The findings, reported in Archives of Internal Medicine, confirm earlier studies showing that minorities have better outcomes at VA hospitals than at private hospitals. The study compared the long-term survival of white, Hispanic and African-American veterans referred for electrocardiograms (EKGs) or exercise tests at the Palo Alto and Long Beach VA sites from 1987 to 2000. Researchers used the results of these tests, along with age and other clinical data, to control for health factors that may have influenced survival and thereby isolate the effects of race alone. After adjustments for age and cardiac health status, Hispanics still showed a survival advantage. They were only about 80 percent as likely as whites or blacks to die over the course of the study. There was no difference between black and white survival rates. In explaining the apparent survival advantage of Hispanic VA patients over the other two groups, Froelicher cited their strong social support as a possible factor. [View Article](#)

Mexico: West Nile Virus Infection Surveillance Data as of Mon 6 Oct 2003

08 October - ProMed reported on [WNV](#) surveillance data in Mexico. As of Mon 6 Oct 2003, a total of 481 individuals resident in 20 of the 32 states have been tested for evidence of West Nile virus infection: 4 were classified as West Nile virus-positive: 3 in the state of Chihuahua and one (confirmed by RT-PCR) in the state of Sonora. A total of 4,472 horses from 20 of the 32 states have been tested for evidence of West Nile virus infection. Of these animals 1,453 were seropositive. A total of 17,168 birds from 8 of the 32 states have been tested for evidence of West Nile virus infection. Of these birds 63 were seropositive (and considered to be asymptomatic). In addition 2 dead birds were seropositive. [View Report](#)

New York: Several Cases of Serious, Unexplained Illness on Staten Island

11 October – ProMed reported New York City health officials are investigating an unexplained illness -- one they describe as serious -- that has hospitalized 5 Staten Island residents; 2 of them in critical condition. Health Department officials say they are still not sure what kind of infection they're looking at. They're not putting out any kind of a warning to the public and this may simply be a coincidence. But this is what is known so far: 5 people between the ages of 22 and 54 -- all on Staten Island -- have been hospitalized with some kind of a viral disease, possibly encephalitis or swelling of the brain. 4 of them remain in serious condition; 1 person has now been released. The symptoms for this unexplained illness began in late September 2003 and include fever, a bad headache, fatigue, malaise, and some patients have had seizures. So far testing has ruled out SARS and West Nile Virus. Doctors and other health department officials are trying to figure out if there's some kind of connection among these 5 individuals. New York City has about 200 encephalitis cases a year so it's fairly rare, and it was rare to see this small cluster on Staten Island. [View Report](#) [View Report 2](#) [View Report 3](#)

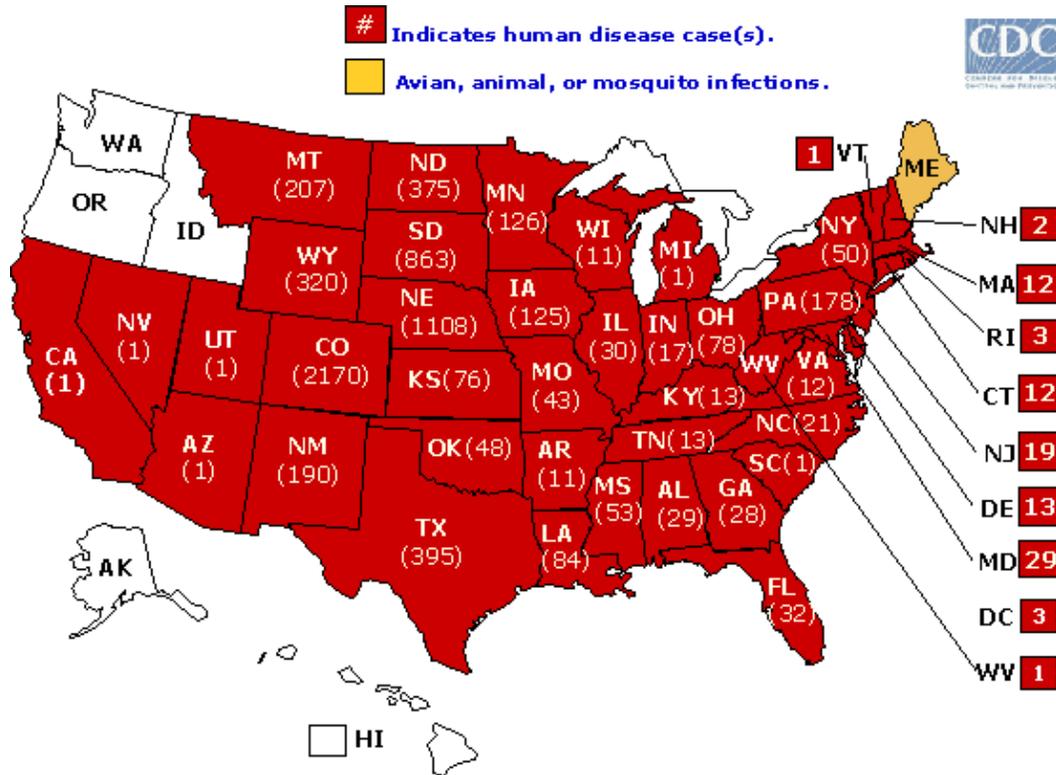
Smoking More Common among Nursing than Medical Students

13 October – Eurekalert reported a new study shows nursing students are more likely to smoke cigarettes and to be more severely nicotine-dependent than medical students, says a study published in the October issue of CHEST, the peer-reviewed journal of the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP). The study found that four times as many nursing students smoke cigarettes than medical students, and nearly twice as many nursing students are former smokers. The study also found that the smoking rate among medical students has significantly decreased in the last decade and that medical students who do smoke are less nicotine dependent than their nursing counterparts. [View Article](#)

U.S. Bioterror Plans Ripped

12 October – The New York Daily News reported as scientists battle the fast-spreading West Nile virus, anti-terrorism experts hope that developing a network to track and stop the epidemic will provide an early warning system for defense against biological attack. But right now, the U.S. 'is totally unprepared to deal with new vector-borne epidemics' - like West Nile virus or those spread by more lethal germs in the terrorist inventory, said Duane Gubler, an internationally recognized expert at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention....He and other experts interviewed by the Daily News said the war against West Nile and other emerging biothreats has been mired in agency turf wars and hampered by lack of communication among various branches of government. [View Article](#)

West Nile Virus in the United States as of October 14, 2003



[view source](#)

USPACOM

AIDS-Tuberculosis Noose Tightens around Nepal

06 October – OneWorld.net reported with nearly half of Nepal's population infected with [Tuberculosis \(TB\)](#), the increasing incidence of the disease among [HIV/AIDS](#) patients is a potent combination that could shatter the country's grossly ill-equipped health system. According to a study, the co-infection with TB is a rising trend. In 1988-1992, out of 14 AIDS cases, 11 had TB whereas during 1998-2002, out of 442 AIDS patients, 357 were infected with TB. That may just be the tip of the AIDSberg. UNAIDS estimates there are more than 60,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in Nepal. The AIDS and STD Control, the sole government agency reporting HIV/AIDS cases in Nepal, reported 2,942 cases of AIDS till June this year. [View Article](#)

India: Dengue Fever Update

13 October – ProMed reported Indian health authorities predicted a deadly wave of [dengue fever](#), saying at least 4,720 cases of infection have been reported from 15 states and 80 people had died of the mosquito-borne disease in the past 3 months. A National Anti Malaria Program (NAMP) coordinator warned Thursday that infections could rise because heavy monsoon rains have left stagnant pools of water, which are breeding grounds for mosquitoes in overcrowded

Indian housing estates. The states with the greatest number of cases include: Kerala with 3,155 cases of infection and 63 deaths, Karnataka with 816 infections and 6 deaths, New Delhi with 568 cases, Mumbai with 160 cases and 2 deaths in the past 2 months, and Gujarat with 80 deaths. [View Report](#)

Japan: Food Poisoning Bacteria Death Tied to Transfusion

09 October – ProMed reported bacteria were detected in the blood of a 65-year-old woman who died of blood poisoning after receiving a transfusion at an Osaka hospital in Sep 2003, hospital officials said Sat, 4 Oct 2003. [Yersinia](#), which can cause food poisoning, has been found in blood from the woman and in blood that was used for the transfusion at the Saiseikai Suita Hospital in Suita, Osaka Prefecture, the officials told a news conference. The Japanese Red Cross Society is looking into the contamination and the patient's death, the officials said. The hospital contacted the Red Cross and the Osaka Prefectural Police on Sept. 25, and the Red Cross notified the health ministry, according to the officials. The Red Cross said the blood used for the transfusion came from blood donated from one person. As it has recalled other blood products made from the same blood, there is no danger of the blood being used for transfusions involving other patients, it added. Although the hospital had refrigerated the blood at between 0 C and 4 C, the bacteria can still grow at temperatures below 5 C. [View Report](#)

Malaysia: Dengue outbreak in 4 Areas

13 October – ProMed reported 4 housing estates in Seremban have been declared as [dengue fever](#), outbreak areas by the state Health Department yesterday. They are Taman Paroi Jaya, Panchor Jaya, Taman Tuanku Jaafar, and Taman Rasah Jaya. State health director Dr Rosnah Ismail said the outbreak has reached an alarming stage and the department had taken precautionary measures. She said 1,439 cases were recorded since January 2003 to 4 Oct 2003, and 72 were hemorrhagic. Dr Rosnah said the states with the highest number of cases are Seremban (1124), Port Dickson (140) and Jempol (62). [View Report](#)

Sri Lanka: Dengue in Kandy

13 October – Promed reported the [dengue fever](#) epidemic has surfaced again with nearly 64 suspected cases reported from the Kandy area during the last few weeks. There have been 2 deaths, one from the Yatinuwara region and one from the Gangawata-Korale region. An epidemiologist said although the situation has now been brought under control in the Kandy area, the number of cases might increase if the rains continue. The highest number of dengue cases has been reported from the Western province, with the Colombo district at the top of the list. The Gampaha district ranks second with most of the cases reported from Katana, Negombo, Wattala, Mahara, and Gampaha town. Matara district has also recorded a considerable number of cases. Meanwhile, the Colombo Municipal Council Medical Unit has launched a house to house inspection campaign. This action program seeks to clean up the City and destroy mosquito breeding places. [View Report](#)

U.N. Official: Leaders Must Educate Asians on AIDS

13 October – Reuters reported a United Nations official said leaders of the Asia-Pacific region must brush aside cultural taboos and step up efforts to educate their people about [HIV/AIDS](#) if a serious epidemic is to be averted. "One of the illusions in Asia is to think that this is just a

disease of the poor, the junkies, the prostitutes and their clients," UNAIDS Executive Director Peter Piot told Reuters. "The choice is clear for me. It's either act now or pay later," he said of a region which the U.N. says could see an "African-style" crisis and could account for 40 percent of new global infections by 2010. To succeed, governments must destigmatize safe sex and widen education on prevention measures, he said. [View Article](#)

USSOUTHCOM

Update on Yellow Fever in Latin America

11 October - Since 10 Sep 2003 to date, 25 new laboratory-confirmed cases of [yellow fever](#) have been reported to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The cumulative number of cases this year [2003] is 209, with 96 deaths. This is the highest number of cases reported in the Region since 1998. The countries with outbreaks are: Bolivia (6 cases, 4 deaths), Brazil (62 cases, 23 deaths), Colombia (91 cases, 42 deaths), Peru (22 cases, 13 deaths), and Venezuela (28 cases, 14 deaths). The outbreak on the Colombian-Venezuelan border is still active despite the mass vaccination efforts being carried out in affected areas. [View Report](#)

Venezuela: 1st Outbreak of Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis in 3 Years

13 October – ProMed reported [Venezuelan equine encephalitis](#) has reemerged in the country after being absent or controlled by health authorities for more than 3 years. Representatives of the National Breeders' Federation (FEDENAGA) reported that the disease has affected animals in 2 ranches in the state of Barinas (municipality of Arismendi). The sanitary authorities have confirmed this information. [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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