

This weekly bulletin provides updates on threats monitored by ECDC.

## I. Executive summary

### EU Threats

#### Legionellosis – Spain and UK - Travel-associated cluster

Opening date: 13 January 2012

Latest update: 9 February 2012

An outbreak of Legionnaires' disease associated with a hotel in Spain was identified by the European Legionnaires' Disease Surveillance Network (ELDSNet) on 13 January 2012. As of 17 February 2012, 18 cases had been confirmed, 15 of them being travel-associated. Cases are from the United Kingdom (12), France (2) and Spain (4).

→Update of the week

This week, no additional cases associated with the hotel were notified through ELDSNet.

#### Measles - Multistate (EU) - Monitoring European outbreaks

Opening date: 9 February 2011

Latest update: 16 February 2012

Measles has re-emerged in the EU with more than 30 000 cases reported in 2011. Twenty-four of the 29 reporting countries reported more measles cases in 2011 than in 2010. More than 90% of all measles cases in 2011 were reported by five countries: France, Italy, Romania, Spain and Germany. Only Cyprus and Iceland remained measles-free in 2011.

→Update of the week

Four EU Member States reported outbreaks during the past week: the UK, Romania, Spain and Sweden.

#### Influenza - Multistate (Europe) - Monitoring 2011-2012 season

Opening date: 2 December 2011

Latest update: 9 February 2012

ECDC monitors influenza activity in Europe during the winter seasons and publishes the results in the Weekly Influenza Surveillance Overview (WISO). Influenza activity continued to increase in week 6 though in a very varied way across Europe with no clear geographic progression this season. The dominant viruses remain A(H3N2) type.

→Update of the week

During week 6/2012, medium influenza activity was reported by 13 countries and increasing trends in clinical activity were reported by 17 countries.

## Non EU Threats

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### Influenza A(H5N1) - Multistate (world) - Monitoring human cases

Opening date: 15 June 2005

Latest update: 9 February 2012

There are currently no indications from a human health perspective of significant changes in the epidemiology associated with any clade or strain of the A(H5N1) virus. This is based on the absence of sustained human-to-human transmission, and on the observation that there is no apparent change in the size of clusters or reports of chains of infection. However, vigilance for avian influenza in domestic poultry and wild birds in Europe remains important.

→Update of the week

No new human cases were reported during last week.

### Dengue - Multistate (world) - Monitoring seasonal epidemics

Opening date: 20 April 2006

Latest update: 16 February 2012

There are no recent important developments in global dengue epidemiology. However, the identification of sporadic autochthonous cases in non-endemic areas in 2010 and 2011 highlights the risk of occurrence of locally acquired cases in countries where the competent vectors are present.

→Update of the week

There have been no reports of autochthonous dengue infections in Europe so far in 2012.

### Poliomyelitis - Multistate (world) - Monitoring global outbreaks

Opening date: 8 September 2005

Latest update: 9 February 2012

The WHO European Region is polio-free. Worldwide, WHO reported 647 cases in 2011. Twelve cases have been reported in 2012 so far.

→Update of the week

There was no WHO polio update this week.

## II. Detailed reports

### Legionellosis – Spain and UK - Travel-associated cluster

Opening date: 13 January 2012

Latest update: 9 February 2012

#### Epidemiological summary

A rapidly evolving cluster with three confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease associated with a hotel in Costa Blanca was identified by ELDSNet on 13 January 2012. As of 17 February 2012, 15 confirmed travel-associated cases (TALD) have been reported to ELDSNet. Cases are from the United Kingdom (12), France (2) and Spain (1). Among the 15 cases associated with the hotel, three travellers have died.

In addition to TALD, ECDC is aware of three cases of Legionnaires' disease in hotel staff. These cases were not reported as travel-associated Legionnaires' disease cases through ELDSnet.

#### ECDC assessment

The Spanish public health authorities have implemented control measures. However, water samples collected after the implementation of control measures tested positive for *Legionella* on 2 February 2012 and the hotel was closed. The hotel has since been reopened after new control measures had been taken.

#### Actions

Updated cluster notifications have been sent to all ELDSNet members and tour operators.

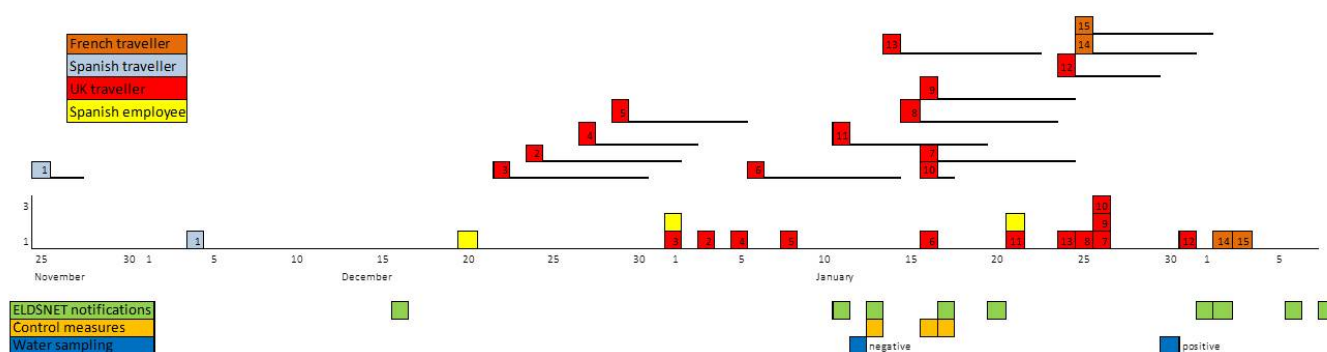
UK clients of the hotel have received information on the outbreak with advice to seek healthcare if necessary. The UK Department of Health has sent an information circular to the healthcare services to alert physicians. The Spanish public health authorities have taken action to inform clients who stayed at the hotel during the two weeks prior to its closure about their potential exposure.

ECDC published a rapid risk assessment regarding this situation on 6 February 2012 [on its website](#).

### Travel associated Legionnaires' disease, Calpe, Spain 2012

ELDSNet

Dates of onset and potential exposure periods at hotel for cases of Legionnaires' disease and actions taken



## Measles - Multistate (EU) - Monitoring European outbreaks

Opening date: 9 February 2011

Latest update: 16 February 2012

### Epidemiological summary

#### European Union Member States

##### UK

There have been confirmed cases of measles in England during last week across the [south-west](#) and in [Merseyside](#). In Merseyside, the majority of the cases are in Liverpool, with a small cluster in St Helens. There have been 13 confirmed and 16 suspected cases so far. Six of the cases, four children and two adults, were hospitalised. The UK reported over 1 000 cases of measles in 2011.

##### Romania

An [outbreak](#) began on 1 February in a Roma community in Buzau with three [people](#) hospitalised. Contact tracing and control measures have been implemented. Romania has had ongoing outbreaks of measles since 2010 [across](#) most of the country and reported more than 4 000 cases in 2011.

##### Spain

[Media](#) reports state that the outbreak in the Alicante area is increasing, with 136 cases reported so far since the beginning of 2012. Spain reported outbreaks during 2011 involving the majority of its regions, with 2 000 cases of measles recorded.

##### Sweden

The [media](#) have reported a cluster of four cases in Järna in an anthroposophic community south of Stockholm. The index case is an adult who was infected abroad and transmitted the disease to his two children. A contact of the family also fell ill with measles. Järna is a centre for anthroposophy in Sweden and the vaccination coverage is lower in this area as the anthroposophic community opposes vaccination.

#### Neighbouring countries

##### Ukraine

As of 10 February, 3 162 cases were reported by the [MOH](#). Most of them are in the western region of the country: Lviv (1 461), Ivano-Frankivsk (881), Rivne (192), Transcarpathian (181), Ternopil (125), and Volyn (103). In Kiev, 27 suspected cases of measles have been reported since the beginning of this year. Cases are now being [reported](#) in a new area, the eastern district of Kharkov. This district is neighbouring the Russian Federation [district of Belgorod](#) which also reported cases during last week. There is no information on ongoing vaccination campaigns. [Media](#) reports quote one MP saying the country is planning to provide vaccines by September-October 2012 to every region of Ukraine.

##### Russian Federation

An outbreak of 130 cases is being reported in St. Petersburg both in the [media](#) and by [Rosпотребнадзор](#). The outbreak started as a nosocomial outbreak in a children's hospital and has since spread to several districts in the city. Forty new cases were registered last week.

#### Rest of the world

##### US

Measles exposure occurred at the Super Bowl in Indianapolis with over 200 000 spectators on 3 February 2012. An unvaccinated resident contracted measles and attended the Super Bowl Village while infectious. Case and contact investigations are ongoing. Media reports claim there are 13 cases connected to the event.

Web sources: [ECDC Monthly Measles Monitoring 16 January 2011](#) | [MedISys Measles Webpage](#) | [EUVAC-net ECDC](#) | [ECDC measles factsheet](#)

### ECDC assessment

ECDC closely monitors measles transmission and outbreaks in the EU and neighbouring countries in Europe through enhanced surveillance and epidemic intelligence activities. The countries in the WHO European Region, which includes all EU Member States, have committed to eliminate measles and rubella transmission by 2015. Elimination of measles requires consistent vaccination coverage above 95% with two doses of measles vaccine in all population groups, strong surveillance and effective outbreak control measures.

The number of measles cases reported in 2011 is comparable to the number in 2010 but three to five times higher than the number of cases in the 2006 to 2009 period. Transmission follows the traditional seasonal pattern of measles in Europe. The number of new cases is expected to increase in the coming months.

In June 2012, Ukraine will host the European Football Championship together with Poland, with millions of spectators expected to attend from several European countries. Unvaccinated participants and spectators will risk measles infection during the games.

## Influenza - Multistate (Europe) - Monitoring 2011-2012 season

Opening date: 2 December 2011

Latest update: 9 February 2012

### Epidemiological summary

- Among 1 718 sentinel specimens, the percentage positive for influenza was 46%.
- Of the 2 025 influenza viruses detected from sentinel and non-sentinel sources during week 6/2012, 96% were type A and 4% were type B.
- Of the 1 015 influenza A viruses subtyped, 99% were A(H3) and 1% were A(H1)pdm09.
- Since the start of the season, 493 cases of severe acute respiratory infection have been reported by six countries.
- Of the cases with influenza typing/subtyping results available, 85% were associated with A(H3), 9% with A(H1)pdm09 and 6% with B viruses.
- To date, no resistance to neuraminidase inhibitors (oseltamivir and zanamivir) has been reported this season.

Influenza activity continued to increase in week 6, though with significant variation across Europe and no clear geographic progression. The dominant virus remains A(H3N2).

Web source: [ECDC Weekly Influenza Surveillance Overview](#)

## Influenza A(H5N1) - Multistate (world) - Monitoring human cases

Opening date: 15 June 2005

Latest update: 9 February 2012

### Epidemiological summary

During the period 11-17 February 2012, WHO confirmed no new human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1) virus infection.

Since 2003, 584 cases (including 345 deaths) have been notified in 15 countries. Of these, six (including five deaths) were notified in 2012.

Web sources: [ECDC Rapid Risk Assessment](#) | [WHO Avian Influenza](#) | [Avian influenza on ECDC website](#)

### ECDC assessment

The H5N1 virus is fatal to humans in about 60% of cases. Most human infections are the result of direct contact with infected birds, and the World Health Organization notes it has never identified a 'sustained human-to-human spread' of the virus since it re-emerged in 2003. Countries with large poultry populations in close contact with humans are considered to be most at risk of bird flu outbreaks. Hong Kong reported the world's first recorded major outbreak of bird flu among humans in 1997, when six people died.

ECDC follows the worldwide A(H5N1) situation through epidemic intelligence activities in order to identify significant changes in the epidemiology of the virus. ECDC re-assesses the potential of a changing risk for A(H5N1) to humans on a regular basis. There are currently no indications from a human health perspective of any significant change in the epidemiology associated with any clade or strain of the A(H5N1) virus. This is based on the absence of sustained human-to-human transmission, and on the observation that there is no apparent change in the size of clusters or reports of chains of infection. However, vigilance for avian influenza in domestic poultry and wild birds in Europe remains important.

## Dengue - Multistate (world) - Monitoring seasonal epidemics

Opening date: 20 April 2006

Latest update: 16 February 2012

## Epidemiological summary

There have been no autochthonous cases in Europe in 2011 or in 2012 to date.

No major new outbreaks or unexpected developments were detected in the world last week. In general, there is currently low dengue activity in the monitored regions, except in South-East Asia and South America.

**Africa:** No significant developments reported recently.

**South Asia:** Local outbreak reported in the capital of Kerala, India. Ongoing outbreaks in Sri Lanka.

**South-East Asia:** Outbreaks are reported in Singapore, Malaysia and East Timor.

**Pacific:** No significant developments reported this week. Media reports on a dengue fatality in Fiji after severe flooding last month.

**South America:** Cases are still reported in Bolivia. Outbreaks are ongoing in Suriname, Ecuador and Paraguay. The Brazilian health authorities are reporting a 62% decrease in incidence in early 2012 compared with the same period last year. However, in some areas, including Rio de Janeiro, where the carnival celebrations will start this weekend, opposite trends are seen. According to the media, it is the first time in 28 years that there has been an outbreak of DENV-4 in Rio de Janeiro, suggesting low immunity to this genotype in the population.

**Central America:** There are media reports of an outbreak of dengue in Guatemala.

**Caribbean:** No major developments have been reported.

**North America:** No recent developments have been reported.

Web sources:

[DengueMap CDC/HealthMap](#) | [MedISys dengue](#) | [ProMED dengue latest update](#) | [WHO WPRO latest update](#) | [WHO dengue factsheet update 2012](#) | [ECDC dengue fever factsheet](#)

## ECDC assessment

ECDC monitors individual outbreaks, seasonal transmission patterns and inter-annual epidemic cycles of dengue through epidemic intelligence activities in order to identify significant changes in disease epidemiology. Of particular concern is the potential for the establishment of dengue transmission in Europe. Local transmission of dengue was reported for the first time in France and Croatia in 2010 and imported cases were detected in other European countries, highlighting the risk of locally acquired cases occurring in countries where the competent vectors are present.

## Poliomyelitis - Multistate (world) - Monitoring global outbreaks

Opening date: 8 September 2005

Latest update: 9 February 2012

## Epidemiological summary

WHO did not update the polio figures this week. Twelve cases of polio have been reported globally so far with onset of disease in 2012.

Web sources: [Polio Eradication: weekly update](#) | [MedISys Poliomyelitis](#)

## ECDC assessment

ECDC follows reports of polio cases worldwide through epidemic intelligence in order to highlight polio eradication efforts and to identify events that could indicate the re-introduction of wild poliovirus into the EU.

The WHO European Region is polio-free. The last polio cases in the European Union occurred in 2001 when three young Bulgarian children of Roma ethnicity developed flaccid paralysis from WPV. Investigations showed that the virus originated from India. The latest outbreak in the WHO European Region was in Tajikistan in 2010 when WPV1 imported from Pakistan caused an outbreak of 460 reported cases. The last indigenous WPV case in Europe was in Turkey in 1998. An outbreak in The Netherlands in a religious community opposed to vaccinations caused two deaths and 71 cases of paralysis in 1992.

The Communicable Disease Threat Report may include unconfirmed information which may later prove to be unsubstantiated.