

This weekly bulletin provides updates on threats monitored by ECDC.

NEWS

Start of West Nile virus infection seasonal monitoring 2019

Starting this week (week 23 of 2019), ECDC will report on the seasonal monitoring of human West Nile virus infections and outbreaks among equids occurring in the EU/EEA and EU neighbouring countries. Every Friday, ECDC will provide the following information: a summary of the epidemiological situation, a table detailing the number of human infections and equine outbreaks by country and nomenclature of territorial units for statistical (NUTS 3) administrative levels (click on the [table](#) at the bottom of the ECDC Surveillance Atlas) and maps with human West Nile virus infections, West Nile virus outbreaks among equids and human and equine West Nile virus outbreaks combined.

Deferral or testing of prospective donors applies to blood donors leaving areas with at least one autochthonous human West Nile virus infection. The information provided aims to support EU/EEA Member States in implementing preventive measures. Weekly updates will be provided through the CDTR and maps are available through ECDC's [Surveillance Atlas of Infectious Diseases](#).

I. Executive summary

EU Threats

Dengue – France, Réunion – 2019

Opening date: 13 March 2018

Latest update: 7 June 2019

Since the beginning of 2018, a dengue outbreak of unusual magnitude has affected the French overseas department of Réunion. In 2018, Réunion reported a total of 6 770 cases. Circulation has not been interrupted during the austral winter and the number of cases has started increasing again since the beginning of 2019.

→Update of the week

During the past week, Réunion reported approximately 1 000 confirmed cases of dengue. Cities and villages in the south of the island are the areas that are reporting the highest number of cases, especially in Saint-Pierre.

Legionnaires' disease - Belgium - 2019

Opening date: 14 May 2019

In May 2019, Belgium reported an outbreak of legionellosis in the Evergem area in Flanders, Belgium.

→Update of the week

Since the previous CDTR on 25 May 2019 and as of 4 June 2019, Belgian health authorities have reported six additional cases of Legionnaires' disease. A cooling tower of a paper factory in the Evergem area is suspected as the source of infection. The tower has been cleaned and inspected by the local authorities.

Non EU Threats

New! West Nile virus - Multistate (Europe) - Monitoring season 2019

Opening date: 3 June 2019

Latest update: 7 June 2019

During the West Nile virus infection transmission season, expected to be from June–November 2019, ECDC monitors the occurrence of West Nile virus infections in EU/EEA Member States and EU neighbouring countries and publishes weekly epidemiological updates to inform blood safety authorities of areas at NUTS 3 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics 3) or GAUL 2 (Global Administrative Unit Layers 2) level where there is ongoing virus transmission.

During the 2018 transmission season, 2 083 human cases were reported by EU Member States and EU neighbouring countries. EU Member States reported 285 outbreaks among equids.

→Update of the week

No human case or equine outbreak has been reported so far in 2019.

Ebola virus disease - tenth outbreak - Democratic Republic of the Congo - 2018-2019

Opening date: 1 August 2018

Latest update: 7 June 2019

On 1 August 2018, the Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared the 10th outbreak of Ebola virus disease in the country. The outbreak affects North Kivu and Ituri Provinces in the northeast of the country close to the border with Uganda. On 12 April 2019, the [International Health Regulations Emergency Committee](#) concluded that the epidemic does not at this stage constitute a public health emergency of international concern.

→Update of the week

Since the previous CDTR and as of 5 June 2019, the [Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) has reported 148 additional confirmed and six additional probable cases. During the same period, 119 deaths were reported.

Among the new reported cases in the past week, five are healthcare workers.

Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Multistate

Opening date: 24 September 2012

Latest update: 7 June 2019

Since the disease was first identified in Saudi Arabia in April 2012, more than 2 400 Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) cases have been detected in 27 countries. In Europe, eight countries have reported confirmed cases, all with direct or indirect connections to the Middle East. The majority of MERS-CoV cases continue to be reported from the Middle East. The source of the virus remains unknown, but the pattern of transmission and virological studies point toward dromedary camels in the Middle East as a reservoir from which humans sporadically become infected through zoonotic transmission. Human-to-human transmission is amplified among household contacts and in healthcare settings.

→Update of the week

Since the previous CDTR published on 3 May 2019, Saudi Arabia is the only country that has notified new cases. As of 28 May 2019, [Saudi Arabia](#) has reported an increase of 14 cases and six deaths.

So far, 11 of 13 regions in Saudi Arabia have reported 147 cases in 2019 and of these, four (Madinah, Najran, Riyadh and Qassim) have reported cases in the last seven days.

Poliomyelitis – Multistate (World) – Monitoring global outbreaks

Opening date: 8 September 2005

Latest update: 7 June 2019

Global public health efforts are ongoing to eradicate polio by immunising every child until transmission of the virus has stopped and the world becomes polio-free. Polio was declared a public health emergency of international concern by WHO on 5 May 2014 due to concerns over the increased circulation and international spread of wild poliovirus in 2014. In June 2002, the WHO European Region was officially declared polio-free.

→ Update of the week

Wild poliovirus: Since the CDTR published on 17 May 2019 and the WHO report on 29 May 2019, seven new cases of wild poliovirus type 1 have been reported in Pakistan (6) and Afghanistan (1). No cases have been reported in non-endemic countries.

Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV): Since the CDTR published on 17 May 2019 and the WHO report on 29 May 2019, two new cases of cVDPV type 2 (cVDPV2) have been reported in Nigeria (1) and Somalia (1).

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative has launched the [Polio Endgame Strategy 2019–2023](#), which was discussed at [72nd World Health Assembly](#) in Geneva, Switzerland during the week of 20 May 2019.

II. Detailed reports

Dengue – France, Réunion – 2019

Opening date: 13 March 2018

Latest update: 7 June 2019

Epidemiological summary

According to [regional authorities](#) as of 4 June 2019, Réunion has detected more than 14 000 confirmed and 37 000 suspected cases since the beginning of 2019, of which five have died.

According to Santé publique France, the main circulating serotype is DENV-2. However, 19 autochthonous cases were serotyped DENV-1 in the south of the island.

ECDC assessment

A decrease has been observed in Réunion over the past three weeks. However, dengue circulation remains active in most of the cities on the island.

The risk for onward transmission of dengue in Europe is linked to importation of the virus by viraemic travellers into receptive areas with established and active competent vectors (i.e. *Aedes albopictus* in mainland Europe, mainly around the Mediterranean, and *Aedes aegypti* on the island of Madeira).

Environmental conditions in Europe are expected to become more favourable for the growth of mosquito populations and virus replication of the vector in the coming weeks, reaching high vector abundance in the summer and early autumn. Prior to the high activity season, there is a low likelihood of sustained autochthonous transmission of the dengue virus in continental Europe associated with introduction by returning travellers from Réunion or other areas with active dengue virus transmission.

Actions

ECDC monitors this outbreak through epidemic intelligence on a weekly basis and will publish an update of the [rapid risk assessment on outbreak of dengue in Réunion, France](#) published on 5 July 2018 that will be circulated to the European Commission and Member States on 14 June 2019.

Legionnaires' disease - Belgium - 2019

Opening date: 14 May 2019

Epidemiological summary

In May 2019, Belgium reported an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in the Evergem area in Flanders, Belgium. As of 4 June 2019, there have been 32 confirmed cases, including two deaths.

Most cases are clustered geographically in the Evergem area north of Ghent, either by place of residence or workplace. Belgian health authorities are investigating cooling towers in the Ghent Canal Zone as the possible source of infection. A cooling tower of a paper factory has been suspected of causing the outbreak. It has been closed and cleaned following inspection by the authorities.

Water samples have been taken from the cooling towers of 17 companies, with two found to be highly contaminated. Typing results are expected in the first week of June 2019.

Sources: [Evergem Municipality](#) | [Regional health authorities in Belgium](#)

ECDC assessment

Given the incubation period of Legionnaires' disease, more cases in the surrounding areas may be reported in the coming days.

Actions

ECDC will continue monitoring the ongoing situation through epidemic intelligence activities and report again if relevant

epidemiological updates are available.

New! West Nile virus - Multistate (Europe) - Monitoring season 2019

Opening date: 3 June 2019

Latest update: 7 June 2019

Epidemiological summary

No human case or equine outbreak has been reported so far in 2019.

ECDC links: [West Nile virus infection atlas](#)

Sources: [TESSy](#) | [Animal Disease Notification System](#)

ECDC assessment

No human cases have been notified at this early stage of the transmission season.

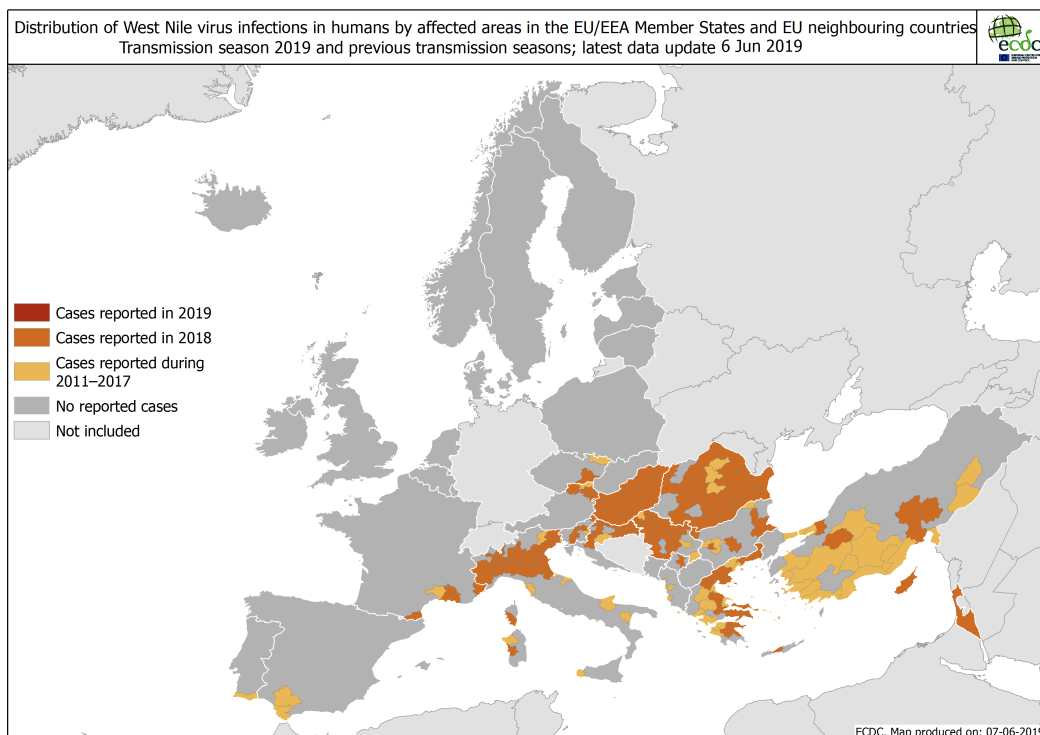
In accordance with Commission Directive 2014/110/EU, prospective donors should be deferred for 28 days after leaving a risk area for locally-acquired West Nile virus unless the results of an individual nucleic acid test (NAT) are negative.

Actions

During the transmission season, ECDC publishes [West Nile virus maps](#) together with an epidemiological summary every Friday.

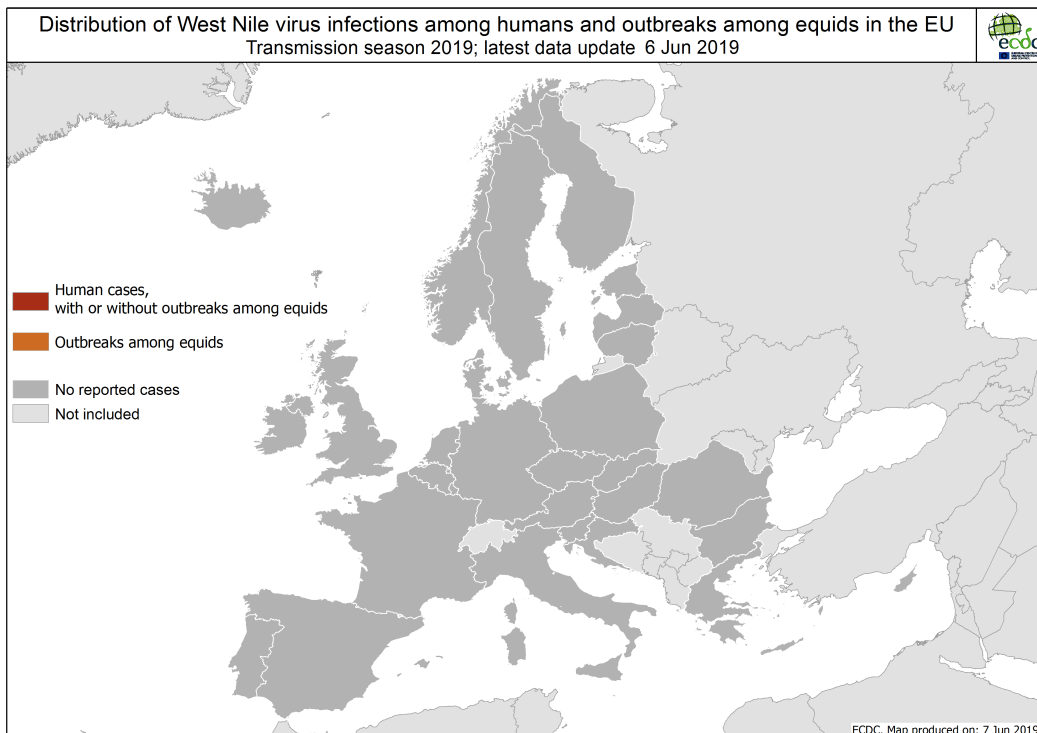
Distribution of human West Nile virus infections by affected areas as of 6 June 2019

ECDC



Distribution of West Nile virus infections among humans and outbreaks among equids in the EU as of 6 June 2019.

ECDC and ADNS



Ebola virus disease - tenth outbreak - Democratic Republic of the Congo - 2018-2019

Opening date: 1 August 2018

Latest update: 7 June 2019

Epidemiological summary

Since the beginning of the outbreak a year ago and as of 5 June 2019, there have been 2 031 Ebola virus disease cases (1 937 confirmed, 94 probable), including 1 367 deaths (1 273 confirmed, 94 probable), according to the Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

As of 5 June 2019, 110 healthcare workers have been infected.

Twenty-two health zones in two provinces have reported confirmed or probable Ebola virus disease cases: Alimbongo, Beni, Biena, Butembo, Kalunguta, Katwa, Kayna, Kyondo, Lubero, Mabalako, Manguredjipa, Masereka, Mutwanga, Musienene, Oicha and Vuhovi health zones in North Kivu Province and Bunia, Nyankunde, Komanda, Mandima, Rwampara and Tchomia health zones in Ituri Province.

Source: [Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) | [WHO](#) | [WHO Regional Office for Africa](#)

ECDC assessment

ECDC assessment: Response measures remain challenging in affected areas because of the prolonged humanitarian crisis, unstable security situation and resistance among the population. The fact that the outbreak is ongoing in areas with cross-border population flow with Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda remains of particular concern.

A substantial proportion of cases continue to be among individuals not previously identified as contacts, highlighting the need to maintain enhanced surveillance in order to identify chains of transmission.

The overall risk of introduction and further spread of Ebola virus disease within the EU/EEA is very low. However, the risk can only be eliminated by stopping transmission at the local level.

WHO assessment: As of 9 May 2019, the [WHO assessment](#) is that the risk of spread is low at the global level, but remains very

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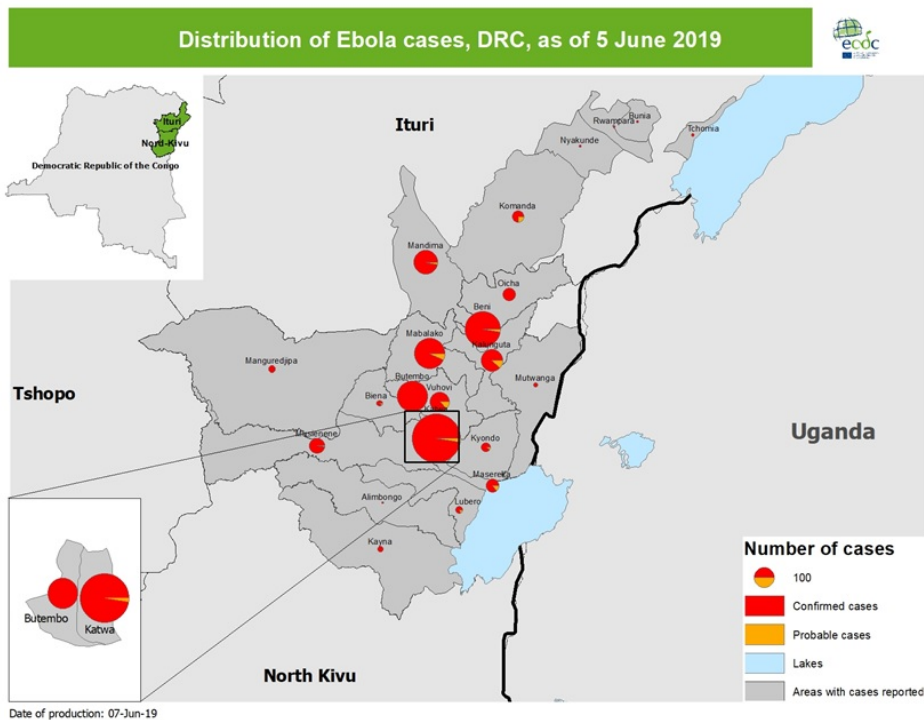
high at national and regional levels.

Actions

ECDC published an [epidemiological update](#) on 3 April 2019 and the fourth update of a [rapid risk assessment](#) on 16 April 2019.

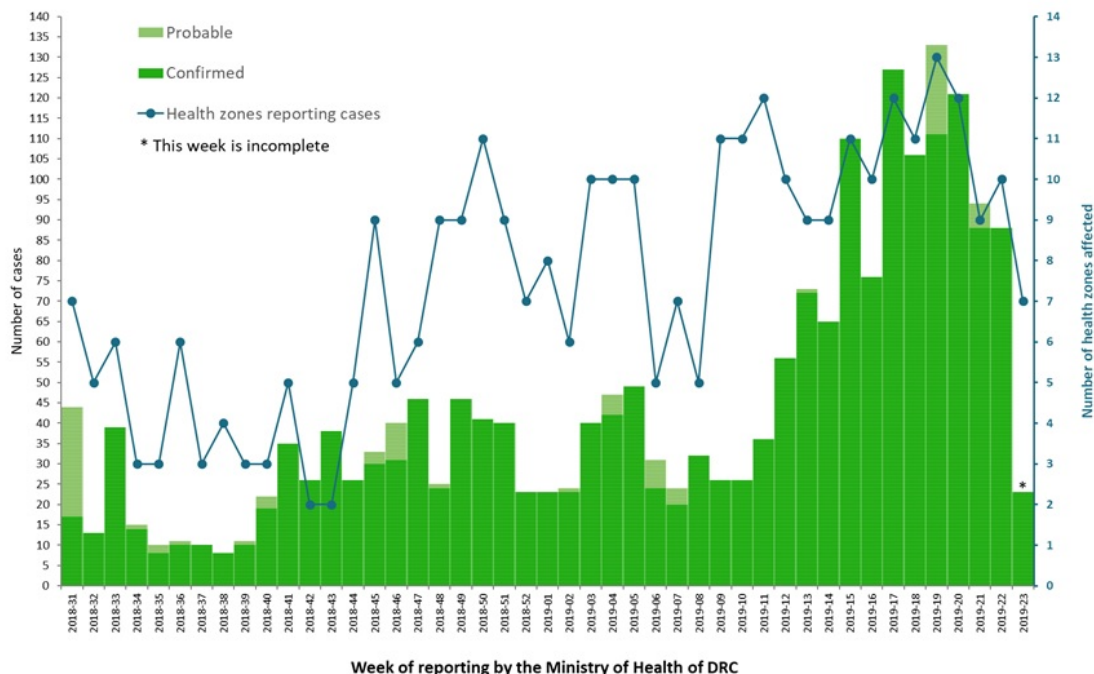
Geographical distribution of confirmed and probable cases of Ebola virus disease, North Kivu and Ituri Provinces, Democratic Republic of the Congo, as of 5 June 2019

ECDC



Distribution of confirmed and probable cases of Ebola Virus Disease and health zones reporting cases, North Kivu and Ituri, Democratic Republic of the Congo, as of 5 June 2019

ECDC



Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Multistate

Opening date: 24 September 2012

Latest update: 7 June 2019

Epidemiological summary

In 2019 and as of 28 May 2019, 160 MERS-CoV cases have been reported in Saudi Arabia (147) and Oman (13), including 40 deaths in Saudi Arabia (36) and Oman (4). In Saudi Arabia, 70 cases were primary (32 of whom reported contact with camels), 38 were healthcare-acquired, 30 were household contacts and 9 were unspecified secondary cases. In 2019, 76% of the 147 cases in Saudi Arabia were reported in Riyadh (95) and Eastern Provinces (17).

Since April 2012 and as of 28 May 2019, 2 457 cases of MERS-CoV, including 889 deaths, have been reported by health authorities worldwide.

Sources: [ECDC MERS-CoV page](#) | [WHO MERS-CoV](#) | [ECDC factsheet for professionals](#) | [Saudi Arabia Ministry of Health](#)

ECDC assessment

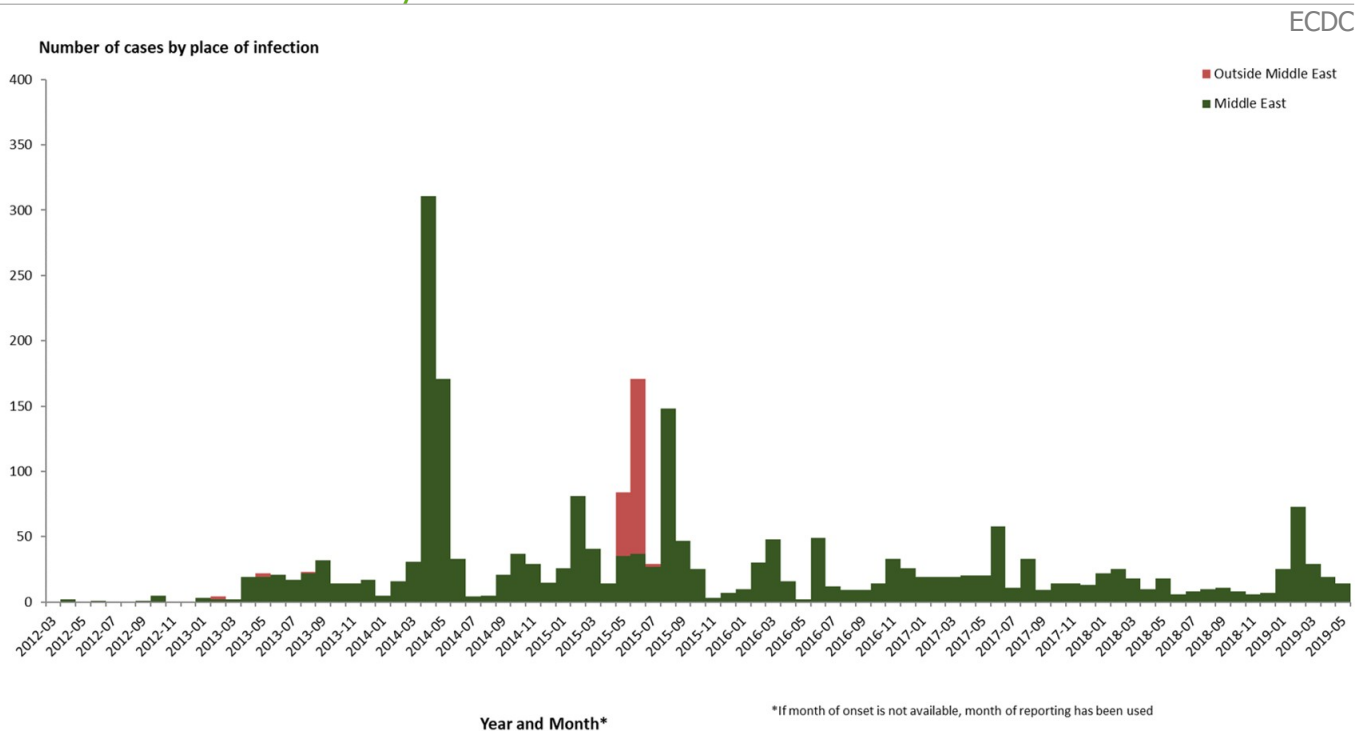
Human cases of MERS-CoV continue to be reported in the Arabian Peninsula, particularly in Saudi Arabia. The risk of sustained human-to-human transmission in Europe remains very low. The current MERS-CoV situation poses a low risk to the EU, as stated in a [rapid risk assessment](#) published on 29 August 2018, which also provides details on the last case reported in Europe.

On 2 August 2018, ECDC published a [rapid risk assessment regarding public health risks related to communicable diseases during the 2018 Hajj, Saudi Arabia, 19–24 August 2018](#) that also addresses MERS-CoV.

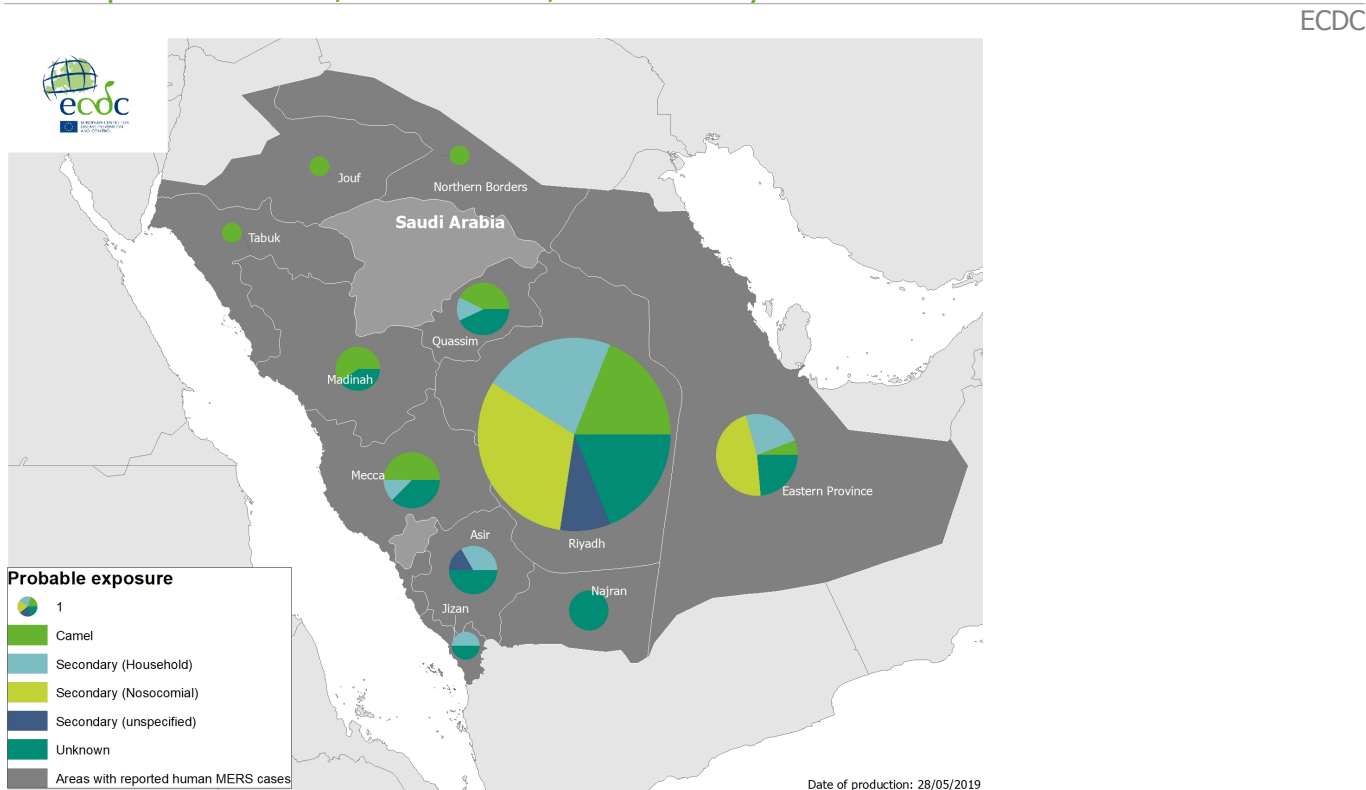
Actions

ECDC monitors this threat through epidemic intelligence and reports on a monthly basis.

Distribution of confirmed cases of MERS-CoV by place of infection and month of onset, from March 2012 to 28 May 2019



Geographical distribution of confirmed MERS-CoV cases by probable region of infection and exposure in 2019, Saudi Arabia, as of 28 May 2019



Poliomyelitis – Multistate (World) – Monitoring global outbreaks

Opening date: 8 September 2005

Latest update: 7 June 2019

Epidemiological summary

Wild poliovirus: In 2019 and as of 29 May 2019, 29 cases have been reported in two endemic countries: Pakistan (21) and Afghanistan (8). During the same period in 2018, 12 wild poliovirus type were reported from Afghanistan (9) and Pakistan (3).

cVDPV: In 2019 and as of 29 May 2019, 12 cases of cVDPV2 have been reported in Nigeria (8), Somalia (2), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1) and Niger (1). During the same period in 2018, 16 cases were reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (8), Somalia (4), Nigeria (2) and Papua New Guinea (2).

Sources: [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#) | [ECDC](#) | [ECDC Polio interactive map](#)

ECDC assessment

The WHO European Region has remained polio-free since 2002. Inactivated polio vaccines are used in all EU/EEA countries. The risk of reintroduction of the virus in Europe exists as long as there are non- or under-vaccinated population groups in European countries and poliomyelitis is not eradicated.

ECDC link: [ECDC comment on risk of polio in Europe](#) | [ECDC risk assessment](#)

Actions

ECDC provides updates on the polio situation on a monthly basis. ECDC monitors reports of polio cases worldwide through epidemic intelligence in order to highlight polio eradication efforts and identifies events that increase the risk of reintroducing wild poliovirus in the EU.

ECDC maintains an interactive [map](#) showing countries that are still endemic for polio and have ongoing outbreaks of cVDPV.

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