



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE THREATS REPORT

CDTR Week 6, 6-12 February 2022

All users

This weekly bulletin provides updates on threats monitored by ECDC.

I. Executive summary

EU Threats

COVID-19 associated with SARS-CoV-2 – Multi-country (World) – 2019 - 2022

Opening date: 7 January 2020

Latest update: 11 February 2022

On 31 December 2019, the Wuhan Municipal Health and Health Commission reported a cluster of pneumonia cases of unknown aetiology with a common source of exposure at Wuhan's South China Seafood City market. Further investigations identified a novel coronavirus as the causative agent of respiratory symptoms for these cases. The outbreak rapidly evolved, affecting other parts of China and other countries worldwide. On 30 January 2020, WHO declared that the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), accepting the Committee's advice and issuing temporary recommendations under the International Health Regulations (IHR). On 11 March 2020, the Director-General of WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. The third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee meetings for COVID-19 were held in Geneva on 30 April 2020, 31 July 2020, 29 October 2020, 14 January 2021, 15 April 2021, 14 July 2021, 22 October 2021 and 13 January 2022, respectively. The Committee concluded during these meetings that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to constitute a PHEIC.

→ Update of the week

Since week 2022-4 and as of week 2022-5, 17 574 070 new cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) and 69 882 new deaths have been reported.

Since 31 December 2019 and as of week 2022-5, 394 483 957 cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) have been reported, including 5 753 799 deaths.

As of week 2022-5, 93 744 621 cases and 969 620 deaths have been reported in the EU.

The figures reported worldwide and in the EU/EEA are probably an underestimate of the true number of cases and deaths, due to various degrees of under-ascertainment and under-reporting.

The latest daily situation update for the EU/EEA is available [here](#).

Since the last update on 3 February 2022 and as of 10 February 2022, no changes have been made to ECDC variant classifications for variants of concern (VOC), variants of interest (VOI), variants under monitoring and De-escalated variants.

For the latest information about variants, please see [ECDC's webpage on variants](#).

Influenza – Multi-country – Monitoring 2021/2022 season

Opening date: 15 October 2021

Latest update: 11 February 2022

Reported influenza activity in Europe increased slightly in week 5/2022, but different levels of activity are being observed in countries and areas in the Region.

→ Update of the week

Week 5, 2022:

- Albania, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Norway, and Ukraine reported widespread influenza activity and/or medium influenza intensity.
- In Europe, 8% of all sentinel primary care specimens from patients presenting with ILI or ARI symptoms tested positive for an influenza virus.
- Seven countries reported influenza test positivity at or above 10% in sentinel primary care: Slovenia (36%), Hungary (34%), France (33%), Israel (31%), Luxembourg (16%), Serbia (13%), and Switzerland (10%).
- Both influenza type A and type B viruses were detected, with A(H3) viruses being dominant across all monitoring systems.
- Hospitalised cases with confirmed influenza virus infection were reported from intensive care units (three type A viruses), other wards (three type A viruses) and SARI surveillance systems (nine type A viruses).

Non EU Threats

New! Lassa fever – United Kingdom ex. West Africa – 2022

Opening date: 10 February 2022

Latest update: 11 February 2022

Lassa fever cases with recent travel history to West Africa have been reported in the United Kingdom in February 2022.

Mass Gathering Monitoring - Winter Olympic Games in Beijing - 2022

Opening date: 28 January 2022

Latest update: 11 February 2022

The Olympic Winter Games are taking place between 4 and 20 February 2022 in Beijing, China. Indoor and outdoor venues, as well as the Beijing National Stadium (which will hold opening and closing ceremonies), will be used. There will be 2 900 athletes from 90 countries participating in the Games this year, as well as 19 000 volunteers. On 17 January 2022, it was [announced](#) that ticket sales to the general public will be cancelled and a limited number of spectators will be admitted, by invitation only.

→ Update of the week

Between [8 and 10 February 2022](#), 25 Olympic-related COVID-19 cases were reported after screening for SARS-CoV-2. Eleven cases were detected at Beijing International Airport and 14 within the closed-loop system. Overall, since 23 January 2022 and as of 10 February 2022, there have been 418 Olympic-related cases, of which 176 have been among athletes and team officials and 242 among other stakeholders.

Daily COVID-19 updates can be found on the official [Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics website](#).

From 4 to 10 February 2022, no other events of public health significance were detected in the context of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

Chikungunya and dengue – Multi-country (World) – Monitoring global outbreaks

Opening date: 27 January 2017

Latest update: 11 February 2022

Chikungunya virus disease and dengue are vector-borne diseases transmitted by *Aedes* mosquitoes. Outbreaks of dengue and chikungunya virus diseases have been reported globally in the Americas, Asia, Africa, Oceania, and Europe. Chikungunya virus disease and dengue are not endemic in mainland Europe, despite autochthonous outbreaks having been reported during the summer and autumn months in recent years.

→ Update of the week

Chikungunya virus disease: In 2022, 1 277 cases have been reported, the majority from Brazil (1 185).

Dengue: In 2022, 46 193 cases have been reported, the majority from Brazil (29 886).

II. Detailed reports

COVID-19 associated with SARS-CoV-2 – Multi-country (World) – 2019 - 2022

Opening date: 7 January 2020

Latest update: 11 February 2022

Epidemiological summary

Since 31 December 2019 and as of week 2022-5, 394 483 957 cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) have been reported, including 5 753 799 deaths.

Cases have been reported from:

Africa: 10 981 255 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are South Africa (3 623 962), Morocco (1 147 964), Tunisia (944 175), Ethiopia (466 539) and Libya (450 118).

Asia: 89 025 448 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are India (42 272 014), Iran (6 579 266), Indonesia (4 516 480), Philippines (3 616 387) and Israel (3 218 391).

America: 140 739 279 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are United States (76 505 442), Brazil (26 533 010), Argentina (8 615 285), Colombia (5 975 786) and Mexico (5 160 767).

Europe: 151 126 846 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are France (20 665 610), United Kingdom (17 803 325), Russia (12 982 023), Turkey (11 939 804) and Italy (11 331 798).

Oceania: 2 610 424 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Australia (2 364 744), Fiji (63 356), French Polynesia (49 521), Guam (37 456) and Papua New Guinea (37 390).

Other: 705 cases have been reported from an international conveyance in Japan.

Deaths have been reported from:

Africa: 241 183 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are South Africa (95 835), Tunisia (26 679), Egypt (22 936), Morocco (15 617) and Ethiopia (7 363).

Asia: 1 194 750 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are India (502 874), Indonesia (144 554), Iran (132 830), Philippines (54 538) and Malaysia (38 498).

America: 2 547 396 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are United States (902 624), Brazil (632 193), Mexico (309 752), Peru (207 114) and Colombia (135 992).

Europe: 1 763 530 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are Russia (336 023), United Kingdom (158 318), Italy (148 771), France (136 909) and Germany (118 938).

Oceania: 6 934 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are Australia (4 201), Fiji (813), French Polynesia (636), Papua New Guinea (597) and Guam (299).

Other: 6 deaths have been reported from an international conveyance in Japan.

EU/EEA:

As of week 2022-5, 94 737 839 cases have been reported in the EU/EEA: France (20 665 610), Italy (11 331 798), Germany (11 169 758), Spain (10 389 538), Poland (5 193 679), Netherlands (4 877 438), Belgium (3 289 745), Czechia (3 242 091), Portugal (2 932 881), Romania (2 377 469), Sweden (2 344 777), Austria (2 089 100), Greece (2 056 621), Denmark (1 915 588), Hungary (1 650 641), Slovakia (1 524 022), Ireland (1 217 106), Bulgaria (993 255), Croatia (983 773), Norway (905 598), Lithuania (832 590), Slovenia (800 012), Finland (532 338), Latvia (450 103), Estonia (370 500), Cyprus (271 977), Luxembourg (175 650), Iceland (77 959), Malta (66 561) and Liechtenstein (9 661).

As of week 2022-5, 971 208 deaths have been reported in the EU/EEA: Italy (148 771), France (136 909), Germany (118 938), Poland (106 986), Spain (94 442), Romania (58 450), Hungary (40 821), Czechia (37 528), Bulgaria (33 728), Belgium (28 819), Greece (24 200), Netherlands (21 332), Portugal (20 264), Slovakia (17 973), Sweden (15 953), Croatia (14 137), Austria (13 671), Lithuania (8 396), Slovenia (6 485), Ireland (6 228), Latvia (5 322), Denmark (3 390), Finland (2 702), Estonia (1 962), Norway (1 466), Luxembourg (1 001), Cyprus (873), Malta (339), Liechtenstein (73) and Iceland (49).

The latest daily situation update for the EU/EEA is available [here](#).

In week 2022-5, in the EU/EEA overall, the reported weekly cases decreased by 16.4% compared to the previous week. The highest weekly increases in descending order were observed in Netherlands, Estonia, Slovakia, Ireland and Latvia. The countries with the highest 14-day notification rates per 100 000 population are: Denmark (10 394), Slovenia (8 962), Estonia (6 706), Portugal (6 588), France (6 182). 19 of the 30 EU/EEA countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden) reported a decrease in the weekly cases.

ECDC's assessment of each country's epidemiological situation is based on a composite score based on the absolute value and

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trend of five weekly COVID-19 epidemiological indicators. As shown below, for week 5, eight countries (Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Romania and Slovenia) were categorised as of very high concern, 18 countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal and Slovakia) as of high concern and four countries (Italy, Luxembourg, Spain and Sweden) as of moderate concern. Compared with the previous week, nine countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal and Sweden) moved to a lower category and 21 countries stayed in the same category.

For the latest COVID-19 country overviews, please see the [dedicated webpage](#).

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC):

On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 constitutes a PHEIC. On 11 March 2020, the Director-General of [WHO](#) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. The [third](#), [fourth](#), [fifth](#), [sixth](#), [seventh](#), [eighth](#), [ninth](#) and [tenth](#) International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee meetings for COVID-19 were held in Geneva on 30 April 2020, 31 July 2020, 29 October 2020, 14 January 2021, 15 April 2021, 4 July 2021, 22 October 2021 and 13 January 2022, respectively. The Committee concluded during these meetings that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to constitute a PHEIC.

ECDC assessment

For the most recent risk assessment, please visit [ECDC's dedicated webpage](#).

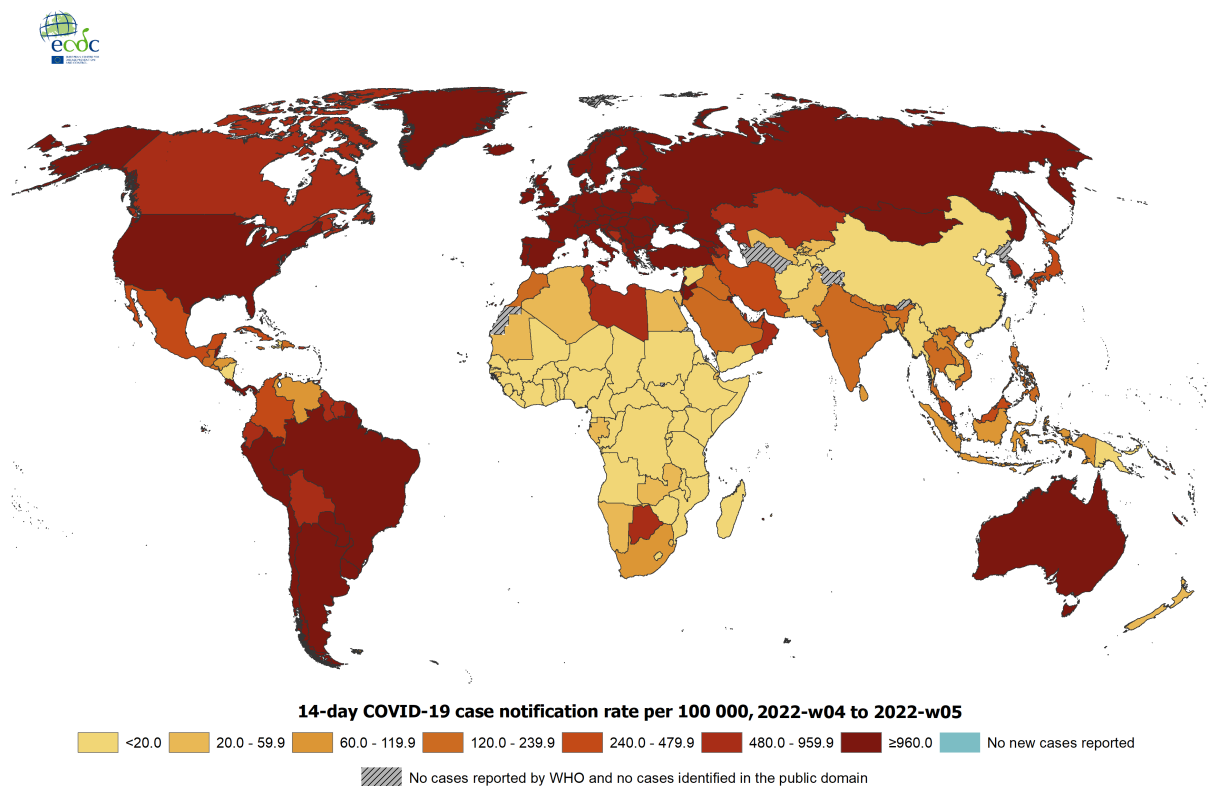
Actions

On 27 January 2022, ECDC published the Rapid Risk Assessment 'Assessment of the further emergence and potential impact of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant of concern in the EU/EEA, 19th update'.

A [dashboard](#) with the latest updates is available on ECDC's [website](#). For the latest update on SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern, please see [ECDC's webpage on variants](#).

Geographic distribution of 14-day cumulative number of reported COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population, worldwide, 2022-w04 to 2022-w05

Source: ECDC



Administrative boundaries: © EuroGeographics © UN-FAO © Turkstat. The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the European Union.

Date of production: 09/02/2022

Influenza – Multi-country – Monitoring 2021/2022 season

Opening date: 15 October 2021

Latest update: 11 February 2022

Epidemiological summary

2021/2022 season overview:

In Europe, influenza activity started to increase in week 49/2021, with a general dominance of A(H3) viruses, although some countries reported cocirculation of both A(H3) and A(H1)pdm09 viruses, e.g. France.

Source: [Flu News Europe](#)

ECDC assessment

Reported influenza activity in Europe increased slightly compared to previous weeks, but different levels of activity are being observed between countries and areas in the Region.

Vaccination remains the best protective measure for the prevention of influenza. With dominant A(H3) circulation, clinicians should consider early antiviral treatment of at-risk groups with influenza infection in accordance with local guidance in order to

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prevent severe outcomes.

Actions

ECDC and WHO monitor influenza activity in the WHO European Region. Data will be updated on a weekly basis and are available on the [Flu News Europe](#) website.

New! Lassa fever – United Kingdom ex. West Africa – 2022

Opening date: 10 February 2022

Latest update: 11 February 2022

Epidemiological summary

On 9 February 2022, the UK Health Security Agency reported two confirmed cases and one probable case of Lassa fever in East England. The cases are related to recent travel to West Africa and all the cases are from the same household. Among the confirmed cases, one has recovered while the other is still hospitalised in London; the probable case is receiving healthcare in a hospital in Bedfordshire, England.

According to the UK Health Security Agency, there have been eight cases of Lassa fever imported to the UK since 1980, with the last two cases being reported in 2009.

Source: [UK health security agency](#)

ECDC assessment

The few Lassa fever cases detected in the EU/EEA to date have all been imported from endemic areas, with the exception of one secondary case reported in Germany in 2016.

The likelihood of infection for EU/EEA citizens in relation to this event in the UK is negligible. However, while the likelihood of infection for EU/EEA citizens travelling to West Africa remains very low, these travellers should be informed of the risk of exposure to Lassa fever virus, particularly in areas experiencing ongoing outbreaks. Travellers should avoid exposure to rodents and consumption of foods and drinks potentially contaminated by rodent droppings, and to people experiencing haemorrhagic fever symptoms. In order to prevent human to human transmission, unprotected contacts with patients' blood and body fluids should be avoided as well as exposure to possible contaminated surfaces or materials.

Public health actors should remain vigilant regarding the possibility of imported Lassa fever cases and ensure an early diagnosis to avoid secondary transmission.

ECDC conducted a "[Rapid risk assessment: cases of Lassa fever in the Netherlands ex Sierra Leone](#)" in 2019, the conclusions of which remain valid.

Actions

ECDC will continue to monitor the ongoing situation and will report again should relevant epidemiological updates become available.

Mass Gathering Monitoring - Winter Olympic Games in Beijing - 2022

Opening date: 28 January 2022

Latest update: 11 February 2022

Epidemiological summary

COVID-19-related information:

As of [10 February 2022](#), there were 143 843 confirmed cases and 5 702 deaths in China. Full vaccination uptake in China is close to [90%](#).

Other diseases:

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According to the [Chinese Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report](#), influenza activity in China during week 4 of 2022 has decreased slightly and one influenza B outbreak has been reported. A total of 2 606 positive specimens were detected among the 10 681 (24.4%) tested in outpatient or emergency visits for influenza-like illness.

ECDC assessment

The Winter Olympics generally attract a smaller audience and fewer athletes than the Summer Olympics. Spectators at the 2022 Winter Olympics are further limited due to the spread of the Omicron variant and China's strategy to control and prevent COVID-19. Significant public health measures have been put in place for the Beijing Olympic games, but considering the high transmissibility of Omicron and the context of a mass gathering event there is an increased risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2. For the latest COVID-19 risk assessment, please visit [ECDC's dedicated webpage](#).

The risk of infection from other communicable diseases in China during the Winter Olympic Games 2022 is considered low if preventive measures are applied, e.g. being fully vaccinated according to the national immunisation schedule, following hand and food hygiene, respiratory etiquette, refraining from social activities if any symptoms occur, and seeking prompt testing and medical advice when needed.

Actions

ECDC will monitor this event daily through its epidemic intelligence activities until 25 February 2022, and weekly reports will be included in the Communicable Disease Threat Report.

Chikungunya and dengue – Multi-country (World) – Monitoring global outbreaks

Opening date: 27 January 2017

Latest update: 11 February 2022

Epidemiological summary

Europe

Chikungunya virus disease: No autochthonous cases of chikungunya virus disease have been reported in Europe in 2022.

Dengue: No autochthonous cases of dengue have been reported in Europe in 2022.

Americas and the Caribbean

Chikungunya virus disease:

Brazil: In 2022, and as of 22 January 2022, 1 185 cases, including 117 confirmed cases and no deaths have been reported.

El Salvador: In 2022, and as of 22 January 2022, seven cases and no deaths have been reported.

Paraguay: In 2022, and as of 22 January 2022, 10 cases and no deaths have been reported.

Peru: In 2022, and as of 29 January 2022, three cases and no deaths have been reported.

Dengue:

In 2022, and as of 7 February, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) reported 40 154 dengue cases, including 7 873 confirmed cases and 9 associated deaths, in the Americas. The five countries reporting most cases are: Brazil (29 886), Peru (4 247), Colombia (3 182), Mexico (1 065), and Paraguay (967).

All four dengue virus serotypes (DENV 1, DENV 2, DENV 3, and DENV 4) are currently circulating in the Americas, which increases the risk of severe disease. The figures for each country of the Americas region can be found on the [PAHO Health Information Platform](#).

Dengue fever [surveillance indicators](#) are at low levels or even zero in the French Antilles (Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint-Martin, and Saint-Barthélemy). [Martinique](#) and [Guadeloupe](#) officially declared the end of the dengue epidemics in these two French departments on 29 April and 20 May 2021, respectively.

Asia**Chikungunya virus disease:**

[Malaysia](#): In 2022, and as of 15 January 2022, 51 cases and no deaths have been reported.

[Thailand](#): In 2022, and as of 27 January 2022, 21 cases and no deaths have been reported.

Dengue:

[Afghanistan](#): In 2022, and as of 8 January 2022, 14 cases and no deaths have been reported.

[Bangladesh](#): In 2022, and as of 18 January 2022, 104 cases and no deaths have been reported.

[China](#): In 2022, and as of 27 January 2022, three cases and no deaths have been reported.

[Indonesia](#): In 2022, and as of 22 January 2022, 313 cases, including seven deaths have been reported.

[Nepal](#): In 2022, and as of 22 January 2022, 10 cases and no deaths have been reported.

[Pakistan](#): In 2022, and as of 2 February 2022, 24 confirmed cases and no deaths have been reported.

[Singapore](#): In 2022, and as of 5 February 2022, 758 cases and no deaths have been reported.

[Sri Lanka](#): In 2022, and as of 28 January 2022, 816 cases and no deaths have been reported.

[Thailand](#): In 2022, and as of 16 January 2022, 80 cases and no deaths have been reported.

[Timor-Leste](#): In 2022, and as of 31 January 2022, 1 286 cases, including 20 deaths, have been reported. According to the WHO Disease Outbreak News item, this is an unusually large surge since the end of 2021. Of these cases, 790 (61.4%) were children younger than 14 years, and 142 were severe dengue cases.

[Vietnam](#): In 2022, and as of 16 January 2022, 2 240 cases, including one death, has been reported.

Africa**Chikungunya virus disease:**

No cases of chikungunya virus disease have been reported in Africa in 2022.

Dengue:

[Réunion](#): In 2022, and as of 7 February 2022, 139 confirmed cases and no deaths have been reported. According to Agence Régionale de Santé de La Réunion, the number of dengue cases has been increasing in recent weeks but remains lower than the same period in previous years. The situation is still considered as 'inter-epidemic'.

Australia and the Pacific**Chikungunya virus disease:**

No cases of chikungunya virus disease have been reported in Australia and the Pacific in 2022.

Dengue:

[Fiji](#): In 2022, and as of 15 January 2022, 185 cases and no deaths have been reported.

[French Polynesia](#): In 2022, and as of 8 January 2022, 47 cases and no deaths have been reported.

[Micronesia \(Federated States of\)](#): In 2022, and as of 15 January 2022, five cases and no deaths have been reported.

[New Caledonia](#): In 2022, and as of 15 January 2022, one case and no deaths have been reported.

[Palau](#): In 2022, and as of 15 January 2022, one case and no deaths have been reported.

[Samoa](#): In 2022, and as of 15 January 2022, four cases and no deaths have been reported.

[Solomon Islands](#): In 2022, and as of 8 January 2022, seven cases and no deaths have been reported.

[Wallis and Futuna](#): In 2022, and as of 15 January 2022, two cases and no deaths have been reported.

N.B: The data presented in this report originate from several sources, both official public health authorities and non-official sources such as news media. Data completeness depends on the availability of reports from surveillance systems and their accuracy, which varies between countries. All data should be interpreted with caution as there may be areas of under-reporting; reported figures may not reflect the actual epidemiological situation. Please note that case definitions may differ between countries and comparisons should be made with caution.

ECDC assessment

Chikungunya virus disease and dengue affect people in most countries in the tropics and sub-tropics. EU/EEA citizens travelling to the affected areas should apply personal protective measures against mosquito bites.

The likelihood for onward transmission of dengue and chikungunya virus disease in mainland EU/EEA is, among other things, linked to importation of the virus by viraemic travellers into receptive areas with established and active competent vectors (i.e. [Aedes albopictus](#)). [Aedes albopictus](#) is [established](#) in a large part of mainland Europe. The current likelihood of the occurrence of vector-borne events of chikungunya and dengue viruses in mainland EU/EEA is negligible, as the environmental conditions are not favourable to the growth of mosquito populations and virus replication in the vector. To date, all autochthonous outbreaks of [chikungunya virus disease](#) and [dengue](#) in mainland EU/EEA have occurred between July and November.

More information is available on ECDC's dedicated webpage on autochthonous transmission of [chikungunya](#) and [dengue](#) virus in the EU/EEA, as well as on ECDC's [dengue](#) and [chikungunya](#) factsheets.

Actions

ECDC monitors these threats through its epidemic intelligence activities and reports on a monthly basis. A summary of the worldwide overview of [dengue](#) and [chikungunya virus disease](#) is available on ECDC's website.

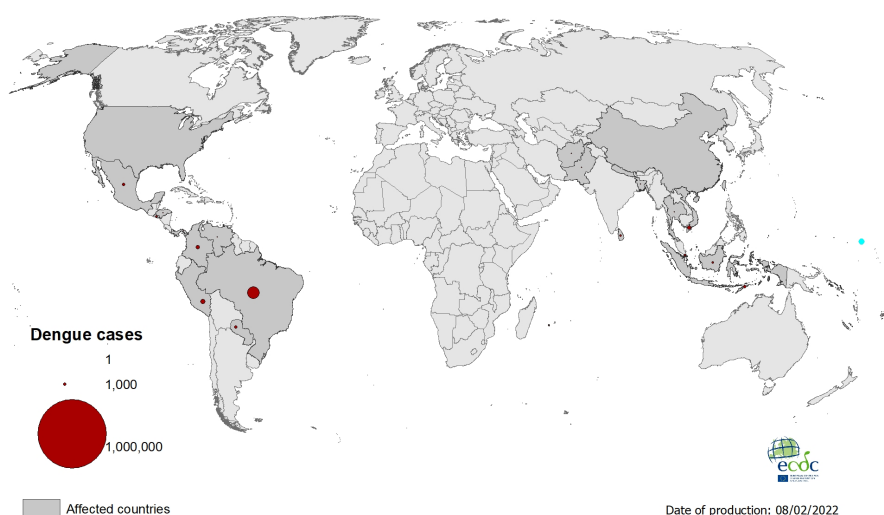
Geographical distribution of chikungunya virus disease cases reported worldwide in 2022, as of 8 February 2022

Source: ECDC



Geographical distribution of dengue cases reported worldwide in 2022, as of 8 February 2022

Source: ECDC



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