COMMUNICABLE DISEASE THREATS REPORT

CDTR
Week 26, 23-29 June 2019

All users

This weekly bulletin provides updates on threats monitored by ECDC.

I. Executive summary

EU Threats

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

Opening date: 3 June 2019 Latest update: 28 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.

Suspected cases of Chikungunya virus disease not confirmed by further testing - Spain - 2019

Opening date: 17 June 2019 Latest update: 28 June 2019

On 14 June 2019, a cluster of four chikungunya virus disease cases associated with travel to Alicante, Spain was reported by Iceland. However, on 21 June 2019, further laboratory analysis did not confirm chikungunya virus disease in these cases.

➔Update of the week
Further laboratory analysis did not confirm chikungunya virus disease in these cases.

Monitoring environmental suitability of Vibrio growth in the Baltic Sea – Summer 2019

Opening date: 3 June 2019 Latest update: 28 June 2019

Elevated sea surface temperatures (SST) in marine environments with low salt content offer optimal environmental growth conditions for certain *Vibrio* species. These conditions can be found during the summer months in estuaries and enclosed water bodies with moderate salinity. ECDC has developed a model to map the environmental suitability for *Vibrio* growth in the Baltic Sea (ECDC *Vibrio* Map Viewer).

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Non EU Threats

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

Opening date: 1 August 2018 Latest update: 28 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. In June 2019, several cases from the Democratic Republic of the Congo were detected in Uganda. However, Uganda has not reported autochthonous transmission as of 18 June 2019. On 14 June 2019, the International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee convened and decided that the outbreak is concerning, but does not meet all the criteria for a public health emergency of international concern under the IHR.

➔Update of the week

Since the previous CDTR and as of 26 June 2019, the Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has reported 94 additional confirmed cases. During the same period, 70 deaths were reported.

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

So far, there has been no local transmission reported in Uganda. Ninety-six contacts are still under follow-up, all asymptomatic so far. Seventeen contacts have completed 21 days of follow-up.

Acute neurological syndrome – Peru – 2019

Opening date: 18 June 2019 Latest update: 28 June 2019

In 2019, the Peruvian Ministry of Health has detected an unusual number of cases of acute neurological syndrome thought to be Guillain-Barré syndrome. The cases are widespread in several regions across the country and the aetiology is unknown.

➔Update of the week

In 2019 and as of 22 June 2019, Peru has reported 575 Guillain-Barré syndrome cases since the beginning of the year, a twofold increase compared with 2018.

Chikungunya and dengue – Multistate (World) – Monitoring global outbreaks

Opening date: 27 January 2017 Latest update: 28 June 2019

Chikungunya virus disease and dengue are vector-borne diseases that affect 50–100 million people each year. In the past decade, an increasing number of countries have detected cases of dengue and chikungunya virus disease. Chikungunya virus disease has been circulating in Africa and Asia and reached the Americas, the Caribbean and the Pacific since 2013–2014. Dengue is present in Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific. In 2018, France and Spain reported autochthonous dengue cases. No cases of either disease have been reported in continental Europe so far in 2019.

➔Update of the week

Chikungunya virus disease: The virus is circulating in the Americas, with several countries reporting cases in 2019. Chikungunya virus disease cases have also been detected in Africa and Asia. Since the previous CDTR update, Brazil and Thailand have reported the majority of new cases.

Dengue: Brazil, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam have reported the largest number of cases in 2019. Almost all reporting countries in Asia have observed an increase of cases compared with last year.

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II. Detailed reports

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

Opening date: 3 June 2019 Latest update: 28 June 2019

Epidemiological summary

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

Since the beginning of the 2019 transmission season and as of 27 June 2019, no human case or equine West Nile virus infection outbreak has been reported in EU Member States and EU neighbouring countries.

ECDC link: 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.

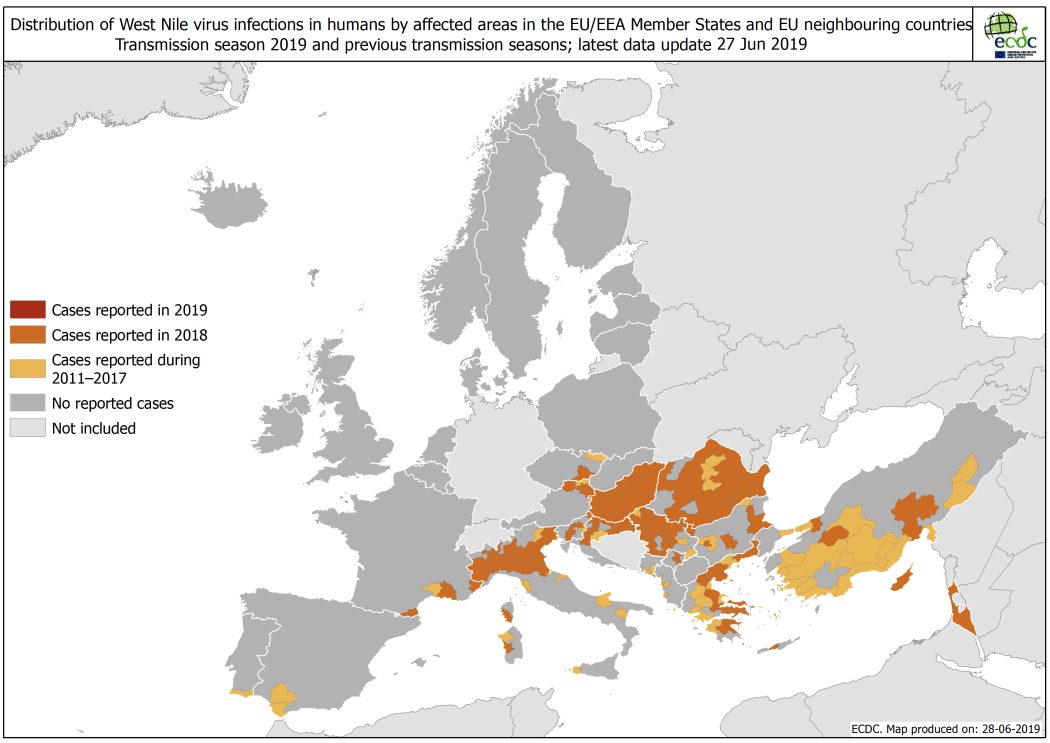
In accordance with European Commission Directive 2014/110/EU, prospective donors should be deferred for 28 days after leaving a risk area for locally acquired West Nile virus unless the results of an individual nucleic acid test are negative.

Actions

During the transmission season, ECDC publishes West Nile virus infection maps together with an epidemiological summary every Friday.

Distribution of human West Nile virus infections by affected areas as of 27.06.19

ECDC



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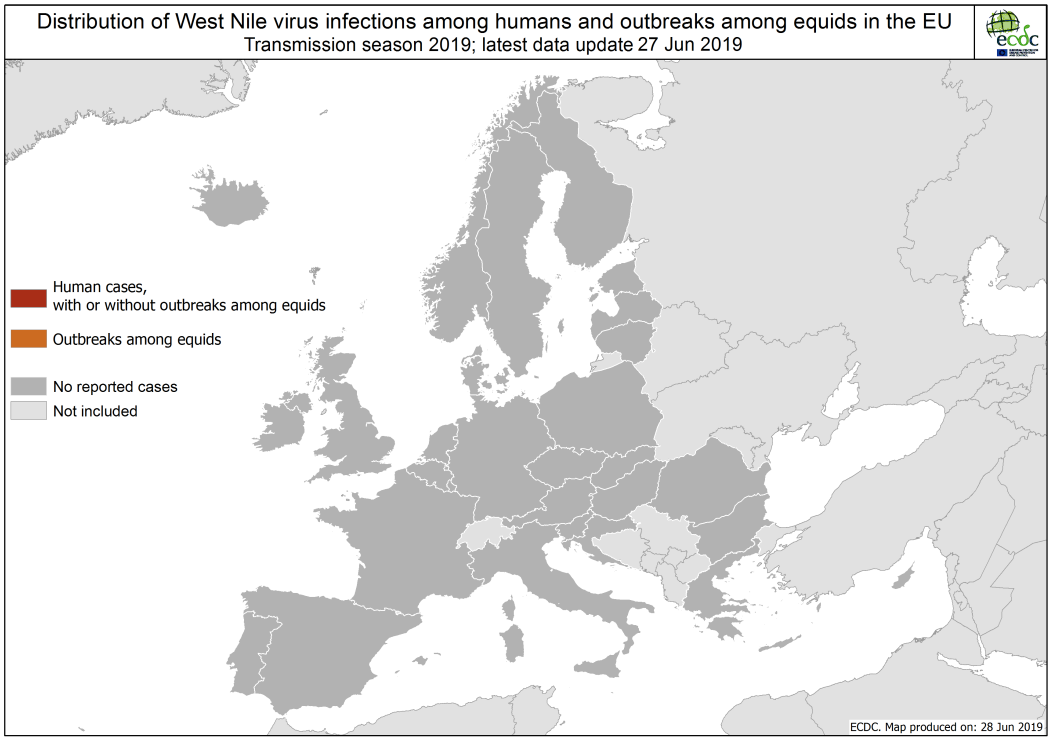
Distribution of West Nile virus infections among humans and outbreaks among equids in the EU as of 27.06.19

ECDC and ADNS



Suspected cases of Chikungunya virus disease not confirmed by further testing - Spain - 2019

Opening date: 17 June 2019 Latest update: 28 June 2019

Epidemiological summary

On 14 June 2019, Iceland reported four cases of chikungunya virus disease associated with travel to Alicante, Valencian Community, Spain, from 17–31 May 2019.

On 21 June 2019, the Icelandic Directorate of Health issued a statement to acknowledge that further testing did not confirm chikungunya virus disease in the previously reported cases.
Later in June 2019, further laboratory testing showed a positive result for another infectious disease for two of the cases.

Sources: Information from national authorities | El País | El Mundo | Icelandic Directorate of Health

ECDC assessment

There is no evidence that the reported cases are chikungunya virus disease.

Actions

ECDC has taken no further action.

Monitoring environmental suitability of Vibrio growth in the Baltic Sea – Summer 2019

Opening date: 3 June 2019 Latest update: 28 June 2019

Epidemiological summary

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As of 27 June 2019, the environmental suitability for *Vibrio* growth in the Baltic Sea for the next five days is considered generally to be very low to low, except in Szczecin (Germany and Poland), the Øresund Strait (Denmark and Sweden), Fehmarn Belt (Denmark and Germany), Gulf of Mecklenburg and Bay of Kiel (Germany), Gdansk Bay (Poland), Curonian Lagoon (Lithuania), Pärnu (Estonia) and Kalmar Strait (Sweden) where the risk is considered to be medium to high. In addition, in the Vistula Lagoon (Poland) the risk is considered to be very high.

Outside EU/EEA countries, the environmental suitability for *Vibrio* growth in the Baltic Sea for the next five days is considered medium to high in Curonian Lagoon (Russia).

Sources: ECDC | National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service

The model has been calibrated to the Baltic region in northern Europe and may not apply to other worldwide settings prior to validation. For the Baltic Sea, the model parameters to be used in the map are the following values: number colour bands (20) scale method linear, legend range minimum value: 0 and maximum value: 28.

ECDC assessment

Elevated SSTs in marine environments with low salt content offer ideal environmental growth conditions for certain *Vibrio* species. These conditions can be found during the summer months in estuaries and enclosed water bodies with moderate salinity. Open ocean environments do not offer appropriate growth conditions for these bacteria due to high salt content, low temperatures and limited nutrient content. These *Vibrio* species can cause vibriosis infections, particularly *V. parahaemolyticus*, *V. vulnificus* and non-toxigenic *V. cholera*.

Vibriosis in humans caused by these species in the Baltic region has occurred in the past during hot summer months, particularly when SSTs were elevated (above 20 degrees Celsius). The most common clinical manifestations are gastroenteritis with nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea, wound infections when a cut has been exposed, infected wounds or abrasions due to contaminated seawater, primary septicaemia and otitis externa. Risk factors for illness apart from contact with natural bodies of waters, especially marine or estuarine waters, also include the consumption of shellfish, particularly raw oysters.

Actions

ECDC is monitoring this threat on a weekly basis during the summer of 2019 and report on increased environmental suitability for growth of *Vibrio* species.

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

Opening date: 1 August 2018 Latest update: 28 June 2019

Epidemiological summary

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, since the beginning of the outbreak a year ago and as of 26 June 2019, there have been 2 284 Ebola virus disease cases (2 190 confirmed, 94 probable), including 1 540 deaths (1 446 confirmed, 94 probable), according to the Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This includes the three cases and three deaths that were previously reported having travelled to Uganda.

As of 26 June 2019, 125 healthcare workers have been infected, including 40 deaths.

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.

Sources: Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo | WHO | WHO Regional Office for Africa

ECDC assessment

ECDC assessment: The recent report of imported cases from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Uganda is not unexpected. So far, the identification of these cases does not change the overall risk for the EU/EEA, which remains very low. 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.

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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 risk can only be eliminated by stopping transmission at the local level.

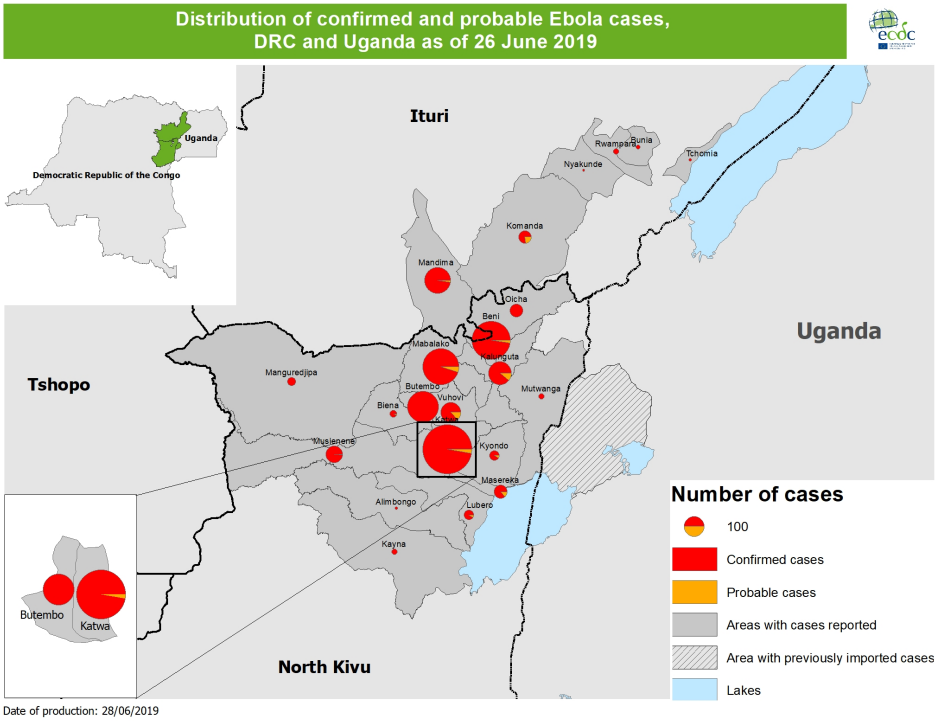
WHO assessment: As of 27 June 2019, the WHO assessment is that the risk of spread is low at the global level, but remains very high at national and regional levels.

Actions

ECDC published an epidemiological update on 13 June 2019 and the fourth update of a rapid risk assessment on 17 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 26 June 2019

Source: ECDC



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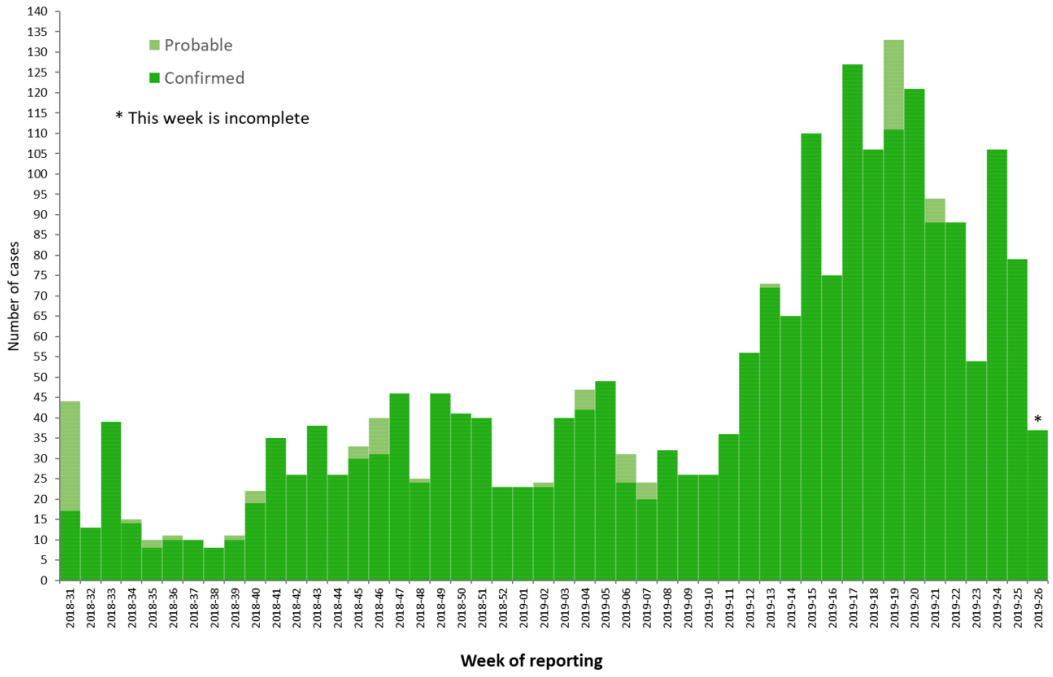
Distribution of confirmed and probable cases of Ebola Virus Disease and health zones reporting cases, North Kivu and Ituri, Democratic Republic of the Congo, as of 26 June 2019

Source: ECDC



Acute neurological syndrome – Peru – 2019

Opening date: 18 June 2019 Latest update: 28 June 2019

Epidemiological summary

In 2019 and as of 22 June 2019, Peru has reported 575 Guillain-Barré syndrome cases since the beginning of the year. Among these cases, 313 were detected during week 23 of 2019, 78 cases during week 24 of 2019 and 29 cases during week 25 of 2019. Due to the outbreak, the Peruvian Ministry of Health has declared a state of emergency in five regions of Peru: Junín, La Libertad, Lambayeque, Lima and Piura.

In 2018, during the same period, the Peruvian Ministry of Health had notified 215 cases, with a remarkable cluster reported in Trujillo Region. Investigations were unable to identify the aetiology of the outbreak.

Source: Peruvian Ministry of Health

ECDC assessment

The decreasing trend of reported cases needs to be confirmed during the following weeks and further investigations are needed to assess the situation and the risk for the European Union. Guillain-Barré is known to be triggered by bacterial infections, respiratory viruses, enteroviruses and arboviruses such as dengue and Zika virus disease.

Actions

ECDC is monitoring this event through epidemic intelligence.

Chikungunya and dengue – Multistate (World) – Monitoring global outbreaks

Opening date: 27 January 2017 Latest update: 28 June 2019

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Epidemiological summary

Europe

Chikungunya virus disease/dengue:
No autochthonous cases were detected in continental EU/EEA countries.

Americas and the Caribbean

Chikungunya virus disease:
Brazil: In 2019, Brazil has reported 38 000 confirmed cases, including 15 confirmed deaths, as of 8 June 2019. This represents a twofold increase compared with 19 000 confirmed cases reported for the same period in 2018. Rio de Janeiro, Pará and Minas Gerais are the states with the highest incidence in 2019.

Colombia: In 2019, Colombia has reported 308 cases as of 15 June 2019, 20 of which are laboratory-confirmed. This follows the same trend as in 2018, when 394 cases were reported for the same period.

El Salvador: El Salvador has reported 204 suspected cases as of 15 June 2019, compared with 127 cases for the same period in 2018.

Nicaragua: In 2019, Nicaragua has reported 74 suspected cases as of 15 June 2019, compared with 148 suspected and 22 confirmed cases during the same period in 2018.

Paraguay: In 2019, Paraguay has reported fewer cases than in 2018. As of 1 June 2019, the country has reported 40 probable cases, compared with 945 probable and 56 confirmed cases during the same period last year.

Peru: In 2019, Peru has reported 127 cases in 30 districts across the country as of 8 June 2019, compared with 259 cases for the same period in 2018. The cases mostly affect Piura, San Martín and Tumbes.

There is no update for Honduras.

Dengue:
The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has reported 741 500 suspected and confirmed cases in the Americas region in 2019 as of 16 June 2019. Brazil accounts for 80% of the cases (586 000), followed by Colombia (49 000), Nicaragua (33 000) and Mexico (20 000). Brazil has already recorded a fivefold increase compared with the same period in 2018, when 110 000 were reported. Media reports have also drawn attention to a sharp increase in the number of cases in Honduras, where the number of cases to date (12 878) has already exceeded the total of 2018 (7 900). The figures for each country in the Americas region can be found on the PAHO Health Information Platform.

Asia

Chikungunya virus disease:
The Maldives Health Protection Agency has reported a noticeable rise in cases in the past months. As of 18 June 2019, there has been 1 226 cases, mostly affecting Thaa, Gaaf Alif and Kaafu Atolls. The last previous outbreak in the Maldives was recorded in 2006.

Thailand: In 2019, Thailand has reported 3 994 cases with no deaths associated in 27 provinces as of 22 June 2019. The most affected provinces are located in the southern part of the country. This represents an increase of 600 cases since the previous CDTR update. During the same period last year, only 34 cases were recorded.

There are no updates for India and Indonesia.

Dengue:
Most countries in Asia and South East Asia have observed an increasing trend this year.

As of 25 May 2019, Cambodia has reported approximately 9 000 cases, compared with 1 000 for the same period in 2018.

As of 25 May 2019, Laos has reported 4 216 cases, compared with 100 for the same period in 2018.

As of 24 June 2019, Malaysia has reported 60 400 cases in 2019, compared with 29 000 for the same period in 2018.

In South Asia, the Maldives has reported 2 558 cases as of 18 June 2019, a fourfold increase compared with the same period in 2018.

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According to the National Institute of Health, Pakistan has reported 2 153 since the beginning of the year and as of 10 June 2019.

As of 18 May 2019, the Philippines have reported 77 000 cases, compared with 41 100 for the same period in 2018.

As of 22 June 2019, Singapore has reported 5 620 cases, compared with 1 200 for the same period in 2018.

As of 17 June 2019, Thailand has reported 20 900 cases, compared with 10 600 for the same period in 2018. The most affected provinces are Trat, Ubon Ratchathani and Samut Sakhon south of Bangkok. Due to the intense circulation of the virus throughout the country, Thailand has declared a state of emergency and is forecasting approximately 90 000 cases for 2019.

As of 11 May 2019, Vietnam has reported 60 000 cases, compared with 18 400 for the same period in 2018.

Recent updates have been published for the countries below:

Sri Lanka is following the same trend as in 2018. According to the Ministry of Health and as of 25 June 2019, Sri Lanka has reported 23 520 cases of dengue in 2019, compared with 22 600 cases for the same period last year. Colombo, Gampaha and Galle districts are the most affected areas.

Bangladesh has reported 840 cases since the beginning of the year as of 23 June 2019.

According to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare as of 26 May 2019, India has reported 5 504 cases.

According to media reports citing health authorities, Nepal is experiencing an outbreak mostly affecting Kathmandu. The country has reported 560 cases as of 13 June 2019.

Sri Lanka is following the same trend as in 2018. According to the Ministry of Health and as of 25 June 2019, Sri Lanka has reported 23 520 cases of dengue in 2019, compared with 22 600 cases for the same period last year. Colombo, Gampaha and Galle Districts are the most affected areas.

Africa

Chikungunya virus disease:
The outbreak in the Republic of the Congo is ongoing. As of 19 May 2019, the country has reported 9 015 cases, which represents an increase of 3 000 cases since the previous CDTR update. The most affected departments are Bouenza, Brazzaville, Kouilou, Lékoumou, Niari, Plateaux, Pool and Pointe-Noire.

There are no updates for the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Dengue:
According to WHO, Côte d'Ivoire continues to report cases. Since the beginning of the year and as of 9 June 2019, the country has reported 170 confirmed and 1 026 suspected cases. This represents a twofold increase since the last report in May.

According to WHO, Mauritius has reported 130 autochthonous cases from 26 February–17 May 2019. The most affected area is Port Louis (Vallée des Prêtres).

Regional authorities in Mayotte are reporting nine dengue cases, as of 11 June 2019. Among these cases, six had travel history to Réunion or East African countries. The other three cases are suspected to be autochthonous cases since they had no recent travel history.

According to Santé publique France, as of 16 June 2019, Réunion has detected more than 17 000 confirmed cases, 46 000 suspected cases and five deaths since the beginning of 2019. Réunion continues to record a declining trend, although circulation remains active in most of the cities on the island, especially in Saint-Pierre. About 300 confirmed cases are now reported weekly.

From August 2018–16 June 2019, Tanzania has detected 4 227 suspected cases, an increase of 3 000 cases since the last update. The most affected regions are Dar es Salaam and Tanga.

Australia and the Pacific

Chikungunya virus disease:
No outbreaks have been reported since the previous update.

Dengue:
According to WHO, Australia has reported 569 cases in 2019 as of 5 June 2019, compared with 338 for the same period last year.

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As of 27 May 2019, New Caledonia has reported 3 447 cases, showing a decreasing trend since April. The circulating serotype is DENV-2.

As of 16 June 2019, French Polynesia has reported approximately 388 cases since the beginning of the year. Of these, 106 are DENV-2, affecting the islands of Tahiti, Moorea, Bora Bora and Nuku Hiva. The proportion of DENV-2 has gradually increased over the past few weeks.

ECDC assessment

Chikungunya virus disease and dengue are endemic in large regions of the intertropical convergence zone. Currently and throughout the summer season, environmental conditions are favourable for the activity of the vector and its abundance should be sufficient to support local outbreaks.

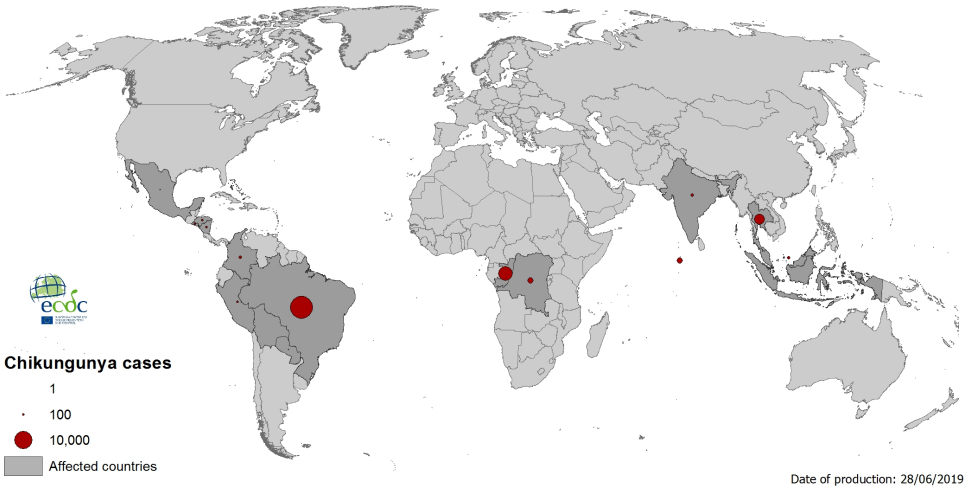
ECDC published a rapid risk assessment on the dengue outbreak in Reunion on 18 June 2019.

Actions

ECDC monitors these threats through epidemic intelligence and reports on a monthly basis.

Geographical distribution of chikungunya cases reported worldwide, April to June 2019

Source: ECDC



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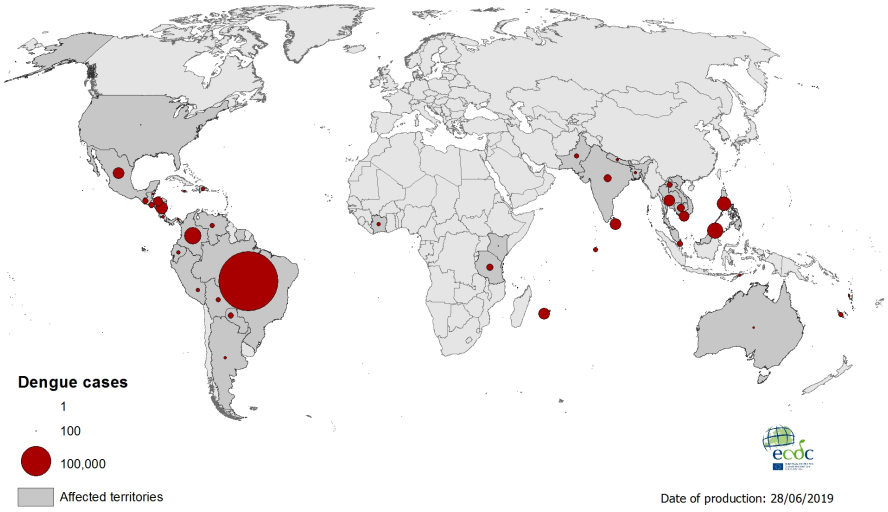
Geographical distribution of dengue cases reported worldwide, April to June 2019

Source: ECDC



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