

The objective of the bulletin is to report new health events occurring outside and inside EpiSouth area that have potential implications on EpiSouth population. It does not aim to provide an exhaustive review of international alerts. Since 2006, The French public health Institute (InVS) is issuing an online epidemic intelligence bulletin (Bulletin hebdomadaire International - BHI). In order to limit duplication and to make this already verified information available to a larger audience, information relating to health events of interest for EpiSouth population are translated and integrated in the relevant e-web sections. Despite all verifications, WP6 team would not be responsible for potential errors. The recipient is responsible for the cautious use of this information. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is liable for the use that may be made of the information contained in this report. Data maps and commentary used in this document do not imply any opinion of EpiSouth countries or its partners on the legal status of the countries and territories shown or concerning their borders.

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- A(H5N1) Human influenza – none
- A(H5N1) Avian influenza – Israel, Mongolia
- “OUTSIDE” Events:
 - Rift Valley fever – Saudi Arabia
 - Glanders - Bahrain
- “INSIDE” Events: none

Location: World	Event: A(H5N1) – Human	Comments
No human case reported this week		

Location: Israel, Mongolia	Event: A(H5N1) – Epizootic	Comments
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Israel

- On 7 May 2010, Israeli health authorities reported to the OIE the detection of A(H5N1) influenza in 2 emus in a zoo in kibbutz Ein Gedi, province of Hadarom (near the dead sea, cf map 1).
 - Both emus died.
- Investigations are ongoing to determine the origin of the epizootic.
 - Other animals are being tested for the virus.
- There are no farms within 10 km from the zoo.
- According to local health authorities, control measures have been implemented: culling, quarantine, mobility restriction and zoning.

- The last epizootic in Israel was reported in a kibbutz near Haifa (in the north) in January 2010 (cf. [eWEB n°97](#)). The alert was subsequently closed.

Map 1: Ein Gedi, Israel



Mongolia

- On 10 May 2010, Mongolian health authorities reported to the OIE a A(H5N1) influenza outbreak in birds, in the province of Sukhbaatar (cf map 2).
- Wild birds, swans, and grey geese were found dead near the lake of Ganga.
- Investigations are ongoing.
- According to local health authorities, control measures were taken including quarantining and zoning.

- To date, the available information does not indicate a change in the epidemiology of the virus.

Map 2. Province of Sukhbaatar, Mongolia.



**REPORT OF NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURRING OUTSIDE THE EPISOUTH AREA
(not occurring in one or several EpiSouth countries)**

Area: Saudi Arabia

Event: Rift Valley fever

Comments

During week 14 (April 2010), a confirmed case of Rift valley fever (RVF) was reported in the Najran province, Saudi Arabia.

- This **1st confirmed case** was a 40 years old Saudi man, in Najran:
 - He tested positive for RVF on 28 April 2010,
 - He was admitted to hospital on 23 April 2010, suffering from fever, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.
 - He had travelled in the Southern areas of the country known to be endemic for RVF.
 - This patient was tested also for Dengue and Alkhurma haemorrhagic fever but results were negative.
- On 03 and 06 May 2010, **3 additional suspect** cases of RVF were reported. These 3 suspected cases were not confirmed officially by the Saudi Ministry of health.
 - In two Indian nationals: a 40 years old, farmer worker in Jizan province and a 31 y-old farmer in Najran. Both developed symptoms of RVF including high temperature, nausea and continuous vomiting.
 - A 4th suspect case: a 38 years old Egyptian national working as a butcher in a slaughterhouse in Sahban (Najran province).
 - For all, test results are pending from the Central laboratory in Riyadh.
- To date, the exact location of the Rift Valley fever infection is not yet identified and still being investigated.
- The Ministry of health in coordination with the ministry of agriculture and local municipalities are conducting extensive epidemiological and entomological investigations in Jizan, Najran and Asir (cf. map 3).

- In Saudi Arabia, several provinces are endemic to Rift Valley fever virus and documented RVF cases: Asir, Jizan and Najran (cf. map 3).
- The last documented outbreak with RVF cases was reported in 2000 with 884 cases including 124 deaths, mainly in Jizan provinces of Jizan, Asir and Qunfadah.
- In December 2008, the Asir Agriculture department in Saudi Arabia communicated a suspicion of Rift Valley Fever outbreak among cattle in Asir region (cf. [eWEB 38](#)).

Map 3: Najran, Jizan and Asir provinces, Saudi Arabia.



Area: Bahrain

Event: Glanders

Comments

- On 5th May, Bahrain health authorities (Municipalities and the ministry of Agriculture) reported to OIE the occurrence of glanders in horses in Shakhora (in the North of the country). 6 horses were put down.
- The 1st two horses tested positive and later developed clinical signs. They originated from Syria and Kuwait and arrived 6 month ago.
- Other horses in the stable showed no clinical signs and 394 serum samples were sent to OIE reference laboratory: 35 were confirmed.
- Although Glanders is a reportable disease in Bahrain, it had never been reported before.
- Control measures were implemented including restriction of mobility between stables or taking part in competitions to prevent further spread of the disease.

- Glanders is a highly contagious disease in horses, mules, and donkeys, but it can be passed on to humans by direct contact with infected animals and entry is through skin abrasions, nasal and oral mucosal surfaces, or by inhalation. Diagnosis can be time-consuming.
- Although human disease is uncommon, it is life threatening and painful.
- Risk of human transmission remains limited at this stage. However, considering the severity of the illness in case of human contamination, the situation will be followed up.
- Moreover, due to the high mortality in humans and the small number of organisms required to establish infection, *Burkholderia mallei* is regarded as a potential bioterrorist agent.