

# EpiSouth Weekly Epi Bulletin - N°119 23 June 2010 - 29 June 2010



Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

The objective of the bulletin is to report new heath 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 Russia, Vietnam
- "INSIDE" Events:
  - Recall of contaminated products: Italy, France
- "OUTSIDE" Events: none
  - Eastern Equine encephalitis Florida (US)

Location: World	Event: A(H5N1) – Human	<u>Comments</u>
No human cases reported this week		
Location: Russia, Vietnam	Event: A(H5N1) – Epizootic	<u>Comments</u>

### Russia

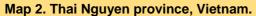
On 25 June 2010, Russian health authorities reported to the OIE a cluster of A(H5N1) influenza infected wild birds in the Tuva oblast (bordering Mongolia), near lake Ubsu (cf. map 1).

Map 1. Tuva, Russia.

Russia N
FEDERATION

# Vietnam

• On 19 June Vietnamese health authorities reported a cluster of A(H5N1) influenza infected poultry in the northern province of Thai Nguyen (cf. map 2).





- In Russia, the last A(H5N1) influenza epizootics were reported in June 2009 in Tuva (cf. eWEB 66) and in October 2009 in Moscow (oblast), cf eWEB n°86. Both were outbreaks in wild birds.
- In Vietnam, the last epizootic was reported in June 2010 in the province of Quang Nam.
- The available information does not indicate a change in the epidemiology of the virus in either country.

# REPORT of NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURING <u>OUTSIDE</u> THE EPISOUTH AREA (Not occurring in one or several EpiSouth countries)

**Equine** 

encephalitis

Since the beginning of 2010, cases of illness linked to Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus

Event:

Florida,

U.S

 A human case of EEE was reported in Collin County, Texas.

circulation have been described in the U.S:

• In Florida:

Location

- ✓ 17 equine cases of EEE were reported by health authorities in 12 counties since the beginning of the year.
- ✓ 19 sentinel surveillance chickens tested positive in one further county (St Martin), where the virus had not been detected for 30 years.

### **Comments**

- EEE virus is a member of the genus Alphavirus, family Togaviridae. It is transmitted by mosquitoes. The disease is endemo-epidemic in the east of the U.S and Canada, in South and Central America and the Caribbean (cf. map 3).
- Since the 1960s, 5 to 7 human cases of EEE are reported on average in the U.S. Between 1964 and 2008, 66 human cases were reported in Florida.
- In 2009-2010, equine cases of EEE have been reported in Belize, Costa Rica, Panama and Venezuela. A human case of EEE was reported in Panama in 2009 (cf. map 3).
- The detection of the virus in areas/regions of the U.S that were not known to be affected so far may reflect an intensification of virus circulation in the country.
- Moreover, the number of cases of EEE in South and Central America, as well as the Caribbean is likely to be largely underestimated due to limited surveillance of the disease.
- With the beginning of the transmission season (summer-beginning of fall), prevention messages should be emphasized for travellers to the region.

# REPORT of NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURING <u>INSIDE</u> THE EPISOUTH AREA (Occurring in one or several EpiSouth countries)

Location: Italy, France Comments

- On 21 June 2010, Italian health authorities announced the recall of mozzarella cheese produced in Germany by the company Milchwerke JAGER GMBH & Co.
- Following investigations subsequently to Italian consumers' complaints, the bacterium Pseudomonas fluorescens was identified in cheese batches.
  - ✓ The cheese turned blue after contact with air (cf. figure 1).
- One official from the Teramo food health services said the bacteria didn't appear to be toxic. Investigations are ongoing, looking into how the cheese became contaminated.
- In France, some batches have been found in Moselle region (North-East of France, border to Germany). For prevention purposes, French public health authorities issued a similar product recall on 24 June 2010.
- Concerned brands are "Land" "Lovilia, " Alpine Paradise ", "
   Farms Torresina ", "Mozzarella LD" and "Monteverdi" in Italy and
   "Monteverdi", "Del Carlo", "Prix Gagnant" and "Dia" in France.

- Pseudomonas fluorescens can be dangerous for elderly or imunocompromised persons.
- It is not excluded that other European countries could be concerned by this event. Thus, the situation will be followed up cautiously.

Figure 1: Mozzarella contaminated.



Map 3. Human, equine and avian cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) documented in Central America, 2009-2010. (source: health authorities)

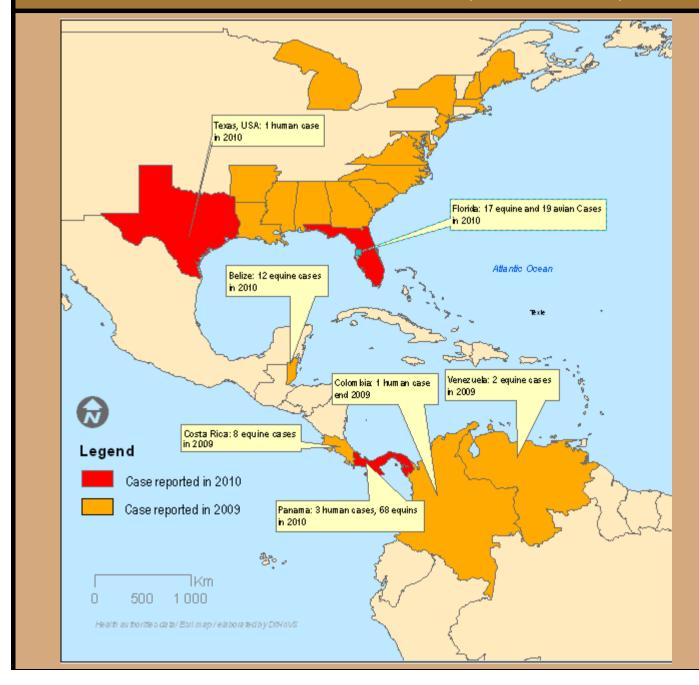


Table 1: Number of EEE reported cases in USA, by state, 2009-2010. (source: CDC)

State	2009	2010
Alabama	23 equine	0
Arkansas	1 equine	0
North Carolina	1 human 23 equine 52 avian	0
South Carolina	14 equine	0
Connecticut	1 equine	0
Florida	208 avian 75 equine	19 avian 17 equine
Georgia	45 equine	0
Louisiana	1 human 28 equine	0
Maine	16 equine	0
Maryland	1 equine	0
Massachussetts	1 human 3 equine	0
Michigan	1 equine	0
Mississippi	43 equine	0
New Hampshire	7 equine	0
New Jersey	6 equine	0
New York	1 human 8 equine	0
Rhode Island	2 equine	0
Texas	5 equine	1 human
Virginia	11 equine 59 avian	0