



Round Table Report 16 December 2020

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This report summarizes the ECDC daily roundtable discussion and provides update on threats detected and monitored by Epidemic Intelligence.

Active threats

COVID-19 associated with SARS-CoV-2 – multi-country (world) – 2020

The next update on worldwide COVID-19 figures will be on 17 December 2020.

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 the WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. The [third](#), [fourth](#) and [fifth](#) International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee meeting for COVID-19 were held in Geneva on 30 April, 31 July and 29 October 2020, respectively. The committee concluded during these meetings that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to constitute a PHEIC.

Assessment: For the last available risk assessment, please visit [ECDC dedicated webpage](#).

Actions: ECDC has published the thirteenth update of its [rapid risk assessment](#). A [dashboard](#) with the latest updates is available on ECDC's website. ECDC [rapid risk assessment](#) on the risk of increase of COVID-19 infection related to end-of-year festive season has been published on 4 December 2020.

Update:

First detection of SARS-CoV-2 in wild mink - Utah, USA - 2020

Source: [ProMED](#)

The USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) has confirmed SARS-CoV-2 by real-time RT-PCR and sequencing of a nasal swab collected from a free-ranging, wild mink sampled in Utah. To their knowledge, this is the first free-ranging, native wild animal confirmed with SARS-CoV-2. This detection was part of an epidemiological study in the surrounding area of an infected farm between 24 August and 30 October 2020. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has been notified. There is currently no evidence that SARS-CoV-2 is circulating or has been established in wild populations surrounding the infected mink farms. Several animals from different wildlife species were sampled, but all others tested negative. The sequence of the viral genome obtained from the wild mink sample at NVSL was indistinguishable from those obtained from the farmed mink.

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Assessment: It is already established that mink can be affected by SARS-CoV-2, as has been the case in mink farms. See the latest ECDC [rapid risk assessment](#) on that topic.

Action: ECDC continues to monitor reports of SARS-CoV-2 in potential animal reservoirs

Dengue - French Antilles - 2020

Source: [Santé publique France](#)

Weekly Summary: Since the previous update with data as of 22 November 2020, and as of 6 December 2020, an additional 1 925 cases, including one death, have been reported in Guadeloupe, Saint-Martin, Saint-Barthélemy and Martinique. In the previous CDTR update, when the period 12 November to 22 November was analysed, 3 140 new cases were reported.

The following cases have been reported since the previous update:

Guadeloupe: 1 070 additional suspected cases.

Saint-Martin: 70 additional suspected cases.

Saint-Barthélemy: 55 additional suspected cases.

Martinique: 730 additional suspected cases, including one death.

Epidemiological Summary: According to French authorities, Guadeloupe, Saint-Martin, Saint-Barthélemy and Martinique are all in an epidemic phase, although cases have started to decrease since week 40.

In **Guadeloupe**, since week 2019-42 and as of 6 December 2020, 21 500 suspected dengue cases have been reported, including one death. Most of the cases have been identified as dengue virus serotype 2.

In **Saint-Martin**, since week 2020-03 and as of 6 December 2020, 2 610 suspected dengue cases have been reported, including one death. Most of the cases have been identified as dengue virus serotype 1.

In **Saint-Barthélemy**, since week 2020-17 and as of 6 December 2020, 1 360 suspected dengue cases have been reported. Most of the cases have been identified as dengue virus serotype 1.

In **Martinique**, since 4 November 2019 and as of 6 December 2020, 32 000 suspected dengue cases have been reported, including 17 deaths. Dengue virus serotype 3 has been identified among most of the cases. The number of cases is now declining in Martinique. This outbreak constitutes the largest outbreak reported on the island in the last decade.

Assessment: EU/EEA travellers to and residents of the affected areas should apply [personal protective measures against mosquito bites](#). The occurrence of further autochthonous cases in the French Antilles is expected, as environmental conditions remain favourable for continuous transmission. The concurrent circulation of several dengue serotypes may increase the risk of more severe clinical presentations.

The current likelihood of the occurrence of local transmission events of dengue virus in mainland EU/EEA is negligible, as the environmental conditions are not favourable to vector activity and virus replication.

More information about dengue is available at [ECDC factsheet](#).

Action: ECDC is monitoring the ongoing situation through its epidemic intelligence activities. ECDC also maintains a list of [autochthonous transmission events of dengue virus in continental EU/EEA](#) since 2010.

Influenza A(H5N6) – Multistate (World) – Monitoring human cases

Source: [WHO, Hong Kong public health authority](#)

Update: on 4 December 2020, WHO notified about a case of human infection with avian influenza A(H5N6) in China. The infection was confirmed in a 81-year-old woman, a farmer from Changzhou, Jiangsu Province, China who had exposure to domestic poultry before she developed symptoms on 26 November ([other sources](#) reported the date of symptoms onset on 16 November 2020). The case was hospitalized on 27 November 2020 with severe pneumonia and subsequently died the same day.

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Summary: Overall, 26 cases (25 according to WHO), including 15 deaths, of human infection with avian influenza A(H5N6) have been reported. All from China.

Assessment: Human cases related to the avian influenza A(H5N6) are not unexpected where the circulation of A(H5N6) is detected in birds. Human infections with influenza A(H5N6) are rare with no sustained human-to-human transmission being reported. No human cases due to A(H5N6) have been reported in Europe.

In 2020, influenza A(H5N6) virus was detected in wild birds in China. In addition, low number of outbreaks of A(H5N6) were reported in domestic birds from Russia, South-east Asia (Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam) and South Africa.

The risk of zoonotic influenza transmission to the general public in EU/EEA countries is considered to be very low. Direct contact with infected birds or a contaminated environment is the most likely source of infection and the use of personal protective measures for people exposed to dead birds or their droppings will minimise the remaining risk.

Action: ECDC monitors avian influenza strains through its epidemic intelligence activities in order to identify significant changes in the epidemiology of the virus. ECDC, together with EFSA and the EU reference laboratory for avian influenza, produces a quarterly updated report of the [avian influenza situation](#). The most [recent report](#) was published on 11 December 2020. ECDC has published an [outbreak alert](#) for new avian influenza outbreaks of A(H5) among wild and domestic birds.

Risk assessment under production

Joint ECDC and EFSA rapid outbreak assessment to be produced on Salmonella Enteritidis contamination in poultry products from Poland to be published in week 03-2021.

Expert deployment

One EPIET fellow is deployed to DRC until 21 December 2020 to support response activities related to the Ebola outbreak.

The Round Table Report contains information that could be considered sensitive or is still under verification. Its distribution is restricted to intended users only.

Participants

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Food and Water-borne Diseases: -
Influenza: -
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