



Round Table Report 10 February 2021

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

Active threat

COVID-19 associated with SARS-CoV-2 – multi-country (world) – 2019-2021

Other news: On 9 February 2021, the WHO held a [media briefing](#) from Wuhan, China, on its mission for a global study into the origins of SARS-CoV-2. According to the conclusions of this mission, there was no clear evidence that the virus was circulating earlier than 10 December 2019. However, there was evidence of COVID-19 transmission in Wuhan beyond the cluster at the Huanan seafood market, which may have been a transmission enhancer.

Furthermore, they investigated four [hypotheses](#) for the source of transmission to the human population: direct zoonotic spill-over, intermediary host species, food chain and laboratory-related incident. It is very unlikely that the virus leaked from a laboratory, and intermediary host species have been shown to be the more likely source.

A detailed mission report will be published.

Threats under monthly review

Measles – Multi-country (World) – Monitoring European outbreaks

Summary: Since the previous monthly measles update in ECDC's Communicable Disease Threats Report (CDTR) on 15 January 2020, 11 new cases have been reported by three countries in EU/EEA: [5.1.2a](#) (+8), Ireland (+2) and Spain (+1).

So far, in 2021, no new deaths have been reported by EU/EEA. Overall, two deaths have been reported in the EU/EEA and the UK in 2020, both from Bulgaria.

Relevant updates outside the EU/EEA are available for Ukraine, the WHO Regional Office for Africa (WHO AFRO), WHO Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), WHO Western Pacific Region (WPRO), WHO Regional Office for Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO).

[Routine immunisation sessions](#) should be maintained, provided that COVID-19 response measures allow.

In May 2019, WHO classified measles outbreaks across the European Region as a [Grade 2 emergency](#). On 29 August 2019, the [European Regional Verification Commission for Measles and Rubella Elimination \(RVC\)](#) determined that, for the first time since the verification process began in the Region in 2012, four countries

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(Albania, Czechia, Greece and the United Kingdom) had lost their measles elimination status.

Disclaimer: the [monthly measles report published in the CDTR](#) provides the most recent data on cases and outbreaks from the publicly available information of national public health authorities or media. This report is supplementary to [ECDC's monthly measles and rubella monitoring report](#), based on data routinely submitted by 30 EU/EEA countries to The European Surveillance System (TESSy). Data presented in the two monthly reports may differ.

Epidemiological summary for EU/EEA countries with updates since last month

5.1.2a reported eight cases in 2021 and as of week 4. In 2020, Germany reported 160 cases in 2020.

[Ireland](#) reported two cases in weeks 1–4 in 2021 (ending 31 January 2021). In 2020, Ireland reported 19 cases, however, according to TESSy, 24 cases were reported in January–November 2020.

[Spain](#) reported one case from 1–31 January 2021. In [2020](#), Spain reported 90 cases.

Relevant epidemiological summary for countries outside the EU/EEA

A global overview is available on [WHO's website](#). Additional information with the latest available data is provided for several countries.

[Ukraine](#) reported overall 264 cases of measles in 2020, according to media quoting healthcare authorities.

According to the WHO Regional Office for Africa ([AFRO](#)), as of 31 January 2021 (week 05), outbreaks of measles were reported in the following countries: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria and South Sudan.

According to the WHO Pan American Health Organization ([PAHO](#)), between week 1 and week 4 of 2021, four measles cases were reported in Brazil. In [2020](#), overall 8 726 cases were reported by nine countries: Brazil (8 448 cases, including 10 deaths), Mexico (196 cases), Argentina (61 cases, including one death), [the US](#) (13), [Bolivia](#) (2 cases), Chile (2 cases), Uruguay (2 cases), [Canada](#) (1), and Colombia (1 case). Currently, only Brazil is reporting active outbreaks of measles.

According to WHO Western Pacific Region ([WPRO](#)) report as of 30 November 2020, there were 6 170 cases of measles, including 10 deaths, reported in 2020. Most of the cases were reported by the Philippines (3 770 cases, including 10 deaths). Other countries, which reported measles cases were: [5.1.2a](#) (831), Vietnam (556), Malaysia (435), Cambodia (372), Laos (134), Pacific island countries and areas (72): Tonga (51), Samoa (18), Fiji (3), American Samoa (2). Cases were also reported by [Australia](#) (25), [Singapore](#) (12), [Japan](#) (13), [New Zealand](#) (10), South Korea (6), Papua New Guinea (4).

According to WHO Regional Office for Eastern Mediterranean ([EMRO](#)) report for October 2020, 6 496 measles cases were reported in all but four countries (Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait and Oman). Most of the cases were reported in Pakistan (2 277) and Somalia (1 964).

Assessment: A substantial decline in measles cases reported by EU/EEA countries and the UK after March 2020 contrasts with the typical seasonal pattern seen for measles, which peaks in the spring in temperate climates. A similar decrease has been observed in other countries worldwide during the same period. Under-reporting, under-diagnosis or a real decrease due to the direct or indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic measures could explain the decline of cases observed. Nevertheless, achieving the best possible vaccine uptake in the current circumstances is crucial in order to prevent measles outbreaks in the future.

Actions: ECDC monitors the measles situation through its epidemic intelligence activities, which supplement a monthly report with measles surveillance data from The European Surveillance System (TESSy) for 30 EU/EEA countries. ECDC published a [risk assessment](#) entitled 'Who is at risk of measles in the EU/EEA?' on 28 May 2019.

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