

6 BEYOND OUR BORDERS

The 'Beyond our Borders' column focuses on selected and current international diseases that may affect South Africans travelling abroad. Numbers correspond to Figure 3 on page 8.

1. Influenza (H1N1) – Brazil

As of 17 August 2016, there have been 1233 deaths linked to the ongoing H1N1 influenza outbreak in Brazil. Other strains of influenza have claimed an additional 93 lives in Brazil. This is the largest outbreak of H1N1 influenza in Brazil since the 2009 pandemic, where the country saw 2060 deaths from the virus.

2. MERS-CoV – Saudi Arabia

As of 12 August 2016, there has been a total of 1445 laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS-CoV infection, including 608 deaths [reported case fatality rate 42.1 per cent] 833 recoveries, and 4 currently active cases.

3. Polio (wild poliovirus type 1) – Nigeria

On 11 Aug 2016, two polio cases (wild poliovirus type 1) detected in Nigeria, where it was believed to have been eliminated. See the article on page 3 in this Communiqué.

4. Hand, foot and mouth disease – Malaysia

As of 14 August 2016, a total of 23 454 hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) cases were reported throughout the country Malaysia. Selangor recorded the highest number of cases at 7471, followed by Sarawak (3007), Johor (2294) and Kuala Lumpur (2084).

5. Zika – USA

As of 14 August 2016, there were two new confirmed cases of Zika in Miami, Florida, amongst persons with no travel history. There have been 28 confirmed non-travel related cases to date in the area. The WHO has made information available on mass gatherings and information for tourists/athletes for Rio Olympics.

6. Yellow fever – Angola and Democratic

Republic of Congo

As of 8 August 2016, the Democratic Republic of Congo has had 2269 suspected cases, of which 74 cases were confirmed and 11.5 million vaccine doses were approved for the DRC. Angola has 3867 suspected cases of which 879 cases were confirmed and 21 million vaccine doses were approved for Angola. See the article on page 2 in this Communiqué.

7. Japanese encephalitis – India

As of 15 August 2016, there have been 295 Japanese encephalitis cases with 66 casualties. Assam state is affected most.

8. West Nile fever – Italy, Israel, Russia and Romania

As of 15 August 2016, there have been 11 confirmed cases of West Nile fever. The origin of the cases was as follows: One case from Italy (Bologna), one case from Russian, two cases from Romania and several cases from Israel. West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus. Most human infections are asymptomatic and the majority of clinical cases of West Nile infections are mild and present with flu-like symptoms, including fever, headache and body aches. Severe West Nile fever presents with encephalitis, meningoencephalitis or meningitis.

Source: Division of Public Health Surveillance and Response, NICD-NHLS

Figure 3. Current outbreaks that may have implications for travellers. Number correspond to text above. The red dot is the approximate location of the outbreak or event

