

## 10 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 9 on page 18.

### 1. Avian influenza, Egypt

The WHO reported on four recent H5N1 patients in Egypt- all female and 3 of them children. Most A (H5) influenza human cases have a history of exposure through contact with infected poultry or contaminated environments, including live poultry markets. The virus does not infect humans easily, and spread from person to person appears to be unusual. Travellers should avoid contact with poultry while staying in Egypt.

### 2. MERS-CoV, Saudi Arabia

The Saudi Arabia Ministry of Health confirmed 4 new cases for the time period between 12 and 16 April 2016 from Riyadh (2 cases), Khaiber and Buraidah. All were non-health care workers, of which 3 were primary cases, two of these having contact with camels. A single case was nosocomially acquired. This brings the total of laboratory confirmed cases of MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia to 1375, with 587 deaths (case fatality rate 42.7%) and 12 currently active cases. Of the new cases, two were primary cases with known contact with camels. These animals should be avoided when travelling to Saudi Arabia.

### 3. Cholera, Congo DR (Katanga Province)

There are 60 people who have reportedly been diagnosed with cholera in Lubumbashi (Katanga Province) in the last 10 days. Lubumbashi is the 2nd largest city of the Democratic Republic of Congo where many of the country's biggest mining companies are based. The outbreak has been linked to poor hygiene in some municipalities.

### 4. Yellow Fever See page 3

### 5. Zika Virus, Saint Lucia

Local mosquito transmission of Zika virus infection has now also been reported in Saint Lucia. The CDC has issued a level 2 alert to practice enhanced precautions and recommends that travellers to Saint Lucia protect themselves from mosquito bites.

### 6. Chikungunya, South America

As of February 23, 2015, local transmission of chikungunya is being reported in the following South American countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela. Travellers to South America should protect themselves from mosquito bites

### 7. Measles, West Africa

Measles has been reported in high numbers from several West and Central African countries, with case numbers as on 31 March 2016 as follows: South Sudan (350 cases), Liberia (1341 cases), Chad (5832 cases), Benin (85 cases), Burkina Faso (1258 cases), Central African Republic (31 cases) Cote d'Ivoire (491 cases) and Cameroon (1338 cases), DR Congo (3976 cases), Guinea (1013 cases, 2 deaths), Mauritania (863 cases), Mali (774 cases, 1 death), Niger (352 cases), Senegal (560 cases), Sierra Leone (351 cases) and Togo (295 cases). Measles is one of the leading causes of death among children worldwide, especially those who are malnourished. Travellers to West Africa should ensure their measles vaccinations are up to date.

**Source:** Division of Public Health, Surveillance and Response, NICD-NHLS (outbreak@nicd.ac.za)



**Figure 9.** 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