5 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 2 on page 6.

1. Yellow Fever update—Angola and DRC

As of 7 December, after 4 months without cases, seven new laboratory-confirmed cases of yellow fever were reported in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Lualaba Province in the health zones of: Sandoa (n = 6) and Kasaji (n=1). These cases were reported by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). No cases have been reported from Angola for the last four months.

2. Ebola update—Liberia and Guinea

No new cases of Ebola virus disease have been reported from Liberia and Republic of Guinea.

3. Lassa Fever update—Nigeria

As of 25 November 2016 (46th epidemiological week) the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control reported that all six suspected cases identified during the previous month tested negative for Lassa fever.

4. Cholera in Yemen, Kenya, Somalia

In Yemen, according to the Ministry of Public Health and Population, the number of cholera cases has increased by more than 1 200 cases as at 10 December 2016, bringing the cumulative number of total suspected cases of cholera to 8 975, including 89 deaths. The number of laboratory-confirmed cases of *Vibrio cholerae* 01 is 138.

In Kenya, a drought situation in parts of Lamu and Tana River counties has exacerbated food and water-borne disease. As of 15 December 2016, two deaths due to cholera have been reported from Lamu county and four from Tana River County, with at least 25 people receiving treatment at various private hospitals.

In Somalia, more than 30 cholera-related deaths have been reported from Mehdai governorate in Central Shabeellaha region of Somalia. The authorities have started anti-cholera campaigns in the area and are appealing for more aid.

5. MERS-CoV update

As of 6 December 2016, the Saudi Arabia Ministry of Health reported a total of five newly-confirmed cases, three newly-reported fatalities, and three newly-reported recoveries. Cumulatively as of 10 December 2016, there has been a total of 1 506 laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS-CoV infection, including 624 deaths [case fatality rate 41.4%], 866 recoveries and 16 currently active cases.

6. Plague in Madagascar

An unconfirmed report claims that bubonic plague is responsible for the death of at least 31 people in Madagascar's southern district of Befotaka Atsimo. Persistent droughts, with resultant bushfires are thought to be responsible for rodent migration into villages. Plague is endemic on the island and outbreaks have occurred nearly every year since 1980 with seasonal peaks September – March.

7. Measles in Somalia

According to UNICEF and since September 2016, 419 measles cases have been officially recorded, 302 of which are children under five. However, anecdotal reports are that measles is rife. Resource constraints and concomitant malnutrition have contributed to a high measles case-fatality rate. The regional and national Ministry of Health, UNICEF, the International Red Cross, the World Health Organization and other partners are collaborating to conduct a mass vaccination campaign. Some 54,000 children aged between nine months and 10 years old will be vaccinated against measles and receive vitamin A supplementation.

8. Mumps in the USA

The state of Arkansas, USA, is experiencing an outbreak of mumps, with 1 898 cases confirmed since 8 December 2016. This number exceeds the USA national total for 2015. The outbreak has affected 11 of the 75 counties in the state. The main concern for authorities responding to this outbreak is that 90% to 95% of school-aged children and 30% to 40% of adults involved in the outbreak have been fully immunised.

Source: Division of Public Health Surveillance and Response, NICD-NHLS, from Promed (www.promed.org)

Figure 2. 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