

5 September 2014

# Army Public Health Weekly Update

U.S. Army Public Health Command



*The Army Public Health Update is a collection of articles taken verbatim from public sources to offer awareness of current health issues and the media coverage given to them. The articles do not necessarily represent US Army Medical Department opinions, views, policy, or guidance, and should not be construed or interpreted as being endorsed by the US Army Medical Department.*

U.S. Military | Global | Influenza | Veterinary/Food Safety | Wellness | Contact Us

USAFRICOM | USCENTCOM | USEUCOM | USNORTHCOM | USPACOM | USSOUTHCOM

*Approved for public release, distribution unlimited.*

## Subscription or Comments

If you wish to be added to the APH Weekly Update mailing list, removed from the mailing list, or if you have comments or questions about the update, please [contact us](#). We welcome your comments. Please feel free to share this update with others who may be interested.



### Follow us!



Facebook



Twitter



YouTube

## Contents

### U.S. MILITARY

---

- Assessment of rabies exposure risk in a group of U.S. Air Force basic trainees — Texas, January 2014
- DoD willing to reconsider discharges of Vietnam vets with PTSD
- President Obama announces new executive actions to fulfill our promises to Service Members, Veterans, and their Families
- Smaller military hospitals said to put patients at risk
- Spread of vaccinia virus through shaving during military training, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, TX, June 2014
- Studies reveal 11 ways to improve Army fitness

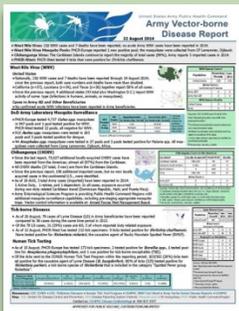
### GLOBAL

---

- A death by suicide every 40 seconds, says WHO
- Can exercise cause A.L.S.?
- Chikungunya virus in the Americas — what a vectorborne pathogen can do
- Global diabetes epidemic hampers tuberculosis control
- Islamic extremist's laptop found to hold bioterror manual
- Oral vaccine can help stop cholera outbreak
- Study finds little spread of MERS-CoV in Saudi households
- EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE
- A few Ebola cases likely in U.S., air traffic analysis predicts
- Calm after Ebola storm: Quarantined neighborhood opens up
- CDC director calls for worldwide effort to stop Ebola
- Cuts at W.H.O. hurt response to Ebola crisis
- Death toll from Congo Ebola outbreak rises to 31
- Ebola crisis: 'world is losing the battle'
- Ebola virus disease update - Senegal
- Ebola virus disease outbreak – west Africa
- Experimental drug saves monkeys stricken with Ebola
- Mistrust of government spurs Ebola spread
- New threat: Ebola spreads further in Nigeria
- Two women receive experimental Ebola vaccine in fast-tracked trial
- U.S. health agency advises more vigilance on campuses
- US to provide \$75M to expand Ebola care centers

## Army Vector-borne Disease Report

This issue highlights West Nile virus cases, a new West Nile virus mosquito pool in Djibouti, an update on chikungunya and a tick update from PHCR-West.



## INFLUENZA

---

- CDC: Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report
- Flu shots effective in pregnant women with or without HIV
- Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus – update
- Naval Health Research Center: Febrile Respiratory Illness Surveillance Update
- WHO Influenza Update

## VETERINARY/FOOD SAFETY

---

- Dolphin virus adds to deaths in troubled Florida lagoon
- Factors contributing to decline in foodborne disease outbreak reports, United States
- Perdue says its hatching chicks are off antibiotics
- Texas Cyclospora outbreak over; Mexican cilantro suspected

## WELLNESS

---

- A call for a low-carb diet that embraces fat
- Airline crews may be more likely to get skin cancer
- CVS stores stop selling all tobacco products
- Double mastectomies don't yield expected results, study finds
- Drink responsibly' messages in alcohol ads promote products, not public health
- Like regular cigarettes, e-cigs a 'gateway' to harder drugs: study
- Normal-weight counselors feel more successful than heavier counselors at helping obese patients slim down, study suggests
- People with widespread pain more likely to develop insomnia
- Sonova's microphone disguised as a pen offers 'super normal hearing'
- Study shows HPV vaccine effective in women over 25
- Unintended consequences: Why painkiller addicts turn to heroin

## USAFRICOM

---

- South Sudan: No respite - cholera down but malaria, parasitic disease up – MSF
- When a home poses health risks, the floor may be the culprit

## USCENTCOM

---

- Libyan health care on life support
- Pakistan: How fighting in Pakistan affects war against polio
- Pakistan's IDPs reach record one million

## USEUCOM

---

- Estonia: Central Estonian health centre will treat Ukrainian soldiers
- Turkey: Syrians build health care network in Turkey

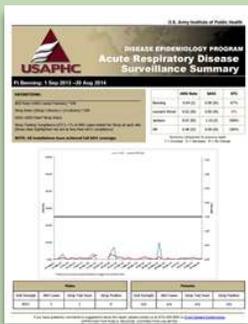
## USNORTHCOM

---

- U.S.: BP found "grossly negligent" in 2010 spill
- U.S.: Life expectancy at birth, by sex and race/ethnicity — United States, 2011
- U.S.: Millions struggle to get enough to eat despite jobs returning
- U.S.: Obesity rates reach historic highs in more U.S. states
- U.S.: State abortion restrictions putting health at risk
- U.S.: Rats! New York City tries to drain rodent 'reservoirs'
- U.S.: Texas abortion provider to reopen after court lifts restrictions

## Acute Respiratory Disease Surveillance Summary

This week's summary reports on ARD Rates, Strep Rates, SASI, and Strep Testing Compliance for Army installations.



### USPACOM

---

- Bangladesh floods test disaster response improvements
- India's Badaun village gets toilets for women
- Japan tackles first dengue fever outbreak in 70 years
- Philippines: Measles reaches epidemic margin in Northern Mindanao

### USSOUTHCOM

---

- Chikungunya outbreak in Caribbean tops 650,000 cases
- Drought leaves up to 2.8 million hungry in Central America

### U.S. MILITARY

---

## Assessment of rabies exposure risk in a group of U.S. Air Force basic trainees — Texas, January 2014

29 August - In January 2014, members of the Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA)-Lackland, Texas, preventive medicine and public health teams evaluated a U.S. Air Force basic training squadron for potential exposure in sleeping bays to rabies virus carried by Mexican free-tailed bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis*). Exposure to bats while asleep or otherwise unaware is an important risk factor for rabies in the United States... Mexican free-tailed bats in Texas often carry rabies virus. Among 8,904 bats tested during 2001–2010, a total of 1,558 (18%) tested positive for rabies... [Public] health teams interviewed 922 persons (866 trainees and 56 instructors) and determined that PEP, consisting of human rabies immune globulin and the 4-dose vaccination series given over 14 days, was indicated for 200 persons (22%).

[Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#)

## DoD willing to reconsider discharges of Vietnam vets with PTSD



3 September - The Defense Department has agreed to reconsider the bad-paper discharges for thousands of Vietnam-era veterans who may have suffered from combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder but were kicked out of the military in the era before that became a diagnosable condition. In a new rule announced Wednesday, the Pentagon said veterans from the

Vietnam era and other past wars with other-than-honorable discharges will be given "liberal consideration" if they seek to correct their military records and provide some evidence of a PTSD diagnosis that existed at the time of their service. [Military Times](#)

## AMERICA'S PrepareAthon!

America's PrepareAthon! is an opportunity for individuals, organizations, and communities to prepare for specific hazards through drills, group discussions, and exercises.

The second National PrepareAthon! Day is September 30, 2014 and will revolve around taking the actions to prepare for these six specific hazards:

- Earthquake
- Flood
- Hurricane
- Tornado
- Wildfire
- Winter Storm



## President Obama announces new executive actions to fulfill our promises to Service Members, Veterans, and their Families

26 August - The President will announce 19 new executive actions to serve the military community, including new efforts to strengthen service members' access to mental health care. The President will also highlight efforts to improve the transition between DoD and VA care for those leaving military service, and improve economic opportunity for our military families with new private-sector commitments that will make it easier to obtain mortgage interest rate reductions and reduced monthly payments – helping more of our troops save money through lower monthly payments. The President will also announce that the Administration is continuing to make significant progress toward reducing the number of veterans who suffer from homelessness. Over the past four years a third of homeless veterans, nearly 25,000, have moved off the streets, out of shelters and into housing. The President will also renew his call for community action -- asking every American to do their part to support our service members, Veterans, and their families. [White House](#)

## Smaller military hospitals said to put patients at risk

1 September - ...[Outside] experts and dozens of current and former military hospital workers interviewed by The New York Times [say] a signal failing in a system that cares for 1.35 million active-duty service members and their families... [is that] many of the hospitals are so small and the trickle of patients so thin that it compromises the ability of doctors and nurses to capably diagnose and treat serious illnesses... Two-thirds of the hospitals last year served 30 or fewer inpatients a day — less than a third as many as the typical civilian hospital. Nine served 10 or fewer — so few that Dr. Lucian L. Leape, a leading patient-safety expert at the Harvard School of Public Health, said, "I think they should be outlawed." [New York Times](#)

## Spread of vaccinia virus through shaving during military training, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, TX, June 2014

August 2014 - Although naturally occurring smallpox virus was officially declared eradicated in 1980, concern for biological warfare prompted the U.S. Government in 2002 to recommend smallpox vaccination for select individuals. Vaccinia, the smallpox vaccine virus, is administered into the skin, typically on the upper arm, where the virus remains viable and infectious until the scab falls off and the epidermis is fully intact—typically 2-4 weeks. Adverse events following smallpox vaccination may occur in the vaccinee, in individuals who have contact with the vaccinee (i.e., secondary transmission), or in individuals who have contact with the vaccinee's contact (i.e., tertiary transmission). In June 2014 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, TX, two cases of inadvertent inoculation of vaccinia and one case of a non-viral reaction following vaccination occurred in the security forces training squadron.

## Army STARRS No-Cost Extension

Army **Study to Assess Risk and Resilience in Servicemembers** (Army STARRS) is a research partnership between the Army and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). It is the largest study of suicide risk and resilience ever conducted among military personnel. Initially scheduled to conclude in June 2014, the Army STARRS will now run through June 2015.

The Army STARRS Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Army (DA) and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), provided the groundwork for this 12-month extension, which requires no additional funding from either DA or NIMH. The no-cost extension allows for the continued analysis of data collected during the initial project period, and potentially adds to findings that inform suicide intervention and prevention strategies.

**STAND-TO!**  
THE OFFICIAL FOCUS OF THE POLICY

The cases included the first reported case of shaving as the likely source of autoinoculation after contact transmission. [Medical Surveillance Monthly Report](#)

## Studies reveal 11 ways to improve Army fitness



2 September - A smaller force means more emphasis on soldiers doing their jobs at optimum levels — including the job of staying healthy. There's no shortage of programs to assist troops, but some of the more advanced health theories and techniques were on display at the 3rd International Congress on Soldiers' Physical Performance, held Aug. 18-21 in Boston. "Everybody has to be able to do their job and do it well, as we begin to reduce the number of soldiers in our Army," said Marilyn Sharp, a senior investigator at the Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine, which hosted the conference. Sharp, a co-chair of the ICSP, said her work in the institute's military performance division is designed to help "place the best soldier in the right job, and in that way we will reduce injuries and optimize performance." [Army Times](#)

[top of page...](#)

## GLOBAL

---

### A death by suicide every 40 seconds, says WHO

4 September - Somebody dies by taking their own life every 40 seconds, according to a significant report by the World Health Organization (WHO). It said suicide was a "major public health problem" that was too often shrouded in taboo... The WHO analysed 10 years of research and data on suicide from around the world. It concluded:

- Around 800,000 people kill themselves every year
- It was the second leading cause of death in young people, aged 15 to 29
- Those over 70 were the most likely to take their own lives
- Three-quarters of these deaths were in low and middle income countries
- In richer countries, three times as many men as women die by suicide

It said limiting access to firearms and toxic chemicals was shown to reduce rates of suicide. And that introducing a national strategy for reducing suicides was effective, yet had been developed in only a minority of countries. [BBC News](#)

## Classified Version of the Weekly Update

An Army Public Health Weekly Update is available with articles classified up to the **SECRET** level from the USAPHC SIPRNet site:

<http://phc.army.smil.mil>

Look under Hot Topics & Current Issues.

To access this version, you will need a **SECRET** clearance and a SIPRNet account.

## Links

[A-Z Index](#)

[About USAPHC](#)

[Army Public Health and Health Information Weekly Update Archives](#)

[Medical Surveillance Monthly Report](#)

[Medical Threat Briefings \(AKO\)](#)

[Request USAPHC Services](#)

[USAPHC Library](#)

[USAPHC Homepage](#)

[USAPHC Training](#)

[Contact USAPHC](#)

## Can exercise cause A.L.S.?

3 September - Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis has been all over the news lately because of the ubiquitous A.L.S. ice bucket challenge. That attention has also reinvigorated a long-simmering scientific debate about whether participating in contact sports or even vigorous exercise might somehow contribute to the development of the fatal neurodegenerative disease, an issue that two important new studies attempt to answer... The more impressive of these, which was published in May in *Annals of Neurology*... asked 652 A.L.S. patients if they'd be willing to talk about their lives and activities and did the same with 1,166 people of matching ages, genders and nationalities... The numbers showed that physical activity — whether at work, in sports or during exercise — did not increase people's risk of developing A.L.S. Instead, exercise actually appeared to offer some protection against the disease... One aspect of people's lives did significantly increase their risk of developing A.L.S.: a history of multiple hits to the head. Men and women who had sustained at least two concussions or other serious head injuries were much more likely than other people, including never-concussed athletes, to develop A.L.S. [New York Times](#)

## Chikungunya virus in the Americas — what a vectorborne pathogen can do

4 September - In December 2013, the first local transmission of chikungunya virus in the Western Hemisphere was reported, beginning with autochthonous cases in Saint Martin. Since then, local transmission has been reported in 31 countries or territories throughout the Americas, including locations in the United States and its territories (Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). As of August 8, 2014, a total of 576,535 suspected and laboratory-confirmed chikungunya cases had been reported in the Americas, a case count that had nearly doubled over the previous month. The rapid spread of the virus is probably attributable to a lack of population immunity and the broad distribution in the Americas of vectors capable of transmitting the virus. [New England Journal of Medicine](#)

## Global diabetes epidemic hampers tuberculosis control

3 September - The growing number of Type 2 diabetes cases worldwide will make it difficult to control and eliminate tuberculosis. Experts have found a connection between the two diseases, reminiscent of HIV and TB. For reasons that are still unclear, Type 2 diabetes increases the risk of developing tuberculosis. In a series of articles in the journal *The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology*, researchers report that 15 percent of adult TB cases worldwide are due to diabetes, translating to more than 1 million infections. More than 40 percent of diabetes-associated TB cases are in India. [VOA](#)

## Islamic extremist's laptop found to hold bioterror manual

29 August - A laptop computer captured from an Islamic extremist in Syria contains detailed instructions on how to weaponize the bacteria that cause bubonic plague and use them in a

terrorist attack, *Foreign Policy* reported yesterday... The laptop was owned by a Tunisian national who studied chemistry and physics before joining the rebel group known as the Islamic State, or ISIS, in Syria. It was confiscated from an ISIS hideout in January in Syria's Idlib governorate, which borders Turkey. The laptop contained a 19-page manual in Arabic on how to develop biological weapons and weaponize *Yersinia pestis*, which causes bubonic plague, from infected animals. "The advantage of biological weapons is that they do not cost a lot of money, while the human casualties can be huge," the manual states. The computer also contained a fatwa, or Islamic ruling, permitting the use of weapons of mass destruction on non-Muslims. [CIDRAP News Scan](#) (second item)

## Oral vaccine can help stop cholera outbreak

September 2014 - An oral cholera vaccine was highly effective in protecting residents in Guinea during a 2012 disease outbreak, a recent study found. The study examined the effectiveness of two complete doses of Shanchol, one of two oral cholera vaccines currently available and pre-qualified by the World Health Organization. In April 2012, health workers began administering more than 316,000 doses of the vaccine in two rounds in two coastal districts over a six-week period. Vaccination coverage reached more than 75 percent in both districts. The study, which was published in May in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, found that two complete vaccine doses were associated with 86 percent protection against cholera, an often deadly disease. [Nation's Health](#) (second item)

## Study finds little spread of MERS-CoV in Saudi households



28 August - The standard thinking on MERS-CoV is that it doesn't spread very easily, other than in healthcare settings with weak infection control precautions. A new study looking for transmission of the virus in the households of Saudi Arabian patients in 2013 seems to fit well with that view, though it has some limitations. An international team of researchers looked for MERS-CoV (Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus) infection in 280 household contacts of 26 patients who had confirmed cases, according to their report in today's *New England Journal of Medicine*. They found evidence of secondary transmission in only 12 contacts, only 1 of whom actually got sick. Other experts who looked at the study, however, raised some questions about whether all of the 12 contacts really caught the virus from the infected person in their household, as opposed to some other source. [CIDRAP](#)

## EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

### A few Ebola cases likely in U.S., air traffic analysis predicts

4 September - It's only a matter of time, some researchers are warning, before isolated cases of Ebola start turning up in developed nations, as well as hitherto-unaffected African countries... [The] authors of a new analysis say many countries — including the U.S. — should gear up to recognize, isolate and treat imported cases of Ebola. The probability of seeing at least one imported case of Ebola in the U.S. is as high as 18 percent by late September, researchers reported Tuesday in the journal PLOS Currents: Outbreaks. That's compared with less than 5 percent right now. These predictions are based on the flow of airline passengers from West Africa and the difficulty of preventing an infected passenger from boarding a flight. As with any such analysis, there's some uncertainty. The range of a probable U.S. importation of Ebola by Sept. 22 runs from 1 percent to 18 percent. But with time — and a continuing intense outbreak in West Africa — importation is almost inevitable, the researchers told NPR. [NPR](#)

### Calm after Ebola storm: Quarantined neighborhood opens up



3 September - ...Problems began in [West Point,] the densely populated neighborhood of 50,000 on Aug. 16. West Pointers were angry that the government had put an Ebola holding facility for suspected cases in their neighborhood and had brought in patients from other parts of the city. A crowd stormed the treatment center. Seventeen patients fled. Residents of West Point carried off mattresses, blankets and other items that might have been infected with the Ebola virus. Concerned that the virus could spread through West Point and beyond, the government imposed an overnight lockdown on Aug. 20, sealing off the angry residents for a planned 21 days. That's the maximum time it can take for symptoms to appear after exposure to Ebola. The quarantine led to protests. In one clash, security forces shot 15-year-old Shackie Kamara in the legs. He died the next day of blood loss and shock. The quarantine ended Saturday, after just 10 days. And life is beginning to return to normal. [NPR](#)

### CDC director calls for worldwide effort to stop Ebola

2 September -The world is allowing the Ebola outbreak to spin out of control, according to a leading humanitarian group helping to treat patients in West Africa. In a separate speech, the USA's top public health official also called on global leaders to do far more to control the Ebola outbreak that has now spread to five countries. "I could not possibly overstate the need for an emergency response," said Thomas Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who just returned from visiting Ebola treatment centers in West

Africa. "There is a window of opportunity to tamp this down, but that window is closing. ... We need action now." Separately, the missionary group SIM USA announced Tuesday that another of its workers, an American doctor, has been diagnosed with Ebola in Liberia. Although health leaders know how to halt the spread of the virus, "the challenge is to scale it up to the massive levels needed to stop Ebola," CDC's Frieden said, noting, "Speed is key. For every day's delay, it becomes harder to stop it." [USA Today](#)

## Cuts at W.H.O. hurt response to Ebola crisis

3 September - With treatment centers overflowing, and alarmingly little being done to stop Ebola from sweeping through West African villages and towns, Dr. Joanne Liu, the president of Doctors Without Borders, knew that the epidemic had spun out of control. The only person she could think of with the authority to intensify the global effort was Dr. Margaret Chan, the director general of the World Health Organization, which has a long history of fighting outbreaks. If the W.H.O., the main United Nations health agency, could not quickly muster an army of experts and health workers to combat an outbreak overtaking some of the world's poorest countries, then what entity in the world would do it? "I wish I could do that," Dr. Chan said when the two met at the W.H.O.'s headquarters in Geneva this summer, months after the outbreak burgeoned in a Guinean rain forest and spilled into packed capital cities. The W.H.O. simply did not have the staffing or ability to flood the Ebola zone with help, said Dr. Chan, who recounted the conversation. It was a fantasy, she argued, to think of the W.H.O. as a first responder ready to lead the fight against deadly outbreaks around the world. [New York Times](#)

## Death toll from Congo Ebola outbreak rises to 31

2 September - The death toll from an outbreak of the Ebola virus in the Djera region of northern Democratic Republic of Congo has risen to 31, Minister of Health Felix Kabange Numbi told Reuters on Tuesday. The outbreak in Congo's Equateur province is thought to be separate from an epidemic in the West African nations of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia that has killed more than 1,550 people since March. [Reuters](#)

## Ebola crisis: 'world is losing the battle'

2 September - The Ebola outbreak in West Africa will not be stopped unless wealthy nations intervene to contain the virus, the head of a leading medical charity has said. Joanne Liu, of Doctors Without Borders, said on Tuesday that authorities were "losing the battle", and that the world had ignored the gravity of the epidemic. "Six months into the worst Ebola epidemic in history, the world is losing the battle to contain it. Leaders are failing to come to grips with this transnational threat," she said. "The [World Health Organisation] announcement on August 8 that the epidemic constituted a 'public health emergency of international concern' has not led to decisive action, and states have essentially joined a global coalition of inaction." Liu called for a global biological disaster response, including funding for more field hospitals, trained civilian or military medical personnel and mobile laboratories in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. She said in her statement that "any military assets and personnel deployed to the region should not be used for quarantine,

containment or crowd control measures as forced quarantines have only bred fear and unrest. [Al Jazeera](#)

## **Ebola virus disease update - Senegal**

30 August - On 30 August 2014, Senegal's Ministry of Public Health and Social Affairs provided WHO with details about a case of Ebola virus disease (EVD) announced in that country on 29 August... The case is a 21-year-old male native of Guinea, who arrived in Dakar, by road, on 20 August and stayed with relatives at a home in the outskirts of the city. On 23 August, he sought medical care for symptoms that included fever, diarrhoea, and vomiting. He received treatment for malaria, but did not improve and left the facility. After leaving the facility, he continued to reside with his relatives. Though the investigation is in its early stages, he is not presently known to have travelled elsewhere. On 26 August, he was referred to a specialized facility for infectious diseases, still showing the same symptoms, and was hospitalized. On 27 August, authorities in Conakry, Guinea, issued an alert, informing medical services in Guinea and neighbouring countries, that a person, who was a close contact of a confirmed EVD patient, had escaped the surveillance system. [WHO](#)

## **Ebola virus disease outbreak – west Africa**

4 September - As of 31 August 2014, 3685 (probable, confirmed and suspected) cases and 1841 deaths have been reported in the current outbreak of Ebola virus disease by the Ministries of Health of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. In Nigeria, there have been 21 cases and 7 deaths. In Senegal, one case has been confirmed and there have been no Ebola deaths or further suspected cases. [WHO](#)

## **Experimental drug saves monkeys stricken with Ebola**

29 August - Scientists are reporting strong evidence that the experimental Ebola drug ZMapp may be effective for treating victims of the devastating disease. A study involving 18 rhesus macaque monkeys, published Friday in the journal *Nature*, found that the drug saved 100 percent of the animals even if they didn't receive the drug until five days after they had been infected. The study is the first to test ZMapp in a primate, which is considered a good model for how a drug might work in humans. [NPR](#)

## **Mistrust of government spurs Ebola spread**

3 September - Decades of corruption, deep-rooted mistrust of government and weak public services in Liberia have hastened the spread of the Ebola virus, and much more needs to be done to bridge a communication gap between government and citizens, say civil society groups and analysts... Within this context, many Liberians have been slow to trust accurate messages from the Ministry of Health about the nature of Ebola and the ways in which it can spread. Many people feared that Ebola could be a hoax. Others circulated rumours that the virus might be a ploy to net officials funding from international donors... "People are not acting out of ignorance, they're acting out of experience," she told IRIN. "In Liberia people have historically used community information and rumours as a way of getting information

at times when they weren't sure whether to trust the government," she said. [IRIN](#)

## New threat: Ebola spreads further in Nigeria

3 September - Three people are sick with Ebola virus in Nigeria's oil hub, Port Harcourt, World Health Organization officials said Wednesday — a worrying sign of spread linked to a single traveler who tried to elude treatment... All the Nigerian cases can be traced back to Patrick Sawyer, a Liberian-American consultant who fled to Nigeria after he became sick, infecting several health care workers who treated him in the capital of Lagos before he died in July. "One close contact of the Lagos case fled the city, where he was under quarantine, to seek treatment in Port Harcourt," WHO reports in an update. That patient infected a doctor who treated him in Port Harcourt. The doctor, who died last month, infected his wife and a patient at the same hospital where he was treated. And he may have infected others. [NBC News](#)

## Two women receive experimental Ebola vaccine in fast-tracked trial



3 September - The first two doses of an experimental Ebola vaccine have been injected into human subjects in the National Institutes of Health's fast-tracked clinical trial. A 39-year-old woman was the first person to receive the vaccine, which had previously only been tested in monkeys. She received the injection Tuesday

at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. A 27-year-old woman was given the shot today, the agency said. The trial will test the safety of the vaccine, which was developed by GlaxoSmithKline and the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases... The vaccine, which is designed to prevent Ebola, is different from the experimental drug ZMapp, which is designed to treat the infection. [ABC News](#)

## U.S. health agency advises more vigilance on campuses

2 September - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has advised American colleges and universities, and any students or staff arriving from nations hit by the Ebola virus, to take precautions against spreading the disease that go beyond what most schools have done. In interviews last week, some large universities said they had not adopted any anti-Ebola measures, noting that the C.D.C. had not yet offered them any guidance on the matter. Other colleges said they were asking anyone known to have recently been in the affected countries about possible exposure and potential symptoms, like fever, diarrhea, severe head or body aches, or unexplained bruising or bleeding. In a new advisory issued over the weekend, the agency recommended that colleges conduct that kind of screening for anyone who had been in Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria or Sierra Leone in the past 21 days, the maximum incubation period for the virus before symptoms appear. [New York Times](#)

## US to provide \$75M to expand Ebola care centers

4 September - The American aid agency announced Thursday it would donate \$75 million to fund 1,000 more beds in Ebola treatment centers in Liberia and buy 130,000 more protective suits for health care workers. West Africa's struggling health systems have buckled under the pressure of an Ebola outbreak that has already killed about 1,900 people. Nurses in Liberia are wearing rags over their heads to protect themselves from the dreaded disease, amid concerns that shortages of protective gear throughout the region are responsible for the high Ebola death toll among health workers. The U.S. Agency for International Development also urged American health care workers to respond to the outbreak. Rajiv Shah, the agency's administrator, told The Associated Press that several hundred more international experts are needed and the agency will help send Americans health care workers there. [Stars and Stripes](#)

[top of page...](#)

## INFLUENZA

---

### CDC: Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

During week 34, 5.7 % of all deaths reported through the 122-Cities Mortality Reporting System were due to pneumonia and influenza. This percentage was below the epidemic threshold of 6.0% for week 34. [FluView](#)

### Flu shots effective in pregnant women with or without HIV

3 September - Tests conducted in 2011 and 2012 show that the influenza vaccine effectively prevents flu infections in pregnant women, whether or not they are infected with HIV. Vaccination also protected newborns during at least the first 24 weeks of life, as long as their mothers were HIV-free. There was no evidence of protection for children born to HIV-positive mothers, but the number of infants who fell into that category in this study was small. "The findings conform with current practice, which is to give the flu shot to everyone," Dr. Karen Deighan, an obstetrician and gynecologist at the Loyola University Health System in Maywood, Illinois, told Reuters Health. [Reuters](#)

### Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus – update

4 September - On 2 September 2014, the National Health and Family Planning Commission of China notified WHO of 2 additional laboratory-confirmed cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus... The overall risk assessment has not changed. [WHO](#)

## Naval Health Research Center: Febrile Respiratory Illness Surveillance Update

For week 35 (through 30 August 2014):

- Influenza: No new cases of NHRC laboratory-confirmed influenza among US military basic trainees.
- FRI surveillance at all eight U.S. military basic training centers indicated FRI rates were at or below expected values.
- NHRC has capability to test for novel H7N9 influenza virus, MERS coronavirus, and Ebola virus. [NHRC Febrile Respiratory Illness Surveillance Update](#)

## WHO Influenza Update

25 August - Globally influenza activity continued to increase in the southern hemisphere, and remained low elsewhere.

- In Europe and North America, overall influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels.
- In Africa and western Asia, influenza activity was low.
- In eastern Asia, influenza activity reached inter-seasonal levels in most countries with influenza A(H3N2) and influenza B virus predominating. Influenza A(H3N2) activity continued in south China.
- In the southern hemisphere, influenza activity continued to increase in most countries. In the temperate zone of South America, influenza activity mainly associated with A(H3N2) virus continued to increase, while respiratory syncytial virus activity declined. In Australia and New Zealand, the influenza season appeared to have started with ILI and the number of influenza virus detections increased. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 was the most common detected virus. In South Africa the influenza detection rate increased with A(H3N2) the most frequently detected.

[WHO](#)

[top of page...](#)

### VETERINARY/FOOD SAFETY

---

## Dolphin virus adds to deaths in troubled Florida lagoon

2 September - A measles-like virus that is blamed for killing hundreds of dolphins on the U.S. East Coast has spread into a Florida lagoon where hundreds of manatees, brown pelicans and dolphins already died mysteriously in recent years. The Indian River Lagoon,

south of the Kennedy Space Center, was the scene of the unexplained deaths in 2012 and 2013 and is now threatened by cetacean morbillivirus, which is related to the virus that causes measles in humans. Megan Stolen, a research scientist from the Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute, said on Tuesday that the disease was new to Florida's Intracoastal Waterway, which includes the Indian River Lagoon, but that the deaths appear to be over. She said 14 dead dolphins, including nine calves, had been found in August north of Kennedy Space Center and that another four dolphins were found dead on a nearby beach.

[Reuters](#)

## Factors contributing to decline in foodborne disease outbreak reports, United States

September 2014 - The number of foodborne disease outbreaks reported in the United States declined substantially in 2009, when the surveillance system transitioned from reporting only foodborne disease outbreaks to reporting all enteric disease outbreaks. A 2013 survey found that some outbreaks that would have been previously reported as foodborne are now reported as having other transmission modes. [Emerging Infectious Diseases](#)

## Perdue says its hatching chicks are off antibiotics



3 September - Perdue Farms says it has ditched the common practice of injecting antibiotics into eggs that are just about to hatch. And public health advocates are cheering. They've been campaigning against the widespread use of antibiotics in agriculture, arguing that it's adding to the plague of antibiotic-resistant

bacteria. This particular use of antibiotics is ubiquitous but little-known. It happens at hatcheries, which lie at the heart of large-scale chicken production... [Bruce Stewart-Brown, a veterinarian and senior vice president for Perdue] says the company learned, over the following years, how to make sure the hens laying these eggs were healthy, and that their eggs were clean as they arrived at the hatchery. "You can't have dirty eggs coming into the hatchery and be successful at a no-antibiotic hatchery," he says. According to Stewart-Brown, Perdue's hatcheries are working better now, antibiotic-free, than they ever did before. [NPR](#)

## Texas Cyclospora outbreak over; Mexican cilantro suspected



Cilantro grown in the Puebla, Mexico, area is suspected as the cause of at least some of the cases in a summer outbreak of Cyclospora infections in Texas, which now appears to be over, according to state and federal officials. At least 18 other states are tracking cyclosporiasis cases, but there is no indication that

any of their cases are linked to cilantro from Mexico, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said in an update yesterday. [CIDRAP](#)

[top of page...](#)

## WELLNESS

---

### A call for a low-carb diet that embraces fat

1 September - People who avoid carbohydrates and eat more fat, even saturated fat, lose more body fat and have fewer cardiovascular risks than people who follow the low-fat diet that health authorities have favored for decades, a major new study shows... The notion that dietary fat is harmful, particularly saturated fat, arose decades ago from comparisons of disease rates among large national populations. But more recent clinical studies in which individuals and their diets were assessed over time have produced a more complex picture. Some have provided strong evidence that people can sharply reduce their heart disease risk by eating fewer carbohydrates and more dietary fat, with the exception of trans fats. The new findings suggest that this strategy more effectively reduces body fat and also lowers overall weight. [New York Times](#)

### Airline crews may be more likely to get skin cancer

3 September - Pilots and flight attendants may be at an increased risk of developing the most deadly form of skin cancer, suggests a new analysis. While the study cannot pinpoint why flight crews are at higher risk, the researchers suggest it could be the result of greater exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation, which causes damage to the DNA in skin cells, at high altitudes... Among participants in the 19 studies, the researchers found that melanoma was about twice as common among pilots and flight crew members than would be expected in the general population. [Reuters](#)

### CVS stores stop selling all tobacco products



3 September - ...As of midnight on Tuesday, all 7,700 CVS locations nationwide will no longer sell tobacco products, fulfilling a pledge the company made in February, as it seeks to reposition itself as a health care destination. The rebranding even comes with a new name: CVS Health. The decision to stop selling cigarettes is a strategic move as pharmacies across the country jockey for a piece of the growing health care industry. [New York Times](#)

## **Double mastectomies don't yield expected results, study finds**

2 September - More women are choosing to have bilateral mastectomies when they are diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer, even though there's little evidence that removing both breasts improves their survival compared with more conservative treatments. The biggest study yet on the question has found no survival benefit with bilateral mastectomy compared with breast-conserving surgery with radiation. The study... looked at the records of all women in California who were diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer from 1998 to 2011 — 189,734 women, all told. Women who had breast-conserving surgery had an 83.2 percent survival rate at 10 years, compared with 81.2 percent for those who had a double mastectomy. That meant that women who had breast-conserving surgery, also known as lumpectomy, did better and also avoided the risks of major surgery and loss of a healthy breast. [NPR](#)

## **Drink responsibly' messages in alcohol ads promote products, not public health**

3 September - Alcohol industry magazine ads reminding consumers to "drink responsibly" or "enjoy in moderation" fail to convey basic public health information, according to a new study from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health... According to the study, most of the ads analyzed (87 percent) incorporated a responsibility message, but none actually defined responsible drinking or promoted abstinence at particular times or in certain situations. When responsibility messages were accompanied by a product tagline or slogan, the messages were displayed in smaller font than the company's tagline or slogan 95 percent of the time. Analysis of the responsibility messages found that 88 percent served to reinforce promotion of the advertised product, and many directly contradicted scenes depicted in the ads. [Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health News](#)

## **Like regular cigarettes, e-cigs a 'gateway' to harder drugs: study**

3 September - Like conventional cigarettes, electronic cigarettes may function as a "gateway drug" that can prime the brain to be more receptive to harder drugs, U.S. researchers said on Wednesday... "With e-cigarettes, we get rid of the danger to the lungs and to the heart, but no one has mentioned the brain," coauthor Dr. Eric Kandel of Columbia University, whose findings were published in the New England Journal of Medicine, said in a telephone interview... Although it is not yet clear whether e-cigarettes will prove to be a gateway to the use of conventional cigarettes and illicit drugs, they said "that's certainly a possibility." "Nicotine clearly acts as a gateway drug on the brain, and this effect is likely to occur whether the exposure comes from smoking cigarettes, passive tobacco smoke, or e-cigarettes," they wrote. [Reuters](#)

## **Normal-weight counselors feel more successful than heavier counselors at helping obese patients slim down, study suggests**

4 September - A new study by researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health suggests that normal-weight nutrition and exercise counselors feel significantly more successful in getting their obese patients to lose weight than those who are overweight or obese... The researchers surveyed 500 non-physician health professionals specializing in nutrition, nursing, behavior/mental health, exercise and pharmacy between Jan. 20 and Feb. 5, 2014. Professionals of all weights, the survey found, were equally confident in their ability to relay proper weight-loss advice and felt that patients were equally receptive to it. But 52 percent of those counselors of normal weight reported success in helping obese patients achieve clinically significant weight loss as compared to 29 percent of overweight counselors. [Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health News](#)

## **People with widespread pain more likely to develop insomnia**

2 September - Older adults with pain for more than a day are more likely to report trouble sleeping years later, according to a new study. The risk of long-term sleep problems was even higher for people reporting widespread pain in the survey. It might not be just the pain that's leading to insomnia, the researchers say. Instead, much of the connection could be explained by lifestyle changes that often happen due to persistent pain, said lead author Nicole K.Y. Tang of the University of Warwick in Coventry, U.K... The authors suspect that physical limitations and reduced social functioning might explain a lot of the relationship between pain and insomnia. [Reuters](#)

## **Sonova's microphone disguised as a pen offers 'super normal hearing'**

3 September - A wireless microphone in the shape of a pen, made by Switzerland's Sonova, can help people with hearing loss understand speech better than those with normal hearing at certain noise levels, a study has shown... The company's microphone, called "Roger" after the term used in radio communications to say a message has been received, wirelessly transmits a speaker's voice over a 2.4 gigahertz (GHz) frequency to a tiny receiver that clips onto the aid. The pen - which can be placed flat on table, used like a microphone or hung around a speaker's neck - makes speech more intelligible over distance and when there is background noise, such as in a busy restaurant, in a meeting, or in the car... A study published in the American Journal of Audiology found people with moderate-to-severe hearing loss who used the Roger Pen could understand speech better than those with normal hearing at noise levels of 65 decibels (dB) and above. [Reuters](#)

## Study shows HPV vaccine effective in women over 25

3 September - An international study of more than 5,000 women over the age of 25 showed that the human papillomavirus (HPV) 16/18 vaccine is effective against infections and cervical abnormalities associated with the two HPV strains targeted by the vaccine, as well as certain non-vaccine strains, according to a study today in *The Lancet*. The double-blind, randomized phase 3 trial involved 5,752 women age 26 and older from 12 countries, 2,881 of whom received the vaccine and 2,871 a placebo. Efficacy against 6-month persistent infection or cervical intraepithelial neoplasia of grade 1 or higher associated with HPV 16 or 18 was 81.1% in all age-groups, 83.5% in those 26 to 35, and 77.2% in women 36 to 45. No infections or cervical abnormalities were identified in women age 46 or older. [CIDRAP News Scan](#) (third item)

## Unintended consequences: Why painkiller addicts turn to heroin

30 August - The face of heroin abuse in America is changing. Back in the 1960s, heroin users were usually young men, who started using around an average age of 16. They were most likely from low-income neighborhoods, and when they turned to opiates, heroin was their first choice. Now, more than 50 years later, a study from *JAMA* paints a very different picture. Today's typical heroin addict starts using at 23, is more likely to live in the affluent suburbs and was likely unwittingly led to heroin through painkillers prescribed by his or her doctor. While heroin is illicit and opioid pills such as oxycontin are FDA-approved, each is derived from the poppy plant... It is precisely because there are so many similarities that pain pill addicts frequently turn to heroin when pills are no longer available to them. Heroin is usually cheaper than prescription drugs. Opiate pain medications cost the uninsured about \$1 per milligram; so a 60-milligram pill will cost \$60. You can obtain the equivalent amount of heroin for about one-tenth the price. [CNN](#)

[top of page...](#)

### USAFRICOM

---

## South Sudan: No respite - cholera down but malaria, parasitic disease up – MSF

29 August - South Sudan's cholera crisis is waning but humanitarian workers are now battling increased cases of malaria and the parasitic disease kala azar, with children most affected. Conflict between the government and rebels has displaced 1.7 million people, or one in seven of the population, since December, with famine on the horizon... The latest emergency operations are focusing on malaria and kala azar, a parasitic disease transmitted by the bite of a sandfly which is usually fatal without treatment. MSF treated about 200

people for kala azar in Upper Nile State, one of the areas worst hit by fighting, in July. With the onset of the rains producing stagnant water for mosquitoes, there has also been a "spike" in malaria, MSF said. [Reuters](#)

## When a home poses health risks, the floor may be the culprit

2 September - ...A 2007 World Bank study of a Mexican government program to replace dirt floors with cement found that doing so "significantly improves the health of young children." Among the study's findings: "A complete substitution of dirt floors by cement floors in a house leads to a 78 percent reduction in parasitic infestations, a 49 percent reduction in diarrhea, an 81 percent reduction in anemia and a 36 to 96 percent improvement in cognitive development." Beyond this, adults reported "increased satisfaction with ... their quality of life." [Gayatri Datar, 28,] became preoccupied with figuring out a way to provide more healthful floors for the roughly 80 percent of Rwanda's 11.5 million population living in homes built directly on the ground... [An] eco-friendly home design trend in the Western United States could be translated easily to the Rwandan context: earthen floors. Also known as adobe, these are the dirt floor's more refined cousins. [NPR](#)

[top of page...](#)

### USCENTCOM

---

## Libyan health care on life support

2 September - The political chaos and unrest in Libya is taking a serious toll on health services, with the departure of medical staff and humanitarian agencies increasing the strain on health workers seeking to treat those injured in the clashes taking place since June. According to a World Health Organization (WHO) situation report, thousands of people have fled their homes in Tripoli and Benghazi and "large hospitals in Tripoli and Benghazi are overwhelmed with patients requiring emergency and trauma care." Several aid and UN agencies have reduced staffing levels. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) moved international staff to neighbouring Tunisia, though national staff in Libya continue to work on the ground. On 28 August five newly equipped ambulances were hijacked and stolen. [IRIN](#)

## Pakistan: How fighting in Pakistan affects war against polio

1 September - Fierce fighting in Pakistan is harming and helping the country's drive to eradicate polio. With cases steadily decreasing in Nigeria, the only other persistent global

hot spot, Pakistan is becoming the virus's last refuge; 117 cases of polio paralysis have been found this year, up from 25 by this time last year. And in three months of fighting between the armed forces and the Taliban, nearly a million people have been displaced, spreading the virus, according to Unicef. But the military operations can be "a blessing in disguise," in the words of the Federation of Islamic Medical Associations, which wants the disease eliminated. Most cases are in the rural Waziristan region, where leaders of some Taliban factions have banned vaccinations since 2012. As refugees flee, they often encounter polio vaccinators, who have given two million doses at roadside posts in parts of Waziristan now controlled by the army and in cities to which people from the region have fled. [New York Times](#)

## **Pakistan's IDPs reach record one million**

1 September - Pakistan's government announced the start of a full-scale security operation on June 15 in North Waziristan in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) to take on rebel strongholds near the Afghan border. Dubbed "Zarb-e-Azb", the ongoing military operation was launched against Taliban fighters and their allies in the Pakistani tribal areas. According to the United Nations, as of August 2014 the estimated number of displaced people is now more than one million, comprising about 95,000 families. The majority of the displaced families have sought refuge in Bannu, with some moving to DI Khan, Lakki Marwat, Kohat Karak, Hangu and Charsadda in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. [Al Jazeera](#)

[top of page...](#)

### **USEUCOM**

---

## **Estonia: Central Estonian health centre will treat Ukrainian soldiers**

4 September - Estonia will soon become one of the countries of NATO and the European Union, who will respond in affirmative to a request by Kiev to provide treatment or rehabilitation to Ukrainian military who have been injured in battles in the Eastern part of the country... "Estonia will this year provide in the Seli Health Centre (healthcare facility in Rapla county, administered by the Defence Ministry – ed.) rehabilitation to 15 Ukrainian soldiers who have been injured in battles," said Defence Minister Sven Mikser. "Next year, Seli will be able to receive up to 70 people in need of rehabilitation from Ukraine." [Baltic Course](#)

## **Turkey: Syrians build health care network in Turkey**

1 September - On a dusty, shadeless hilltop in the Turkish border town of Kilis, Syrian mothers, toddlers, and elderly cram into a makeshift medical centre housed in an abandoned bakery. Some 500 patients will seek treatment here today, though officially the

centre does not exist. Known as Syria Polyclinic 1, the facility is part of an informal network of medical centres that have cropped up in Kilis to treat the nearly 80,000 Syrian refugees that now reside in and around the town... Like many smaller Turkish border towns, the influx of newcomers into Kilis has far exceeded the capacity of local infrastructure and services. "We started this clinic because the need was becoming so great. The number of Syrians in Kilis started growing, and room in the camps was running out," Dr. Assaf explained. "In this way, we are helping reduce the pressure on the Turkish [health] centres." [Al Jazeera](#)

[top of page...](#)

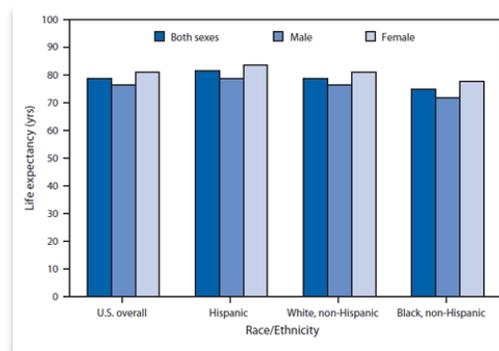
## USNORTHCOM

---

### U.S.: BP found "grossly negligent" in 2010 spill

4 September - BP Plc <BP.L> was "grossly negligent" for its role in the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico four years ago, a U.S. district judge said on Thursday in a ruling that could add billions of dollars in fines to the more than \$42 billion in charges taken so far for the worst offshore disaster in U.S. history. [Scientific American](#)

### U.S.: Life expectancy at birth, by sex and race/ethnicity — United States, 2011



5 September - In 2011, life expectancy at birth was 78.7 years for the total U.S. population, 76.3 years for males, and 81.1 years for females. Life expectancy was highest for Hispanics for both males and females. In each racial/ethnic group, females had higher life expectancies than males. Life expectancy ranged from 71.7 years for non-Hispanic black males to 83.7 years for

Hispanic females. [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#)

### U.S.: Millions struggle to get enough to eat despite jobs returning

3 September - The number of U.S. families that struggled to get enough to eat last year was essentially unchanged from the year before, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's latest report on "food security." The agency says that about 17.5 million families — or 1 in 7 — were food insecure last year. That means that at some point during the year, the household had trouble feeding all of its members. In 2012, the number was 17.6 million. The number of households experiencing what the government calls "very low

food security" — which means people actually miss meals or cut back their intake because they don't have enough money for food — was also essentially unchanged last year at 6.8 million households. Anti-hunger groups say the fact that so many families are still struggling to put enough food on the table, even as the economy improves, is a sign that more needs to be done to help them out. [NPR](#)

## **U.S.: Obesity rates reach historic highs in more U.S. states**

4 September - Rates of adult obesity increased in six U.S. states and fell in none last year, and in more states than ever - 20 - at least 30% of adults are obese, according to an analysis released on Thursday. The conclusions were reported by the Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and were based on federal government data. They suggest the problem may be worsening despite widespread publicity about the nation's obesity epidemic, from First Lady Michelle Obama and many others, plus countless programs to address it... The 2013 adult obesity rate exceeds 20% in every state, while 42 have rates above 25%. For the first time two states, Mississippi and West Virginia rose above 35%. [Reuters](#)

## **U.S.: State abortion restrictions putting health at risk**

September 2014 - Politics and ideology are putting women's health at risk in states across the nation, according to a new report from the National Partnership for Women and Families. The report found that abortion restrictions that are in effect in 29 states and on the books in 33 states contradict evidence-based health care practices and undermine high quality care for women. In examining four types of abortion restrictions — ultrasound requirements, biased counseling, mandatory delays and restrictions on medication-based abortions — the report found that 33 states have at least one of the restrictions and 16 states have all four. [Nation's Health](#) (first item)

## **U.S.: Rats! New York City tries to drain rodent 'reservoirs'**



29 August - New York City is launching the latest salvo in its never-ending war on rats. City officials are ramping up efforts to teach regular New Yorkers how to make their streets, businesses and gardens less hospitable to rodents — in other words, to see their neighborhood the way a health inspector would... [The East Village is] one of the testing grounds for the city's new "rat reservoir pilot" — an initiative to try to reduce the rat population in neighborhoods with chronic infestations. Part of the plan is to hire extra exterminators and to seal up holes in sidewalks, parks and other public infrastructure. Rats can squeeze through the tiniest opening "in doors, in windows, in sidewalk curbs, in any building infrastructure," says Bragdon. "Rats only need a hole or a

gap the size of a quarter to enter." ...[Another] part of the city's new initiative is to educate regular New Yorkers on the finer points of rat behavior. It's a class known as the Rat Academy, a free, two-hour course on how to make a business, apartment building or community garden less attractive to rodents. [NPR](#)

## U.S.: Texas abortion provider to reopen after court lifts restrictions

3 September - An abortion provider in the south Texas border city of McAllen will reopen in the next few days after a federal judge last week ruled as unconstitutional state restrictions that led to its closure... U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel struck down the previously imposed regulations for the two cities of McAllen and El Paso requiring doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles (48 kms) of their clinics. Yeakel said because of the restriction, women in south Texas, one of the state's poorer regions, would have to travel as much as 500 miles to go to an abortion clinic, which would be an unlawful burden... Before the admitting privileges regulation went into effect last year, there were 40 licensed abortion facilities in Texas. That number has dropped by about half since then and would have been reduced to eight, at most, if the ambulatory surgical center requirement had gone into effect, Yeakel cited evidence as saying. [Reuters](#)

[top of page...](#)

### USPACOM

---

## Bangladesh floods test disaster response improvements

2 September - Floods triggered by two weeks of intense rain have affected two million people in northern Bangladesh and left up to half a million homeless. While the country's disaster response capacity has been enhanced in recent years, experts argue that with people displaced and crops destroyed the flooding is testing response mechanisms.

"Improvement has been made in regard to flood forecasting system but there is still lack of coordination among government agencies," Mahbuba Nasreen, director of the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies at Dhaka University, told IRIN... According to government figures, 17 people have died due to drowning in the floods, and there have been 506 cases of pneumonia, 1,850 cases of diarrhoea and 540 cases of skin infections.

[IRIN](#)

## India's Badaun village gets toilets for women



2 September - On Sunday afternoon, a group of women teased each other over who would be the first to use the new toilets constructed in their village in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. They picked on Neetu after the 15-year-old declared that she would "never again" have to defecate in

the fields... They live in the village of Katra Saadatganj, where the threat posed to women by the lack of toilets was starkly exposed after two young girls were found hanging from a tree on the morning of May 27. The narrative, at the time, was that the two cousins had gone missing when they went to relieve themselves in the evening. Three brothers, accused of gang-rape and murder, were arrested... The World Bank has found that over 600 million people - 53 percent of households - in India, which has a population of 1.2 billion, defecate in the open. [Al Jazeera](#)

## Japan tackles first dengue fever outbreak in 70 years



2 September - Japan is battling its first outbreak of dengue fever in almost 70 years, with at least 22 people confirmed as being infected. The health ministry said the cases were believed to have been contracted by visitors to Tokyo's popular Yoyogi Park. An outbreak of dengue fever

was last recorded in Japan in 1945. [BBC News](#)

## Philippines: Measles reaches epidemic margin in Northern Mindanao

3 September – Having the highest reported number of measles cases in northern Mindanao, Cagayan de Oro has joined national efforts to prevent outbreak of the virus-caused communicable diseases like measles, rubella, and polio that are easily spread among children. The Regional Epidemiology, Surveillance and Disaster Response Unit (Resdru) of the Department of Health in the region (DOH-10) reported a total of 595 cases of suspected measles in the city as of August 29, 2014. In the DOH-10's latest measles surveillance report, the figure shows 36 percent of all cases in the region are registered in Cagayan de Oro. [Sun Star](#)

[top of page...](#)

**USSOUTHCOM**

---

## Chikungunya outbreak in Caribbean tops 650,000 cases

2 September – With 69,343 new cases, mostly from the Dominican Republic, the chikungunya outbreak in the Caribbean reached 658,466 cases last week, according to an Aug 29 update from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The jump in cases marks the end of an apparent 2-week slowdown. The region reported only 3,325 and 9,798 new chikungunya cases in the preceding 2 weeks. PAHO's outbreak numbers include both confirmed and suspected cases. Of the 69,343 new cases, 59,280 were in the Dominican Republic, which now has 429,492 total cases, making it by far the hardest-hit area. [CIDRAP News Scan](#) (first item)

## Drought leaves up to 2.8 million hungry in Central America

4 September - A severe drought has ravaged crops in Central America and as many as 2.81 million people are struggling to feed themselves, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) said on Friday, though the region's coffee crop has been largely unscathed. The drought, which is also affecting South America, has been particularly hard on the so-called "dry corridor" of Central America, which includes southern Guatemala, northern Honduras and western El Salvador... Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega recently allowed 40,000 tonnes of red beans and 73,500 tonnes of white corn to be imported to help lower prices. [Scientific American](#)

[top of page...](#)

[U.S. Military](#) | [Global](#) | [Influenza](#) | [Veterinary/Food Safety](#) | [Wellness](#) | [Contact Us](#)

[USAFRICOM](#) | [USCENTCOM](#) | [USEUCOM](#) | [USNORTHCOM](#) | [USPACOM](#) | [USSOUTHCOM](#)

The *Army Public Health Weekly Update* does not analyze the information as to its strategic or tactical impact on the US Army and is not a medical intelligence product. Medical intelligence is available from the [National Center for Medical Intelligence](#).

External Links: The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Army of this Web site or the information, products, or services contained therein. For other than authorized activities such as military exchanges and MWR sites, the U.S. Army does not exercise any editorial control over the information you may find at these locations. Such links are provided consistent with the stated purpose of this product.

Although Health Information Operations avoids links to sites that may be blocked, all sites may not be accessible from all locations. While we verify the links at the time of publication, we cannot guarantee that they will be active in the future.

Articles appearing in the Update do not necessarily represent US Army Medical Department opinions/views, policy, or guidance, and should not be construed or interpreted as being endorsed by the US Army Medical Department.

The *Army Public Health Weekly Update* is published by the Health Information Operations Program, Deputy Chief of Staff for Communication, United States Army Public Health Command.

