



Femeraid Air Rescue International – Weekly Medical Alert 6



FEMERAID AIR RESCUE INTERNATIONAL

Weekly Medical Alert

**05 – 12 OF FEBRUARY
WEEK 6 - 2017**

Femeraid Air Rescue International Unit assesses on weekly basis all Health risk around the World and produces a summarized report for Knights and Dames of Our Sovereign Order and State .

Medical Alerts this week : 19 New alerts: 8 Updated alerts: 11

Areas – Asia/ Africa/ Europe/ South America/ Middle East/ Pacific

Countries-Nigeria/ Somalia/ Brazil/ Vanuatu/ Pakistan/ Dubai/ Chad/ Zimbabwe/ South Sudan/ Palau / Hungary/ Yemen/ China / India/ New Caledonia/ USA/ Guine Bissau/ Cape vert .

Red Flags (Imminent risks/ Death)-  (4)

Yellow Flags (Actions should be taken) -  (14)

Green Flags (Be aware of) -  (1)

Femeraid Air Rescue International

Emergency number
244 921548797

Malta / Angola
La valleta / Luanda

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These medical alerts are compiled by Fameraid Air Rescue team with reliable information from WHO, CDC Atlanta and others.

If a Knight or Dame requires more details about a particular risk or location and how to mitigate the risk, please contact our team through the details provided on last page

[Nigeria: Lassa fever outbreak](#)

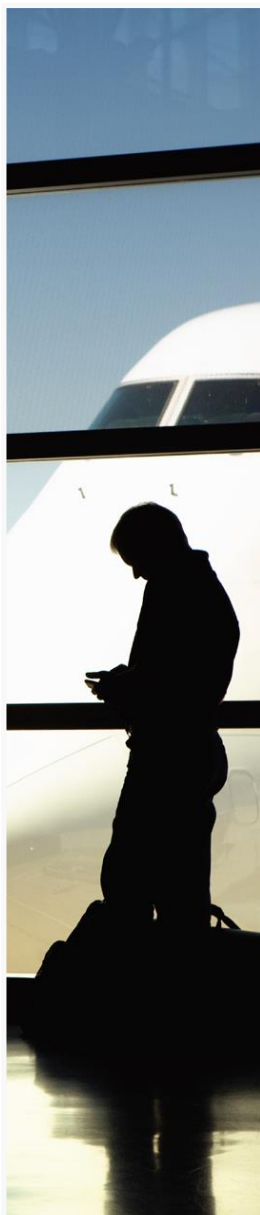
There has been an increase in Lassa fever cases. At least seven states have recorded infections, including several fatalities. Authorities are responding to prevent further spread. Lassa fever is a viral hemorrhagic fever, transmitted to humans on contact with excretions from infected rodents. Outbreaks occur through direct contact with body fluids of an infected person. Risk for our Knights and Dames is low. Prevent infection through observing strict hygiene and avoiding contact with sick people.

[Somalia: Surge in cholera cases](#)

There has been a sharp increase in the number of cholera cases in Somalia, particularly in the first two weeks of January. Most of the cases have been reported from Bay, Banaadir, Shabeellaha Dhexe (Middle Shabeelle) and Shabeellaha Hoose (Lower Shabeelle) regions. This is an ongoing outbreak that began in 2016. Cholera is consistently present in the country. It spreads via contaminated food and water. Symptoms include vomiting and profuse, watery diarrhoea which can lead to severe dehydration. If our Knights and Dames staying in quality accommodation are at lower risk. Pay strict attention to hygiene and consider vaccination.

[Brazil: Yellow fever outbreak](#)

Cases of yellow fever, including several fatalities, have been reported from at least 29 municipalities of Minas Gerais. Suspected cases have also been reported from the neighbouring state of Espirito Santo which was not thought to have a risk of yellow fever. This may represent an extension of the range of transmission. Outbreaks were also reported in Sao Paulo and Goias states in December 2016. Yellow fever is a viral disease transmitted by mosquitoes. Symptoms range from a mild flu-like illness to a severe haemorrhagic fever with liver failure. **About half of all serious cases are fatal.** Prevention is through vaccination and avoiding mosquito bites. Our Knights and Dames visiting affected areas should be vaccinated at least ten days prior to arrival to prevent infection.



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Vanuatu: Increase in dengue activity

Cases of dengue continue to rise in Vanuatu. Port Vila is the most affected area. Cases have also been reported from Efate, Eton, Mele and Tanna. Dengue is consistently present in the country. The disease is spread by mosquitoes, and is present in both rural and urban areas. Dengue can cause a range of symptoms and has no particular treatment. Some people, especially those who have been infected before, get a more severe form that can lead to fatal complications. Prevent infection by avoiding mosquito bites. We strongly recommend that any Damme that is pregnant to discuss with her doctor the details before the trip and should may consider the postpone of the trip.

Pakistan: Chikungunya outbreak in Karachi

Chikungunya cases continue to be reported in the Sindh province. This is the first time cases of the disease have been confirmed in the country. Chikungunya can cause a severe illness, particularly in newborn babies, older adults, and people with underlying health issues (such as diabetes, heart disease, weakened immune system). Prevent infection by avoiding mosquito bites. This is the first time cases of the disease have been confirmed in the country. Chikungunya can cause a severe illness, particularly in newborn babies, older adults, and people with underlying health issues (such as diabetes, heart disease, weakened immune system). Prevent infection by avoiding mosquito bites.

United Arab Emirates (UAE): Legionnaires' disease cases associated with travel to

Dubai

An increase in the number of cases of Legionnaires' disease has been reported in travellers returning from Dubai. Preliminary investigations indicate that accommodations where the travellers stayed are not the source of infection, and authorities are continuing investigate the source of exposure. People become infected with Legionella when they inhale droplets and mist that come from contaminated bodies of water. The disease does not spread from person to person. A majority of people exposed to the bacteria do not become ill. Those who do fall sick may have a fever, dry cough and difficulty breathing. Seek medical attention if you develop symptoms, especially if you are a smoker, over 50 or have other health conditions.

Chad: Hepatitis E outbreak in Salamat

An outbreak of hepatitis E has been reported in the Salamat Region. There have been several fatalities. Hepatitis E is spread by contaminated food and water. Symptoms include yellow discoloration of the skin (jaundice), loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting and fever. Hepatitis E is usually a mild disease **but complicated cases can be fatal.**

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Zimbabwe: Typhoid

A rise in typhoid cases is underway in Harare, particularly in the Mbare district. Typhoid outbreaks are common in Zimbabwe including regions in and around Harare. Typhoid is a serious bacterial infection spread through contaminated food or water. Symptoms include fever, headache, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, diarrhea or constipation, and rash. The infection is treated with antibiotics. Prevention is through careful selection of food and water, and vaccination.

South Sudan: Measles outbreak

Measles continue to be reported in Wau. Other areas also reporting cases include; Western Bahr el Ghazal, Gogrial West in Warrap, and Aweil South in Northern Bahr el Ghazal. Children aged between 5 and 14 are most affected, most of whom have not been fully vaccinated. Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus that spreads from person-to-person via infected droplets. Outbreaks occur frequently in under-vaccinated populations. Common symptoms include fever, cough and a characteristic rash. The illness can result in serious complications, particularly when very young children, the elderly or pregnant women are infected. All Knights and Dames should ensure they are fully immunized against measles

Palau: Dengue fever outbreak

An outbreak of dengue is ongoing in Palau since October 2016. Cases are anticipated to rise further. Dengue is consistently present in the country. The disease is spread by mosquitoes, and is present in both rural and urban areas. Dengue can cause a range of symptoms and has no particular treatment. Some people, especially those who have been infected before, get a **more severe form that can lead to fatal complications**. Prevent infection by avoiding mosquito bites.

Hungary: Poor air quality, smog alerts issued

High levels of air pollution have been reported across parts of Hungary, including the capital city Budapest. As a response, local authorities have issued “smog” alerts in several cities to help curb pollution levels and limit exposure. The current high level of pollution may persist intermittently for a few days. Polluted air can cause symptoms such as wheezing, coughing, shortness of breath, and irritation of the eyes and nose. Although young children, the elderly, pregnant women and people with underlying heart and lung disease (high-risk groups) are more vulnerable, high levels of air pollution affects everyone. Be aware of the pollution levels and accordingly avoid or reduce exposure and physical activity outdoors.

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Yemen: Cholera outbreak deepens

A major cholera outbreak continues in Yemen, with more than 17,000 suspected cases, including numerous deaths. The affected governorates include Abyan, Aden, Al-Bayda'a, Al-Dhale'a, Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, Amran, Dhamar, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahij, Raymah, Sana'a, Ta'izz and also Sana'a City. The majority of cases have been in Abyan, Ibb, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Lahaj and Ta'izz. Cholera is consistently present in the country and is spread via contaminated food and water. Symptoms include vomiting and profuse, watery diarrhoea which can lead to severe dehydration. The Knights and dames staying in quality accommodation are at low risk. Pay strict attention to hygiene and consider vaccination.

China: Bird flu in humans

Human cases of bird flu continue to be reported. Some have resulted in severe illness and death. Cases have been recorded in at least ten provinces including Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guizhou, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Shandong, Shanghai and Zhejiang. A case occurred in Macao, and Hong Kong has reported four imported cases, from mainland China. The majority of people infected had direct contact with birds. Although there are two clusters (in Suzhou, Jiangsu and Hefei, Anhui) where human to human spread cannot be ruled out, there is no indication bird flu is spreading readily between people. The overall risk of infection for our Knights and Dames appears to be low. Prevent infection by paying attention to hygiene and avoiding contact with birds and their environment.

India: Flu activity in Telangana region

Flu season is underway nationwide, with an increase in activity in Telangana state. Some cases have been severe, and fatalities have been documented. Many of those infected have tested positive for influenza A(H1N1, known earlier as "swine flu". This strain of flu now circulates as a seasonal strain, and current influenza vaccination provides protection. Flu is a viral illness, causing a sudden fever, cough, headache, weakness and muscular pains. Most cases are mild although **some can be severe or even fatal**. Pregnant women, adults over 65 and young children are at higher risk of severe illness. Prevention is through vaccination and attention to hygiene its highly recommended.

New Caledonia (France): Dengue outbreak

An increase in cases of dengue fever has been recorded in New Caledonia since late December 2016. More than 40 new cases are recorded each week, and about 75% of the capital city of Noumea is affected. Dengue outbreaks have occurred on other islands in the South Pacific and passenger travel between the islands can introduce the virus to local mosquitoes. The disease is spread by mosquitoes, and these inhabit both rural and urban areas. Dengue can cause a range of symptoms and has no particular treatment. Some people, especially those who have been infected before, get a more severe form that can lead to fatal complications. Although a vaccine has been developed, it is only available in a

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small number of countries and is not recommended for travellers. Prevent infection by avoiding mosquito bites.

[United States: Increased influenza activity](#)

Flu season is underway, with widespread activity in over 35 states. The A(H3N2) strain is responsible for the majority of infections, although A(H1N1) and influenza B strains are also circulating. The current northern hemisphere influenza vaccine covers these strains. All ten regions of the U.S have reported increased activity, and there have been a number of deaths. Flu is a viral illness, causing a sudden fever, cough, headache, weakness and muscular pains. Most cases are mild although some can be severe or even fatal. Pregnant women, adults over 65 and young children are at higher risk of severe illness. Prevention is through vaccination and attention to hygiene

[Global Issue: Sporadic Zika transmission](#)

Since 2013, sporadic transmission of Zika virus has been reported in the population or travellers in a number of countries / territories in Asia and the Pacific. These countries may have Zika virus in the mosquito population, which may occasionally infect people. There appears to be no outbreak or active transmission at present, and overall the risk of acquiring Zika appears low, however the situation may change as testing and surveillance is increased.

[Cape Verde: Ongoing Zika transmission](#)

Cases of locally-acquired Zika infection have been reported in Cape Verde. Zika is transmitted primarily through mosquito bites. Sexual transmission occurs. Although symptoms of Zika are usually mild and self-limited, severe and irreversible birth defects may occur in the babies of women infected when pregnant.

[Guinea-Bissau: Zika in Bijagos archipelago](#)

The Bijagos archipelago continues to report new cases as local transmission gets established in the region. Zika is transmitted primarily through mosquito bites. Sexual transmission occurs. Although symptoms are usually mild and self-limited, complications can occur. Pregnant women are advised to discuss their risks with their doctor and consider postponing travel. Those who are in Guinea-Bissau should protect themselves against mosquito bites and sexual transmission. After travel to the country, ongoing precautions against sexual transmission are recommended.

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