



Femeraid Air Rescue International – 11 Weekly Medical Alert



FEMERAID AIR RESCUE INTERNATIONAL

Weekly World Medical Alert

WEEK

11-18 APRIL 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: 4 Updated alerts:15

Areas – Europe, Africa , Asia

Countries- Brasil, Peru Sri lanka, Portugal, UEA, Austrália , Congo, Saudi Arabia, Moçambique , Congo, Singapura, New Zelandia, Burundi

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

Yellow Flags (Actions should be taken) -  (14) **Green Flags** (Be aware of) -  (1)

Femeraid Air Rescue International Unit

Emergency number
244 921548797

Malta / Angola

www.femeraid.net
Nuno.cosmelli@rescueteam.com



These world 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, be safe out there...

Brazil: Yellow fever outbreak

Yellow fever risk areas continue to expand in Brazil, initiating broader vaccination recommendations in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo states in addition to other endemic risk areas. In this current outbreak, cases have been confirmed in the states of Espirito Santo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. Suspected cases are also under investigation in the states of Bahia, Goias, Rio Grande do Norte and Tocantins. The Knights and Dames visiting any area at risk of yellow fever should be vaccinated at least ten days prior to arrival. People who have not been vaccinated against yellow fever should avoid risk areas within Brazil. In addition, some travellers to and from Brazil are required to show proof of vaccination to gain entry.

Peru: Increase in dengue activity

Dengue fever cases continue to increase in Peru, exacerbated by recent heavy rainfall. On 9 February, a 90-day health emergency was declared in several regions, including Lambayeque, Piura and Tumbes. Ica region is also experiencing increased cases. Dengue 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. Peru has a licensed dengue vaccine, however it is not recommended for the Knights and Dames. Fameraid Air Rescue unit strongly recommend measure to avoid mosquito bites specially between sunset and sunrise.

Sri Lanka: Increased dengue fever

A dengue fever outbreak continues nationwide, with the Western Province heavily affected. There have been several fatalities reported. The disease is spread by mosquitoes and is present in both rural and urban or city 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 of disease that can lead to fatal complications. Although a vaccine has been developed, it is only available in a small number of countries and is not recommended for the Knights and Dames. Fameraid Air Rescue unit strongly recommend measure to avoid mosquito bites specially between sunset and sunrise.

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Europe & CIS: Measles clusters across Europe

Localised outbreaks of measles continue in a number of countries including, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and Sweden. Most cases have been in unvaccinated individuals. Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus that spreads from person-to-person via infectious droplets. Typical symptoms include fever, cough and a characteristic rash. Serious to fatal complications can occur - particularly when very young children, adults or pregnant women are infected. The Knights and Dames are advised to ensure they are immune to the disease prior any trip or if they live in affected area.

Portugal: Hepatitis A outbreak

An outbreak of hepatitis A has been reported. The vast majority affected are men in Lisbon and Vale do Tejo. The outbreak is associated with sexual practices, and is linked to similar recent outbreaks in Europe. There is no suggestion of a food-borne outbreak. Hepatitis A is a viral infection of the liver, spread through the "fecal-oral" route, via direct person-to-person contact or contaminated food and water. Symptoms can take a month to appear and include fever, fatigue, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, dark urine and jaundice (yellow colour of the skin and eyes). Prevention is through vaccination and attention to hygiene.

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

New cases of Legionnaires' disease continue to be detected in travellers returning from Dubai. Authorities are continuing to investigate, however no common source of exposure has yet been identified. 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.

Africa: Surge in cholera cases

An extensive cholera outbreak continues across the country, with over 17,000 suspected cases and hundreds of deaths since the beginning of the year. Initially the districts along the Shebelle River were worst affected however, an ongoing drought has exacerbated the spread of cases into the south, central and north-eastern areas. Cases have been also reported from Somaliland in Somalia and the Somali region in neighbouring Ethiopia. Cholera is consistently present in both countries. It spreads 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 lower risk. Pay strict attention to hygiene and consider vaccination prior the trip.

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Chad: Hepatitis E outbreak in Salamat

An outbreak of hepatitis E is ongoing in the Salamat Region since September 2016, and is likely to persist for some time due to limited sanitation and access to safe water. Hepatitis E is spread by contaminated food and water. Symptoms include yellow discolouration of the skin (jaundice), loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting and fever. Hepatitis E is usually a mild disease but complicated cases can be fatal. Prevention is through hygiene, sanitation, and safe food and water, the overall risk for our Knights and dames is fairly low.

Australia: Increase in mosquito-borne diseases

Increased numbers of mosquito-borne diseases continue across Australia. Symptoms common to these diseases include fever, muscle and joint aches, headache and rash. The Knights and Dames should prevent infection by avoiding mosquito bites.

Saudi Arabia: MERS-CoV

Several cases of Middle East Respiratory syndrome (MERS-CoV) have been recorded in Saudi Arabia since the start of this year, including some fatalities. There is no suggestion that the virus is transmitting more readily. Overall the risk to the Knights and Dames is low if precautions are taken. Avoid contact with sick people and practice good general hygiene. Avoid contact with camels and do not eat or drink raw camel products, this is especially important if you have underlying health problems.

Congo: Monkeypox

An outbreak of monkey pox which was notified in mid-March, continues with new cases identified at the end of March. The districts of Impfondo, Betou, Enyelle and Dongou in Likouala department are affected. The last outbreak reported in the department was in 2003. People can contract the virus through contact with an infected animal, either from a bite or following contact with the animal's blood or body fluids. Infection can also occur if a person touches the rash on an infected animal's skin - which sometimes happens during food preparation. It can also be passed from person-to-person. There is no specific vaccine for monkeypox. Prevention is based on maintaining strict hygiene and avoiding contact with animals.

Mozambique: Cholera outbreak

An outbreak of cholera is continuing with over 1,400 people infected since the beginning of the year. Some fatalities have been reported. Storms have affected water supplies and exacerbated the spread of the outbreak. The capital city, Maputo, remains heavily affected, cases are also being reported in the provinces of Maputo, Nampula and Tete. Cholera 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 prior the trip.

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Burundi: Malaria epidemic

The malaria outbreak in Burundi continues to escalate, with provinces in the north and north-east most affected. Malaria is consistently present throughout the country. It is spread through mosquito bites and can be fatal unless promptly treated. Early symptoms are flu-like, such as fever, head/body aches and general weakness. Malaria can develop seven days or many months or even years, after exposure. We strongly recommend to our Knights and Dames the use of antimalarial medication (chemoprophylaxis) Malarone and mosquito bite avoidance specially during the period between sunset and sunrise.

Nigeria: Increase in meningitis

Increasing numbers of suspected meningitis, including meningococcal meningitis, continue to be reported in Nigeria. Over 1,900 suspected cases and hundreds of deaths have been reported nationwide since December 2016. Katsina, Sokoto, Zamfara, Kebbi and Niger states are the most heavily affected. Meningococcal meningitis is a serious bacterial infection that can be rapidly life-threatening. It spreads from person-to-person via infected droplets. Treatment with antibiotics is urgent. The Knights and Dames should be immunized prior the trip to Nigeria

Nigeria: Lassa fever outbreak

The Lassa fever outbreak continues to grow, with cases reported in at least thirteen states. Dozens of fatalities have been recorded. Authorities are responding to prevent further spread. Lassa fever is a viral haemorrhagic fever, transmitted to humans on contact with excretions from infected rodents. Outbreaks occur through direct contact with body fluids of an infected person. Risk to The Knights and Dames is low. Prevent infection through observing strict hygiene and avoiding contact with sick people.

India: Heat related health risks

Unusually high temperatures have been recorded in many parts of India. Exposure to excessive temperatures for a sustained period can pose health risks ranging from relatively mild rashes and sunburn up to heat stroke, a medical emergency. To prevent heat-related illnesses, keep yourself hydrated and avoid exposure to heat. The Knights and Dames should pay attention to the quality of the water, because Cholera is endemic in India

New Zealand: Typhoid in Auckland

Several cases of typhoid have been identified in Auckland. The source of the outbreak is yet to be identified. Typhoid is a serious bacterial infection and can spread person-to-person via the faecal-oral route or through contaminated food or water. Symptoms include fever, headache, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, diarrhoea or constipation, and rash. Treatment is with antibiotics. Prevent the infection through good hygiene practices.

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Singapore: Local cases of Zika

Local Zika cases continue to be detected in Singapore. The virus may now be established in the local mosquito population. Zika is transmitted primarily through mosquito bites. While less common, sexual transmission occurs. Although symptoms are usually mild and self-limited, severe and irreversible birth defects may occur in the babies of women infected when pregnant. Pregnant women should consider delaying travel to Zika-affected areas. Those Knights and Dames who are in affected areas should protect themselves against mosquito bites and sexual transmission. After travel to the affected areas, ongoing precautions against sexual transmission are recommended for at least 8 weeks.

Europe & CIS: Measles clusters across Europe

Localised outbreaks of measles continue in a number of countries including, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and Sweden. Most cases have been in unvaccinated individuals. Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus that spreads from person-to-person via infectious droplets. Typical symptoms include fever, cough and a characteristic rash. Serious to fatal complications can occur - particularly when very young children, adults or pregnant women are infected. The Knights and Dames are advised to ensure they are immune to the disease.

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FEMERAID AIR RESCUE TEAM INTERNATIONAL UNIT



Dr . Nuno Cosmelli

Emergency physician

Flight Doctor

Position Director

24h mobile. 00 244 921548797

Nuno.cosmelli@rescueteam.com

Skype nuno.cosmelli



Dr. Rui Araujo

Anaesthesiologist

Flight Doctor

Position Vice Director

24h mobile. 00 351 917 435 457

Rui.g.araujo@rescueteam.com



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*Any where, every where to
protect you...*

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