



Femeraid Air Rescue International – 11 Weekly Medical Alert



FEMERAID AIR RESCUE INTERNATIONAL

Weekly World Medical Alert

WEEK11

13 -20 MARCH 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 :34 New alerts:7 Updated alerts: 27

Areas – American/ Europe/ Africa / Asia/ Australia/ Global

Countries-China/ Vietnam/ Samoa/ Australia/ Sri Lanka/ Saudi Arabia/ Canada/ USA/ Belgium/ Guinea/ Somalia/ Benin/ Nigeria/ Sao Tome/ Fiji/ New Caledonia/ South Sudan/ Mozambique/ Somalia/ Nauru/ Pakistan/ Global/ Cape Vert /Palau/ Thailand/ Yemen/ Brazil/ Romania

Red Flags (Imminent risks/ Death)-  (2)

Yellow Flags (Actions should be taken) -  (32) **Green Flags** (Be aware of) -  (0)

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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...

[China: Bird flu in humans](#)

There are further reports of human cases of bird flu, with some resulting in severe illness and death. Cases have been recorded in over a dozen provinces including Anhui, Chongqing, Fujian, Guangdong, Guizhou, Guangxi, Henan, Hunan, Hubei, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Liaoning, Sichuan, Shandong, Shanghai and Zhejiang. Cases have been imported into Beijing and Yunnan. In addition, Macao, Hong Kong and Taiwan have reported imported cases from mainland China. The majority of people infected had direct contact with birds. Although there are several clusters 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 appears to be low. *The Knights and Dames* of Our Sovereign State should prevent infection by paying attention to hygiene and avoiding contact with birds and their environment.

[Vietnam: Ongoing Zika transmission](#)

Zika outbreak is ongoing in parts of Vietnam, particularly in Ho Chi Minh city. Zika is transmitted primarily through mosquito bites. Sexual transmission occurs. Although symptoms of Zika are usually mild and self-limited, there is a risk of severe and irreversible birth defects in the babies of women infected when pregnant. Pregnant Dames are advised to discuss their risks with their doctor and consider postponing travel to any area where Zika virus transmission is ongoing. Those who are in affected areas should protect themselves against mosquito bites and sexual transmission. After travel, ongoing precautions against sexual transmission are recommended at least for 8 weeks after the return according WHO.

[American Samoa \(US\): Dengue outbreak](#)

Cases of dengue fever have been reported in American Samoa. Dengue is consistently present in the island and outbreaks are also ongoing in other Pacific islands. It is spread by mosquitoes and can cause a range of symptoms. It 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 small number of countries and is not recommended for *The Knights and Dames* of Our Sovereign State. Prevent infection by avoiding mosquito bites, if you require more suggestions please contact Fameraid Air Rescue (contact details are on last page).

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[Australia: Increase in mosquito-borne diseases](#)

Increased numbers of mosquito-borne diseases continue across Australia. Locally-acquired cases of dengue fever have been reported in Far North Queensland. Other viruses spread via mosquito bites, such as Ross River and Barmah Forest viruses, are increasing, particularly in parts of New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia. Symptoms common to these diseases include fever, muscle and joint aches, headache and rash. Prevent infection by avoiding mosquito bites if you require suggestions please contact Femeraid Air Rescue (contact details are on last page).

[Sri Lanka: Increased dengue fever](#)

An increase in cases of dengue fever has been reported across the country, with the Western Province being largely affected. Although dengue is persistently present in Sri Lanka, the activity this year is higher than for the same period in 2016. 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. Prevent infection by avoiding mosquito bites if you require more suggestions please contact Femeraid Air Rescue (contacts details on last page).

[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 for our 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.

[Canada: Measles outbreak in Nova Scotia](#)

There is an outbreak of measles in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Most people with the disease had not been vaccinated and authorities have recommended residents to take precautions against the virus and ensure they have been vaccinated. Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus that spreads from person-to-person via infectious droplets. We strongly recommend that all our *Knights and Dames* should do the vaccination.

[United States: Mumps outbreak](#)

A large mumps outbreak continues across the United States. More than 45 states have reported cases, including the District of Columbia. Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, New York, Oklahoma and Washington State have each recorded more than 100 cases. The outbreaks are largely linked to local university campuses and schools however, workplaces have also been affected in some states. Mumps is caused by a virus that spreads from person-to-person via infected droplets. It is highly contagious and nearly all cases occur among unvaccinated people. Symptoms include fever, painful and swollen glands, pain on swallowing and in men, the testes can become inflamed. Serious

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complications can occur. *All Knights and Dames of Our Sovereign State* should ensure they are fully vaccinated against mumps.

[Belgium: Measles outbreak in Wallonia](#)

An outbreak of measles is underway and cases continue to be reported. Most people with the disease had not been vaccinated and authorities have ramped up vaccination campaigns to prevent further spread of the disease. Areas most affected by the outbreak include Charleroi, Jodoigne, Namur and Verviers regions. In 2017, more than 70 cases have been reported to the Infectious Disease Surveillance Unit, ten times the usual number reported in an average year. Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus that spreads from person-to-person via infectious droplets. We recommend vaccination for all Our Knights and Dames.

[Guinea: Measles outbreak](#)

An outbreak of measles has been reported in several parts of the country since the start of the year. 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 our *Knights and Dames* should ensure they are fully immunized against measles.

[Nigeria: Lassa fever outbreak](#)

The Lassa fever outbreak continues to expand, with cases reported in at least twelve states. Dozens of fatalities have been recorded. 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 to the *Knights and Dames* is low. Prevent infection through observing strict hygiene and avoiding contact with sick people.

[Canada: Hantavirus cases in Ontario](#)

Human cases of hantavirus infection have been identified in Ontario, linked to pet rats. The outbreak is caused by the Seoul virus, a type of hantavirus. The viruses are carried by infected rodents and are excreted in their saliva, urine and faeces. Humans become infected through inhaling the virus, which is present in rodent excretions, when bitten, or when contaminated particles touch broken skin or enters through the eyes, nose and mouth. Rare cases of the disease can lead to serious kidney disease. The disease is not generally passed from person to person. Prevention is by avoiding contact with rodents and their environments, and maintaining strict hygiene. The risk to our *Knights and Dames* is low.

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[Benin: Lassa fever outbreak](#)

Cases of Lassa fever, including at least two deaths, have been reported in the Departments of Atakora and Borgou. Lassa fever is a viral hemorrhagic illness. Transmission to humans mostly occurs through ingestion or inhalation of excretions from infected rodents, especially rats. The disease can also spread through direct contact with the body fluids of an infected person. Prevent infection through observing strict hygiene and avoiding contact with sick people. Risk to the our *Knights and Dames* is low.

[São Tomé and Príncipe: Outbreak of skin ulceration](#)

An outbreak of severe skin ulceration of unknown cause is underway. More than 1,200 cases of 'necrotizing cellulitis' have been reported since mid-September 2016. Limited information is available. International authorities are investigating, and 'Buruli ulcer', which was initially suspected, has not been confirmed. The way in which people are being infected is uncertain at this time. General hygiene and insect bite prevention measures should be followed to prevent infection, Femeraid air rescue unit will follow this situation very close.

[Fiji: Increase in dengue cases](#)

A surge in cases of dengue fever has been reported in Fiji since the beginning of the year. All four divisions have been affected with the Western Division reporting the highest number of cases. Dengue outbreaks are also ongoing in other Pacific islands. The disease is consistently present in Fiji. Dengue is spread by mosquitoes and can cause a range of symptoms. It 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 small number of countries and is not recommended for our *Knights and Dames*. Prevent infection by avoiding mosquito bites.

[New Caledonia \(France\): Dengue outbreak](#)

The outbreak of dengue fever continues to intensify across New Caledonia. Dengue outbreaks are also ongoing in other Pacific islands. 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 small number of countries and is not recommended for our *Knights and Dames*. Prevent infection by avoiding mosquito bites.

[South Sudan: Cholera outbreak](#)

The cholera outbreak continues across the country, with Juba in Jubek State recording the most cases. Other affected states include Eastern Lakes, Eastern Nile, Imatong, Jonglei, Northern Liech, Southern Liech, Terekeka, and Western Bieh. Cholera is consistently present in the country. It spreads via contaminated food and water. Symptoms include vomiting and profuse, watery diarrhea 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.

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[South Sudan: Measles outbreak](#)

Measles cases continue to be reported. Wau is heavily affected, other areas reporting cases include; the cities of Bor and Yambio, 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 our *Knights and Dames* should ensure they are fully immunized against measles

[Mozambique: Cholera outbreak](#)

Cholera has sprung up again in Mozambique with more than 380 people infected. Recent storms have affected the water supply and Maputo has had water shortages and rationing. The capital has seen a surge in cholera cases and other affected cities include Matola, to the south of Maputo and Nampula in northern Mozambique. Cholera is spread via contaminated food and water. Symptoms include vomiting and profuse, watery diarrhea 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.

[Somalia: Surge in cholera cases](#)

There has been a sharp increase in the number of cholera cases in Somalia, particularly since the first two weeks of January. Most of the cases have been reported from districts along the Shebeelle River including 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 diarrhea 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.

[United States: Locally acquired Zika in Texas and Florida](#)

Local transmission of Zika infection remains a risk in Miami-Dade County, Florida and the County of Cameron in the State of Texas. Additionally, a confirmed case is under investigation in the City of McAllen, Hidalgo County, Texas. The CDC has designated Miami-Dade County and Brownsville, Texas, as cautionary “yellow areas” due to the intensity of Zika transmission being unknown and thus a risk to pregnant women. Zika is transmitted primarily through mosquito bites. Sexual transmission can occur. Although symptoms are usually mild, severe and irreversible birth defects may occur in the babies of women infected when pregnant. Our *Dames* are advised to discuss their risks with their doctor and consider delaying travel to Zika-affected areas. Those 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 according WHO recommendations.

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[Nauru: Dengue outbreak](#)

An increase in cases of dengue fever has been reported in the island. Authorities have responded to the situation and vector control measures are being put in place. Dengue outbreaks are also ongoing in other Pacific islands. The disease is consistently present in Nauru. Dengue is spread by mosquitoes and can cause a range of symptoms. It 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 small number of countries and is not recommended for our *Knights and Dames*. Prevent infection by avoiding mosquito bites. Do the following: When outdoors, wear clothing that covers most of your body (long sleeves, long pants, socks). Use an effective insect repellent that contains DEET, Picaridin, PMD, or IR3535. Ensure windows are covered with fly-wire. Use "knock-down" insect spray to kill mosquitoes in your room. Choose air conditioned accommodation if possible. Seek medical attention if you develop a high fever, especially if you suffer "rigors" (shaking) or a rash.

[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. 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, *if you require suggestions please contact the Femeraid Air Rescue Unit*

[Global Issue: Sporadic Zika transmission](#)

Since 2013, sporadic transmission of Zika virus has been reported in the population or travelers 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. Zika is transmitted primarily through mosquito bites. Sexual transmission occurs. Although symptoms of Zika are usually mild and self-limited, there is a risk of severe and irreversible birth defects in the babies of women infected when pregnant. Pregnant *Dames* are advised to discuss their risks with their doctor and consider postponing travel to any area where Zika virus transmission is ongoing.

[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.

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[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 for 8 weeks at least according WHO recommendations.

[Asia & the Pacific: Ongoing Zika transmission](#)

Local transmission of Zika virus is ongoing in parts of the Pacific. Zika transmission is widespread and growing in some locations, with sporadic or declining activity in others. 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.

[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, if you require suggestions please contact Fameraid Air Rescue Unit.

[Thailand: Hand Foot and Mouth disease](#)

Since the beginning of the year, a large number of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) cases have been recorded across the country. HFMD is caused by a virus and is usually a relatively mild illness. Symptoms include a fever, sores in the mouth and a red rash on the hands and feet that may blister. The illness spreads from person-to-person and occasionally it can be severe. It mostly affects children under the age of five. Prevent infection by paying attention to hygiene.

[Yemen: Cholera outbreak](#)

A major cholera outbreak continues in Yemen, with over 20,000 suspected cases, including numerous deaths. In February, there appears to be a decline in the number of new cases in most areas. The majority of activity is in the governorates of Al Hudayday, Dhale, Hajjah and Ta'izz. Other affected governorates include Abyan, Aden, Al-Bayda'a, Al Jawf, Amran, Dhamar, Ibb, Lahij, Raymah, Sana'a, and Sana'a City. Cholera is consistently present in the country and is spread via contaminated food and water. Symptoms include vomiting and profuse, watery diarrhea which can lead to severe dehydration. *The Knights and Dames*

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staying in quality accommodation are at low risk. Pay strict attention to hygiene and consider vaccination.

Brazil: Yellow fever outbreak

Cases of yellow fever continue to be reported. Initially affecting Minas Gerais State, cases have now been confirmed in the states of Espirito Santo and Sao Paulo. Suspected cases are also under investigation in the states of Bahia, Rio Grande do Norte and Tocantins. In addition, other areas of Brazil are considered at risk for yellow fever. The *Knights and Dames* visiting any area at risk of yellow fever should be vaccinated at least ten days prior to arrival. In addition, some travelers to and from Brazil are required to show proof of vaccination to gain entry.

United States: Hantavirus outbreak linked to rat breeding facilities

Human cases of hantavirus, linked to rat breeding facilities, have been identified in several states. The outbreak is caused by the Seoul virus, a type of hantavirus. The viruses are carried by infected rodents and are excreted in their saliva, urine and faeces. Humans become infected through inhaling the virus, which is present in rodent excretions, when bitten, or when contaminated particles touch broken skin or enters through the eyes, nose and mouth. Rare cases of the disease, can lead to serious kidney disease. The disease is not generally passed from person to person. Prevention is by avoiding contact with rodents and their environments, and maintaining strict hygiene. The risk to our *Knights and Dames* is low.

Romania: Measles outbreak

An outbreak of measles is underway and cases continue to be reported. Several fatalities have occurred. Most people with the disease had not been vaccinated and authorities have ramped up vaccination campaigns to prevent further spread of the disease. At least 36 counties have recorded cases, while Arad, Caras Severin, Timis and Mures region are the worst affected. Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus that spreads from person-to-person via infectious droplets. Prevention is through vaccination and we strongly advise our Knights and Dames to considered prior the trip .

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protect you...*

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