

ECTAD South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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INDIA

15 May 2014: Scrub typhus outbreak in Maharashtra

For a week, a 64-year-old man suffered from high fever, body ache, headache and nausea, despite taking medicines. He later developed jaundice, gastrointestinal bleeding, septicemia and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and was admitted at Kharadi based Columbia Asia Hospital, Pune, Maharashtra last month (April 2014), that disease was diagnosed as scrub typhus (ST), a rare illness that leads to multi-organ dysfunction, having a mortality rate of 90 percent. Scrub typhus is caused by *Orientia tsutsugamushi*, a rickettsia-like microorganism that is transmitted by chiggers, the larval stage of trombiculid mites, which feed on the skin cells of animals, including humans and rodents. [read more](#)

16 May 2014: Aviagen India achieves compartmentalization status, Tamilnadu

Aviagen India's facility in Elayamuthur near Udumalpet has received compartmentalization status from the Central Government and State Government of Tamilnadu. The achievement of compartmentalization is an important process and recognition by a third party for the bird health, welfare and the biosecurity standards that are present at the location. Procedure from signing at the entry gate of the farm through all biosecurity measures of showering, changing clothes, rodent and wild bird management, sanitation procedure on entry to the chicken production houses are carefully monitored to ensure standards are met at every steps of the way. Employees also accept that they need to be free from contact with backyard birds at all times when away from work. [read more](#)

19 May 2014: Hospitals to step up infection control, Kerala

More cases clinically suspected to be Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) have begun to be reported by doctors following increased surveillance of severe acute respiratory illnesses (SARI) across the State. Hospitals should put in enhanced infection control practices and encourage the use of personal protection equipment (PPE) for all its health workers as the possibility of MERS transmission is high within hospital settings. Meanwhile, on Friday, the death of a 52-year-old woman at the Thiruvananthapuram Medical College Hospital, who had returned from the Middle East with typical symptoms of MERS and severe broncho-pneumonia, has had MCH reviewing its preparedness to meet a situation when more suspect cases could be referred here. The virological samples of throat swabs and lower respiratory tract fluids have been sent to Manipal and the results are awaited. [read more](#)

PAKISTAN

15 May 2014: FAO workshop to help SAARC improve diagnostic skills to save poultry from new avian viruses

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is supporting the local poultry industry to meet the challenges of avian influenza said FAO representative Patrick T. Evans. Speaking on the occasion of the four days SAARC regional training workshop on laboratory diagnosis of avian influenza A(H7N9) virus' organized by FAO at the National Reference Laboratory on Poultry Diseases FAO Representative to Pakistan said that "SAARC countries need to urgently prepare themselves to mitigate the threats and risk coming from new strains of avian influenza virus". [read more](#)

OTHERS

19 May 2014: Livestock, pets linked to emergence of zoonotic diseases

Research at the University of Liverpool suggests pets and other domesticated animals could provide new clues into the emergence of infections that can spread between animals and humans. The study showed that the number of parasites and pathogens shared by humans and animals is related to how long animals have been domesticated. The findings suggest that although wild animals may be important for the transmission of new diseases to humans, humanity's oldest companions livestock and pets such as cattle and dogs provide the vital link in the emergence of new diseases. [read more](#)

21 May 2014: MERS-CoV infects four more in Saudi Arabia

Continuing a pattern of fewer daily cases reported this week, Saudi Arabia's health ministry today reported four new MERS-CoV (Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus) cases, along with one more death from the disease. All four of the patients are men from locations that have reported many recent cases: one each from Jeddah and Mecca, along with two from Medina. [read more](#)