

ECTAD South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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BHUTAN

29 Oct 2014: On a war footing against the Ebola virus

The health ministry's task force for Ebola is working on developing a strategic plan to respond to the Ebola virus disease (EVD), the epidemic, which was declared a public health emergency by the World Health Organisation (WHO) two months ago. On October 24, the health ministry issued an office order to 26 health officials to intensify and carry out the country's Ebola prevention activity at the earliest. "The officials mentioned here are also relieved with immediate effect from their daily activities to carry out the Ebola activities and intervention," the order states. [read more](#)

INDIA

25 Oct 2014: Tamil Nadu records 50% fall in rabies deaths

While the state recorded 24 deaths due to rabies and more than eight lakh (8 million) dog bites in 2013, data available with the department of public health shows that the number of rabies deaths has reduced by close to 50% over the last four years, thanks to concentrated sterilization and vaccination drives. As per the records, 29 rabies deaths were recorded in 2010. There was a steep rise in 2011 which saw 42 such deaths. The following year, 28 rabies deaths were recorded. On the average, state government hospitals see 100 dog bite cases daily. [read more](#)

27 Oct 2014: 14 year old from Indapur is Pune's twenty first rabies victim

A 14 year old boy from Indapur died of rabies at the Pune Municipal Corporation-run Naidu Infectious Diseases Hospital, taking the city's rabies death toll to 21 so far, this year. The victim of Warapudi village in Indapur taluka in Pune district, had developed symptoms of rabies including hydrophobia, aerophobia and breathlessness following which he was rushed to Naidu Hospital in Pune. Despite sustaining a serious dog bite wound some days ago, the boy had not taken the anti rabies vaccination. [read more](#)

27 Oct 2014: Experts confirm anthrax at Simdega

A two-member team from National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) today confirmed an anthrax outbreak in Kuruchdega village, Simdega, based on earlier RIMS pathological test reports and on the spot findings. Though an expert team of the state health department had visited the area last week following reports of mysterious deaths of seven villagers, it had been waiting for the NCDC's formal confirmation. [read more](#)

NEPAL

18 Oct 2014: 13 die of rabies in Jajarkot

As many as 13 people have died of rabies in a very remote Majkot VDC of the district as they depended on shaman for treatment. According to a local, mad dogs bit people, but they relied on shamanism for treatment instead of taking anti rabies vaccine. "After such huge casualties, we are visiting District Health Office for vaccination now. We did blunder by believing in shaman's treatment," he said. Similarly, more than 60 cattle died of rabies in the locality. [read more](#)

OTHER

28 Oct 2014: WHO welcomes Swissmedic approval of Ebola vaccine trial at Lausanne University Hospital

The World Health Organization (WHO) welcomes the approval by Swissmedic, the Swiss regulatory authority for therapeutic products, for a trial with an experimental Ebola vaccine at the Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV). This marks the latest step towards bringing safe and effective Ebola vaccines for testing and implementation as quickly as possible. Approval means that the vaccine can be used on approximately 120 individuals in Lausanne. The trial, which is receiving support from WHO, is the latest in a series of trials that are ongoing in Mali, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The vaccine is based on a genetically modified chimpanzee adenovirus ("ChAd-Ebola"; Chimpanzee-Adenovirus chAD3-ZEBOV). [read more](#)

28 Oct 2014: MERS cases in Saudi Arabia reach 780 with 333 deaths

One new case of MERS-CoV and two deaths since yesterday bring Saudi Arabia's totals to 780 and 333, respectively, the nation's Ministry of Health (MOH) announced today in another of what have become nearly daily updates. The new case-patient is a 53-year-old man in Riyadh who is being treated in an intensive care unit. He is not a healthcare worker and has had no animal exposures or contact with infected people, although he does have preexisting disease. The MERS-CoV (Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus) patients who died in the past 24 hours were a 70 year old man in Riyadh and a 90 year old woman in Jeddah. Both had preexisting diseases, and neither was a healthcare worker. [read more](#)