

ECTAD South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

Funded by the European Union

Regional Support Unit and Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases for South Asia, FAO, Nepal

INDIA

17 Nov 2014: Man recovering from Ebola quarantined at Delhi airport

Officials have quarantined a man who was cured of Ebola in Liberia but continued to show traces of the virus in samples of his semen after arriving in the country, the health ministry said on Tuesday. The ministry said in a statement that the Indian national had been shown to be negative for Ebola in tests conforming to World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines, but had been quarantined as a precautionary measure when he arrived at New Delhi airport on November 10. Later, tests of his semen detected traces of the virus. "It is a known fact that, during convalescence from Ebola Virus Disease, persons continue to shed virus in bodily fluids for variable periods," the ministry said. "However, presence of virus in his semen samples may have the possibility of transmitting the disease through sexual route up to 90 days from time of clinical cure." [read more](#)

17 Nov 2014: Strict animal norms force CRI to cut anti-sera output

The Kasauli-based Central Research Institute (CRI) has scaled down its production of various anti-sera following strict animal protection laws. These have laid down specific norms for keeping horses, whose blood is used in the manufacture of this life-saving anti-sera, including adhering to specific dimension of cages for each animal. This has forced the institute to reduce its in-house horses number from the earlier 200 to about 90, thus adversely affecting the production of anti-sera which is much in demand. [read more](#)

OTHER

17 Nov 2014: H5N8 strikes birds in Netherlands, possibly England

The H5N8 variety of avian influenza virus, which hit hard in Korea earlier this year, is now raising alarm among European poultry owners, with an outbreak detected in the Netherlands and a probable one reported in Britain over the weekend, following one in Germany earlier this month. [read more](#)

19 Nov 2014: MERS claims 2 more lives in Saudi Arabia, 1 in a new case

The death from MERS-CoV of a 99-year-old Saudi Arabian man whose case had not been reported before plus the death of a woman whose case was reported yesterday bring that country's total case count since June 2012 to 807, with 345 deaths, according to an update today from the Saudi Ministry of Health (MOH). The new case-patient was from the city of Al-Kharj. He had preexisting disease and was symptomatic. Although he had no reported contact with known MERS-CoV (Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus) patients, he did have exposure to animals, a possible risk factor, though no details are given. The second death from MERS-CoV in the past day was in an 84-year-old woman, also in the city of Al-Kharj. She was not a healthcare worker and had no exposure to animals, but she did have preexisting disease. The MOH also lists the recovery from MERS-CoV of a 45-year-old female expatriate in Riyadh. She is not a healthcare worker but did have preexisting disease at presentation. Her recovery leaves 12 active cases currently in Saudi Arabia. [read more](#)

19 Nov 2014: Ebola response roadmap - Situation report

A total of 15 145 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) have been reported in six affected countries (Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Spain and the United States of America) and two previously affected countries (Nigeria and Senegal) up to the end of 16 November. There have been 5420 reported deaths. Cases and deaths continue to be under-reported in this outbreak. In the three countries with widespread and intense transmission, reported case incidence is no longer increasing nationally in Guinea and Liberia, but is still increasing in Sierra Leone. The outbreaks in Guinea and Liberia now appear to be driven by intense transmission in several key districts, whereas transmission is intense throughout the north and west of Sierra Leone. The number of new cases is highest in N'Zerekore in Guinea; Montserrado in Liberia; and in the western and northern areas of Sierra Leone, particularly the capital, Freetown, and nearby Port Loko. Lofa in Liberia, and Kenema and Kailahun in Sierra Leone have now reported no or a very low number of new cases for several weeks. In Mali, there have been 6 reported confirmed and probable cases, and 5 deaths. The most recent cases have occurred in the Malian capital Bamako, and are not related to the country's first EVD-positive patient, who died on 24 October. All identified contacts connected with this initial case have now completed 21-day follow-up. [read more](#)