



## ECTAD South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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

### INDIA

#### 17 Jun 2015: A woman tests positive for anthrax in Jharkhand

The state chapter of Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) on Tuesday confirmed that one patient has tested positive for anthrax in Barastoli village. The patient was admitted to Simdega Sadar Hospital with anthrax-like symptoms with four others, was tested positive at the microbiology laboratory of Rims on Monday evening. The total number of official anthrax cases in the state has risen to eight since November last. [read more](#)

#### 19 Jun 2015: Two succumb to H1N1, 6 more infected

The H1N1 virus has reared its head once again with the onset of monsoon. On Thursday, six people tested positive in the state while two have died (one each in Pune and Kolhapur). The condition of three patients is critical and they have been put on ventilator support. The virus has claimed three lives and infected 31 since the beginning of this month. [read more](#)

#### 21 Jun 2015: WHO urges India to step up vigil on MERS

The World Health Organization (WHO) has urged India to step up vigil and review preparedness for a possible attack by Middle East Respiratory Syndrome corona virus (MERS CoV) disease, few days after the virus got confirmed in Thailand. WHO (South-East Asia Region) regional director, Poonam Khetrapal Singh has written to Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda urging for enhanced surveillance in the country. Thailand has recently confirmed MERS CoV disease in a traveler from West Asia region, the first case in the WHO South East Asia region. [read more](#)

#### 24 Jun 2015: Three persons die of Anthrax in one week

Three persons died due to anthrax while six others were affected by the disease in Biriguda village under Laxmipur block of Koraput district in the last one week. As the disease started taking more people in its grip, the matter was reported to Laxmipur PHC and a medical team visited the village. The affected persons have been admitted to district headquarters hospital. [read more](#)

### NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

#### 23 Jun 2015: Novel avian flu virus discovered in China

Chinese researchers analyzed influenza viruses from poultry in live bird markets and discovered a novel H5N9 virus, which is a hybrid of various other avian influenza viruses. The hybrid received a highly pathogenic H5 gene from the H5N1 avian flu virus and an N9 gene from a human-infecting H7N9 virus, along with other elements. However, the virus only caused low mortality rates when tested on mice. "This newly isolated H5N9 virus is a highly pathogenic reassortant virus originating from H5N1, H7N9, and H9N2 subtypes," they wrote. [read more](#)

### OTHERS

#### 18 Jun 2015: Viral commuters: How influenza viruses use transportation systems in the US

*In increasingly mobile modern societies, long-distance transmission can rapidly spread pathogens. A new study suggests that both airline and commuter road travel influence flu virus distribution in the continental US.*

When viruses invade naïve host populations and are propagated predominantly by local transmission, we expect to observe wave-like spread across geographic space. As viruses evolve rapidly, because of their high mutation rate, these wave-like patterns of local transmission (from person-to-person and village-to-village) should generate wave-like patterns of genetic variation where the geographic distance between locations and the genetic distance between variants is positively correlated. In today's world, however, transmission patterns are more complicated, as human pathogens also 'travel' by road, rail, and air. [read more](#)

#### 19 Jun 2015: Webinar on rabies prevention and control tools in Asia

*Rabies occurs in more than 150 countries and territories, with 95% of human deaths reported in Africa and Asia, mostly in rural areas.*

Recently dog-mediated human rabies deaths have been extensively discussed as a candidate for global elimination. Although there is a good dog rabies vaccine and effective human post exposure prophylaxis available, there are still many challenges for implementing rabies control, especially in developing countries. Rabies control requires a multi-dimensional approach especially cooperation between animal and human health sectors (wildlife). Rabies elimination is a public good and it has been identified by the Tripartite alliance (WHO, OIE and FAO) as a priority to implement the One Health approach. [read more](#)

#### 24 Jun 2015: How urbanization affects the epidemiology of emerging infectious diseases

*The big rise in urban population in the next 30 years is expected to be in Asia and Africa.*

The world is becoming more urban every day, and the process has been ongoing since the industrial revolution in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The United Nations now estimates that 3.9 billion people live in urban centers. The rapid influx of residents is however not universal and the developed countries are already urban, but the big rise in urban population in the next 30 years is expected to be in Asia and Africa. Urbanization leads to many challenges for global health and the epidemiology of infectious diseases. New megacities can be incubators for new epidemics, and zoonotic diseases can spread in a more rapid manner and become worldwide threats. Adequate city planning and surveillance can be powerful tools to improve the global health and decrease the burden of communicable diseases. [read more](#)