

## South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

Regional Support Unit for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (RSU-SAARC)

### BANGLADESH

#### 21 Dec 2015: Biosafety awareness urgent

Experts at a workshop in the capital yesterday laid importance on increasing awareness on biosafety and biosecurity issues with a view to combating infectious diseases targeting the human body and environment. As Bangladesh remains under threat of several emerging and reemerging infectious diseases like Nipah virus and highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses which cause deaths, it is essential to ensure a sustainable culture of biosafety and biosecurity in the country's life science infrastructure, they observed. The call came at the inauguration of a three day sensitisation workshop organised by the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) with assistance from US-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

[read more](#)

### INDIA

#### 16 Dec 2015: Delhi struggles to cope with stray animal bites

Minister of state for home, in reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, conceded that as many as 64,610 cases of dog bites were reported across all the three Delhi Municipal Corporations and New Delhi Municipal Council. Worst hit by the dog menace was North Delhi Municipal Corporation (North DMC), which reported 37,915 dog bite cases this year until November 30, as against 45,022 in whole of last year. Detailing the action being taken to contain dog/monkey bites. While South DMC provides free vaccination, North DMC organizes mass anti-rabies vaccination camps to ensure public participation in controlling rabies infection. It is also trying to set up three stray dog sterilization centres. North DMC has also deployed private monkey catchers to trap monkeys, who are then relocated to Asola Bhati Mines Sanctuary. [read more](#)

### PAKISTAN

#### 21 Dec 2015: Influenza A (H1N1)

There are four confirmed Influenza A (H1N1) patients at Shifa International Hospital Islamabad, one at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Rawalpindi and two at POF Hospital Wah. One at POF hospital Wah Rawalpindi has expired. With the upsurge of cold in some areas of Pakistan, cases of respiratory tract infections are on rise. In response to the request for information by ProMED-mail regarding the rise of acute respiratory infection cases in Rawalpindi, a team of epidemiologists also visited the twin hospitals in Rawalpindi and conducted a survey in paediatric wards. The condition seems to be normal as compared to previous years data during cold months. [read more](#)

### SRI LANKA

#### 19 Dec 2015: Alert on Leishmaniasis

While there is a spike in the numbers of reported cases of Leishmaniasis, it does not necessarily mean the country was facing a widespread epidemic, Director of the Health Ministry's Epidemiology Unit, stressed. Most cases of the disease found in Sri Lanka had been reported from the dry zone areas such as Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Hambantota and Matara. These cases were confined to rural areas and Leishmaniasis was not widely reported in urban areas like Colombo. While there was no need to panic over the disease, the director added that if anyone had a long standing wound that had occurred as a result of an insect bite, they needed urgent medical treatment. [read more](#)

### OTHERS

#### 14 Dec 2015: Influenza at the human-animal interface

Since the last on 13 November 2015, no new laboratory-confirmed human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1) virus infection have been reported to WHO. From 2003 through 14 December 2015, 844 laboratory-confirmed human cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) virus infection have been officially reported to WHO from 16 countries. Of these cases, 449 have died. Influenza A(H5) viruses of various subtypes, such as influenza A(H5N1), A(H5N2), A(H5N6), A(H5N8) and A(H5N9) have been detected in birds in Africa, Asia, and Europe. Although influenza A(H5) viruses have the potential to cause disease in humans, so far no human cases of infection with these viruses have been reported, with exception of the human infections with influenza A(H5N1) viruses and the four human infections with influenza A(H5N6) virus detected in China since 2014. In recent weeks, highly pathogenic avian influenza A(H5) viruses of several subtypes have been detected in domestic birds in France. Based on preliminary data, at least one of these viruses has different origins than the influenza A(H5) viruses that have infected the human cases reported in the past. [read more](#)