### USACHPPM HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO) UPDATE

#### 10 October 2003

The HIO Update provides information regarding global medical and veterinary issues of interest to the United States (US) Army. The update does not attempt to analyze the information regarding potential strategic or tactical impact to the US Army and as such, should not be regarded as a medical intelligence product. Medical intelligence products are available at <a href="http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/">http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/</a>. The information in the HIO Update should provide an increased awareness of current and emerging health-related issues.

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# **HOT TOPICS**

Male contraceptive '100% effective'

06 October – The BBC reported scientists have developed a male contraceptive which was 100% effective and side-effect free in trials. The hormonal treatment is a combination of an implant under the skin and injections - meaning men do not have to remember to take a pill every day. Researchers from the Anzac Research Institute, Sydney, Australia, gave the treatment to a relatively small sample of 55 men for a year - and none of their partners became pregnant. However, it will be some time before the treatment is widely available. The treatment is a combination of an implant containing the male sex hormone testosterone, which was replaced every four months, and a three-monthly injection of a progestin, a hormone used in female contraceptive pills. The reversible treatment works by making use of the body's own natural system which is involved in initiating puberty. The combination of the two hormones temporarily turns off the normal signals from the brain that stimulate sperm production. But the process also turns off the man's own testosterone production - so he needs to be given extra doses of the hormone to keep him healthy and maintain his sex drive. Once the treatment is stopped, normal fertility levels return within a few months. View Report

#### Most Resistance to Antiretrovirals Caused by Those Who Follow Regimens

01 October – Infectious Disease News reported resistance mutations to antiretrovirals are more likely to occur in patients who take most of their medications rather than in those who do not, according to researchers at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). In a study of patients taking antiretroviral drugs, resistance mutations were twice as likely to occur in patients who took 80% or more of their antiretrovirals as they were in patients who took 40% or less. <u>View Article</u>

#### Study Shows Vitamins Save Health Care Costs

02 October – Reuters reported a study, done on behalf of the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Wyeth Consumer Health, finds that vitamins could improve overall health, making elderly people less likely to need drugs or hospital care. "The Lewin Group study found that daily use of a multivitamin by older adults is a relatively inexpensive yet potentially powerful way to improve one's health," Lewin said in the report. <u>View Article</u>

### Wound Drug 'Could Speed Healing'

02 October – BBC News reported a drug could help wounds heal more quickly, and with less scarring, say researchers. Early tests of the drug suggest it may more than halve the healing time in some cases. The drug, TGFbeta3, has been developed by scientists at the University of Manchester, and could be delivered by a cream or injection. It could potentially help treat wounds that are resistant to healing, such as diabetic foot ulcers. <u>View Article</u>

# USEUCOM

#### Africa: Cholera and Diarrhea Update

07 October - ProMed reported At least 40 people in the Central African Republic have died in the last 2 weeks from an unidentified diarrheal disease in 3 villages Northwest of the capital, Bangui. The dead were among 300 people who had reported to clinics for treatment. The exact source and cause of the outbreak is unknown, but tests are being conducted. Bozoum, like other northern towns, has lacked safe drinking water for over a year, due to the 6-month rebellion against the government of former President Ange-Felix Patasse, which ended in March 2003. Pedretti said this situation could have occasioned the outbreak. Meanwhile state-owned Radio Centrafrique reported on 3 Oct 2003 that the state water utility, had that same day started supplying Bozoum with safe drinking water. In Liberia, The cholera outbreak in Monrovia remains a public health concern. As of 21 Sep 2003, the total number of cases since the beginning of the year is 18,038 with 17,561 occurring since the beginning of the epidemic in June. The case fatality rate is low (below 1 percent) in the cholera treatment centers run by Medecins sans Frontieres France and Belgium and by MERLIN. The most affected places in Monrovia are Central Monrovia, Paynesville and Sinkor. The caseload seems to be decreasing in Paynesville and Sinkor, probably as the result of the widespread chlorination of wells undertaken during the last 4 weeks by WHO and UNICEF. An additional concern is the increase in bloody diarrhea (141 cases reported during 15-21 Sep 2003 mainly in Central Monrovia and Paynesville) which might be due to shigellosis. Laboratory tests are currently underway. In Nigeria, A cholera outbreak in Gusau has been reported by the media, 3 Sep 2003. Over 500 cases (74 deaths) of cholera were reported in Kano State. Reports of cholera in other African countries can also be found in this ProMed report. View Report

#### Anthrax Cattle Graves: Russia's 500-year Disease Threat

03 October - ProMed reported Veterinary records confirm an anthrax outbreak in Russia's Volgograd region. 3 cases have been registered -- 2 blamed on a diseased cow killed for a meat-packing factory. The outbreak at Vodno-Buerachny in Kamyshinsky district followed a vet missing signs of anthrax symptoms in the beast, attributed to "atypical development of the disease." Though the animal looked unhealthy, it still went to the slaughterman and ended up as sausage meat, a case report says. Compounding the offense, the carcass was not medically examined and the diseased meat was processed inside a week -- while trouble reared when the cow's now sick owner and the slaughterman went to hospital. They and another animal owner were diagnosed with a skin form of anthrax and the settlement was guarantined. But while vets are charged with checking live animals for diseases like this, anthrax burial sites are going unmonitored for the huge health dangers lurking there. Volgograd's regional administration says their territory is home to at least 1500 anthrax sites, many neglected because exact locations are known for just a few. Ordinary burial grounds of non-contagious cattle pose their own threats when neglect breeds a whole spread of disease. Inspectors checking these in the Volgograd region found all sites flouted regulations, which demand 10 meters of depth and sides covered with concrete, Bondar said. Most of these are just huge pits, haphazardly covered over. Veterinarians there record 306 "equipped" burial places and 155 classed "primitive." Things could become worse as the state Agriculture Ministry has made veterinary services funded from budgets of lower-tier federal administrations. This may bring staff cuts. Estimates

put maintaining Volgograd region's local veterinary work at 150 million rubles a year. <u>View</u> <u>Report</u>

## HIV Infects One-Fifth of S. Africa Troops

08 October – ABC News reported at least one-fifth of South Africa's military is infected with the virus that causes <u>AIDS</u>, the defense minister said. But he sought to dismiss concerns about the effects of the disease on the armed forces. South Africa is one of the hardest-hit nations by HIV and AIDS, with some 4.7 million South Africans, roughly 11 percent of the population, infected with the virus and an estimated 600 to 1,000 dying from the disease, and related complications, each day. The government is working to reduce the infection rate in society at large and in the military, where 20 to 22 percent of service members are infected. <u>View Article</u>

#### Small Improvement Seen in Teenager with vCJD

04 October – The British Medical Journal reported neurologists have expressed cautious optimism about small improvements and lack of toxicity in a UK teenager with <u>variant</u> <u>Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD)</u> treated with an experimental drug, pentosan polysulphate. The patient, 19 year old Jonathan Simms from Belfast, Northern Ireland, has been treated with pentosan polysulphate by injection into the brain since a decision by the High Court last year that the potential benefits outweighed the risks. Neurologists meeting in Belfast last week to review the early results of treatment considered that the drug seemed to be well tolerated and that it might have improved his condition. After eight months' treatment, the patient had shown some improvement in neurological functions, including regaining the ability to swallow. His parents claimed that he had become more alert, responding to verbal instructions and attempting to speak. Monitoring of his heart rhythm showed less variation—thought to be associated with brain stem damage—than before starting treatment. <u>View Article</u>

#### Yellow Fever in Sierra Leone - Update

02 October – ProMed reported as of 29 September 2003, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation has reported a total of 90 cases of <u>Yellow Fever</u> from 8 districts (Tonkolili, Bombali, Kenema, Koinadugu, Porto Loko, Kambia and Kono) in the country. Of the 90 cases, there are 4 laboratory confirmed cases, all from Tonkolili district, and 10 deaths. The Ministry of Health and Sanitation conducted a mass immunization campaign (100,000 doses) from 22-31 Aug 2003 in 4 out of 11 chiefdoms in the Tonkolili district. Most of the suspected cases and all of the laboratory confirmed cases come from these chiefdoms. Last week, the International Coordinating Group (ICG) for Vaccine Provision for Yellow Fever provided the Ministry with 150 000 doses of yellow fever vaccine to implement a mass immunization campaign in the 7 remaining chiefdoms of Tonkolili district. This campaign is planned to start in the first week of October. The WHO West Africa sub-regional team is helping to strengthen surveillance in the affected areas and to coordinate the response. Additional samples from surrounding districts are also being collected for testing. <u>View Report</u>

# Zimbabwe: Disease Outbreaks Feared as Water Authority Moves to Cut Supply

03 October – IRIN News reported plans by the Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) to disconnect water services to all towns owing it money could trigger widespread outbreaks of

disease, which the health ministry may not have the capacity to control, warned Zimbabwe's Directorate of Disease Prevention and Control. The directorate, part of the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, said there was a danger of diseases spreading to neighboring countries and blossoming into regional epidemics as people moved from one country to another. ZINWA, a statutory body charged with managing the country's water resources and catchment areas, announced this week that it would disconnect water services to all towns in arrears. <u>View Article</u>

# USCENTCOM

Kingdom Lifts Ban on Livestock from Kenya

03 October – ProMed reported Saudi Arabia, along with other Middle Eastern countries, has lifted a ban on livestock imports from Kenya. The government had imposed the ban 3 years ago after cases of <u>Rift Valley Fever [RVF]</u>, a deadly livestock disease that can be transmitted to humans, were reported in Kenya. The country's director of veterinary services, Dr. William Chong, told the African press that his country would immediately resume export of live camels, sheep and goats to the Middle East. <u>View Report</u>

## Sudan: Suspected Whooping Cough Outbreak in Equatoria

03 October – ProMed reported over 100 children, mostly under age 5, have died from a suspected outbreak of <u>whooping cough</u> in Kimatong Budi county, Equatoria state, according to the NGO, Medair. In the space of 4 weeks from 20 Aug until 22 Sep 2003, 126 children had died in the villages of Chawa, Kimatong, Thurunge, and Kali, said Els Stam, Program Coordinator for Medair. With no NGO presence in the area for 5 years, only one health facility with limited medicines, and no laboratory facilities, it had been impossible to establish the precise causes of death, but whooping cough was suspected. Of the 312 apparent cases observed by a Medair team from 22 until 25 Sep 2003, half of them also had enlarged livers and spleen. A Medair team returned to Kimatong Budi country on Thu, 2 Oct 2003 and plans to split into 2 teams, based in Chawa and Kimatong, to treat people and give them preventative medicine. A doctor, a number of nurses, and a laboratory technician will be located in each place. <u>View Report</u>

# **USNORTHCOM**

Cardiac Deaths after a Mass Smallpox Vaccination Campaign — New York City, 1947

03 October – The MMWR reported a review of death records by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) shows no evidence that <u>smallpox vaccine</u> causes an increase in cardiac-related deaths. Over the course of a three-week period during April and May 1947, during a smallpox outbreak in New York City (NYC), more than 6,000,000 New Yorkers were vaccinated in a four-week period using the same smallpox vaccine strain used today. To determine whether smallpox vaccination increased risk of cardiac death, researchers reviewed NYC death certificates dated March to June for 1946, 1947, and 1948 (n=81,529). No increases in cardiac deaths, atherosclerotic deaths, or all-cause deaths were observed, when more than 80% of the NYC population was vaccinated. This suggests that cardiac deaths observed in 2003 vaccine recipients may be unrelated to smallpox vaccination. <u>View Article</u>

# CDC: Flu Shots Not That Useful for Limiting SARS Alarms

02 October – CIDRAP News reported while the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) supports widespread <u>influenza vaccination</u>, the CDC doesn't think that measure will be very helpful for limiting unnecessary worries about SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome). "CDC does not recommend influenza vaccination for the primary purpose of reducing the number of persons who might be evaluated for severe acute respiratory syndrome," the agency states in the Oct 3 issue of Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. <u>View Article</u>

#### CDC Says West Nile Likely in California

02 October – ABC News reported westward expansion of the <u>West Nile virus</u> has prompted the government to look to California as the possible epicenter of next year's virus season. Officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention believe the mosquito-borne illness will hit the West Coast hard next year, particularly California, said Dr. Lyle Petersen, acting director of the CDC's division of vector-borne diseases. "If I had to make a guess, the biggest area of concern would be the Imperial Valley in Southern California," said Petersen, who spoke to reporters Wednesday at the University of California's Berkeley campus. That's because the virus emerged in that area for the first time this season. Health officials believe human cases erupt one season after it first appears in the environment. <u>View Article</u>

#### Georgia: Health Officials Point to Outside Source for Hepatitis Outbreak

04 October – ProMed reported health officials believe food distributors or farms, rather than specific restaurants, may have been the source of an outbreak of <u>hepatitis A</u> in Georgia. Prepackaged vegetables or salads, which often are not washed before being served, could have been responsible for hepatitis in at least 170 people who contracted the illness in September 2003. Quartarone stated that the cases have occurred in the northern and central parts of the state, including metro Atlanta. A dozen cases [of hepatitis A] have occurred around Asheville, North Carolina, where food handlers at 2 restaurants tested positive for the virus. In Knoxville, Tennessee, at least 57 cases of hepatitis A have been linked to a restaurant there. The Centers for Disease Control says there is a possibility the 3 outbreaks are be related. <u>View Report</u>

#### Mexico: Dengue Fever Update

08 October – ProMed reported as of September 2003, 1,499 cases of <u>dengue fever</u> and 289 of DHF have been reported nationwide, 80 percent less than in the same period last year (2002). Insecticides and spraying have been applied to 35,160 hectares; 683,918 houses have been treated, in which 25,877 mosquito breeding places have been destroyed. <u>View Report</u>

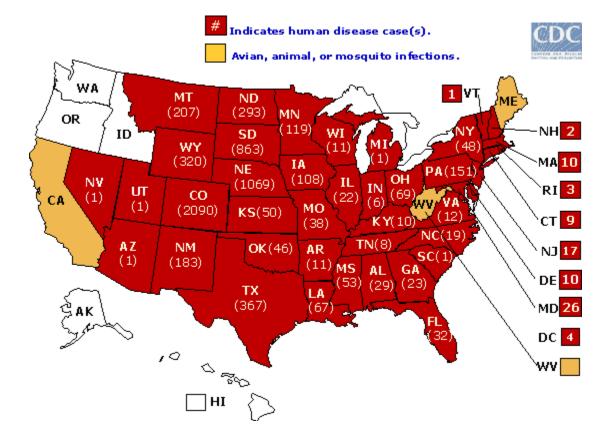
#### Nebraska: Man Dies of Cholera

07 October –ProMed reported a case of <u>cholera</u> was diagnosed in Platte County Nebraska about 1 month ago, health officials said. The patient was not from Platte County and died from

complications of multiple health problems. A Columbus Community Hospital spokeswoman declined to confirm or deny that a person was treated or tested for cholera at the hospital. There is no threat of cholera to the area, according to Rebecca Rayman, executive director of the East Central District Health Department. The case was contained and there currently are no other active cases in the area, Rayman said. The person already was sick when he arrived in Platte County from a foreign country. <u>View Report</u>

# NIAID Reports 'Tremendous Progress' in Biodefense Research

29 September – Biomedical researchers in government, academia and industry have made tremendous progress working collaboratively towards developing countermeasures for bioterrorism, according to a report issued today on research funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), one of the National Institutes of Health. The <u>NIAID</u> Biodefense Research Agenda for CDC Category A Agents - Progress Report describes a myriad of steps the Institute has taken since February 2002 to catalyze the development of vaccines, treatments and diagnostics for the most threatening bioterror agents. It was in February 2002 that NIAID convened the first Blue Ribbon Panel on Bioterrorism and its Implications for Biomedical Research, which provided NIAID with objective expertise on the Institute's biodefense future research plans and helped identify the highest priority areas. View Article



West Nile Virus in the United States as of October 7, 2003

# USPACOM

# Chloroquine versus Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine for Treatment of *Plasmodium falciparum* Malaria, Lao People's Democratic Republic

25 September – The journal of Clinical Infectious Disease reported the in vivo efficacies of the Laos nationally recommended antimalarial agents chloroquine and sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine were assessed in a randomized, comparative trial that involved 100 patients with uncomplicated *Plasmodium falciparum malaria* who were followed for 42 days after starting treatment. Despite a shorter mean time to fever clearance associated with administration of chloroquine, compared with that associated with sulfadoxine pyrimethamine, treatment failures were twice as frequent among patients receiving chloroquine therapy than among those receiving sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine therapy (P = .02). Authors report the efficacy of both chloroquine and sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine in Laos is unsatisfactory. <u>View Article</u>

# HK Report on SARS 'System Failure'

02 October – BBC News reported system failure rather than mistakes by individuals was to blame for the <u>SARS</u> outbreak in Hong Kong earlier this year, according to international experts. A report commissioned by the government has criticized the handling of the outbreak in the early stages when little was known about the disease or its cause. It says the shortcomings in the territory's health system were aggravated when key personnel succumbed to the disease. This report paints a picture of a health system that was taken by surprise and as a result overwhelmed in the early stages of the SARS outbreak. <u>View Article</u>

# India (Haryana): Malaria and Fever Outbreaks

05 October – ProMed reported over 15 cases of <u>malaria</u> and 25 of fever were reported 28 Sep 2003 at the Civil Hospital, Manimajra [Chinargarh]. The malaria cases came from village Burj Kotia in Pinjore. Some other malaria cases also landed at General Hospital, Sector 6, Panchkula. Of the 15 malaria patients at Manimajra, 5 are suffering from malaria resulting from *Plasmodium falciparum*, a parasite rarely found in any part of the country. The rest were victims of the *Plasmodium vivax* parasite. Cases of fever were meanwhile reported from various parts of the city and parts of Panchkula, such as Indira Colony, Manimajra township, and Rajiv Colony. Until late evening, health officials could not clarify the nature of the fever the patients were suffering from. In 2002, around the same time of year, about 100 cases of dengue were reported from various parts of the city, mainly Manimajra, Indira Colony, and Rajiv Colony. <u>View Report</u>

# Japan Finds 8<sup>th</sup> Mad Cow Case

06 October – Reuters reported Japanese officials said they had confirmed another case of <u>mad</u> <u>cow disease</u>, the eighth since the illness was discovered in a cow in the country in September 2001 and the first since January. Health Ministry officials said the disease, formally known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), was found in a 23-month-old Holstein cow from Ibaraki, north of Tokyo. But the officials said it was an unusual type of BSE and further tests were needed to confirm if it could be transferred to other animals. The ministry will incinerate the cow, which was slaughtered on September 29, an official said. <u>View Article</u>

### No Eradication of Polio Without Inactivated Vaccine, Says Expert

04 October – The British Medical Journal reported India will have to abandon its traditional animosity to the inactivated injectable <u>poliomyelitis vaccine</u> to achieve complete eradication of polio, a leading public health expert has said. Although the oral polio vaccine used in India and other developing countries will eliminate the wild poliovirus, the oral vaccine could itself be a source of future outbreaks of polio, said Dr Thekekarra Jacob John, former head of clinical virology at the Christian Medical College, Vellore, in southern India. "The oral vaccine will continue to [release] vaccine derived poliovirus into the environment," Dr John said at a roundtable conference in New Delhi last week convened to discuss polio eradication. Recent outbreaks in Egypt, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, the Philippines, and Madagascar show how the weakened virus used in the oral vaccine can undergo mutation after vaccinated children shed it into the environment. <u>View Article</u>

### Singapore Develops Flu Detection Chip

04 October – Reuters reported Singapore is developing an electronic chip that can pinpoint almost instantly whether a patient has <u>flu</u>, <u>dengue fever</u>, <u>SARS</u> or other respiratory illnesses. The government-run Genome Institute of Singapore said it hoped to launch the respiratory pathogens detection chip, about the size of a 50-cent coin, as early as January. Sputum or nasal fluid from an infected person is dropped on to the chip and its detection probes then diagnose the pathogen. The institute said it was working with a major U.S. medical devices company to test the chip soon, but declined to name the party. <u>View Article</u>

#### Tiny Mosquitoes Terrorizing Taiwan

08 October – The Taipei Times reported a small black mosquito (editors note: it is a biting midge instead of a mosquito. tl) has become a serious environmental problem in Taiwan, officials said yesterday. Mosquito control programs in 11 counties will receive further subsidies from the Environmental Protection administration (EPA) in an attempt to stamp out the annoying little mosquito this winter. The mosquito, *Forcipomyia taiwana*, and similar species are quite common in Taiwan and southern China. Although it does not carry diseases, its bite leaves people with red, swollen spots, which are almost too itchy to endure. Last year, the EPA began subsidizing 11 rural counties to tackle the small black mosquito by spraying pesticides and helping residents to clean up their environment. The mosquito-prevention program will be further enhanced between next month and next March in an attempt to eliminate the larvae. The mosquitoes breed during winter and early spring. <u>View Article</u>

#### **USPACOM Dengue Fever Update**

08 October – ProMed reported the Department of Health (DH) and the Food & Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) of Hong Kong urged members of the public to take vigorous preventive measures against mosquito breeding following the confirmation of the first local case of <u>dengue fever</u> this year [2003]. In the Philippines, acting City Mayor Nilo G. Abellera has expressed alarm over the increasing number of dengue cases in Davao city. Abellera cited reports from the Regional Epidemiology Surveillance Unit (RESU), which monitored 1,986 dengue fever cases in the region. The number reflects an increase of 52 percent in cases compared to the same period last year [2002]. In Cebu, the Department of Health in Region 7 recorded some 327 new cases of dengue fever, as it expressed alarm over the clustering of

new cases in the municipalities across Cebu province. In New Delhi, India Municipal Councilors expressed concern over the increasing dengue cases in the Capital and called upon the authorities to intensify their anti-dengue campaign. Though nearly 400 dengue cases have been reported from across the city [up from 130 on 24 Sep 2003], no confirmed dengue deaths have occurred. Of the total number of reported cases, more than 80 are imported from neighboring States. In Gujarat, India, dengue fever claimed its 6th victim in the last 2 weeks. The young resident of Savli died at the KG Patel Children's Hospital in Vadodara, which has so far reported 32 cases of dengue. In the wake of the high mortality and increase in number of dengue cases in the district, the hospital has now requested that the health department at Gandhinagar take stock of the situation. In Uttar Pradesh, India, The number of dengue patients is increasing daily. In Ghaziabad district, the figure has already gone up to 29, among them 9 cases reported from Ghaziabad city. <u>View Report</u>

# USSOUTHCOM

## Argentina: Death from Hantavirus Infection in La Plata City

03 October – ProMed reported a 57 year-old man died as a result of a <u>hantavirus</u> infection in the city of La Plata, outside of Buenos Aires. Sources from the health department informed that surveillance for the disease has been redoubled. The man lived in a rural area in the vicinity of La Plata, capital of the province of Buenos Aires, where 40 cases of hantavirus infection were recorded in 2002. Blood samples have been obtained from 7 neighbors to determine whether they too are infected and whether there is an outbreak of the disease. Over the past few days, another resident of the same area was hospitalized with clinical signs of hantavirus infection but he has already been released. <u>View Report</u>

### USSOUTHCOM Dengue Fever Update

08 October – ProMed reported the number of people affected by the <u>dengue fever</u> in Costa Rica rose to 12,000, and 38 of the victims were hit by the hemorrhagic type, the Health Ministry reported on Saturday. The northern Costa Rican region of Chorotega is the most affected, with a total of 4,338 cases, followed by the region of Central Pacific, where 3,648 people have suffered from the disease, the report said. The epidemic continued to rage along the Caribbean coast of the country in the past few weeks, and 2,353 cases have been reported there by Friday. In El Salvador, Salvadorean Health Minister Herbert Betancourt issued a nationwide alert on Friday in response to a new outbreak of classic and hemorrhagic dengue. Since January [2003], 1,365 cases of the classic variety of the disease have been reported in El Salvador and 75 of the potentially deadly DHF, which has already taken the lives of 4 people, Betancourt said. In Honduras, Hemorrhagic dengue has infected 68 people in the north, including 10 in the past few days, a health official said. Danilo Cruz, director of Mario Catarino Rivas Hospital, where most of the patients -- children between the ages of 3 and 11 -- have been admitted, told reporters that "the epidemic is spreading." <u>View Report</u>

#### Venezuela: Yellow Fever Update

02 October – ProMed reported epidemiologist Armando Sanchez Contreras stated that as of 30 Sep 2003, 23 cases of <u>yellow fever [YF]</u> had been reported. On 01 October, Venezuela's Ministry for Health and Social Development reported that, according to the latest weekly

epidemiological report, 31 cases have been registered, that is, 8 new cases. This represents a sudden increase by 25 percent in the number of cases in the country. There are 38 municipalities considered at-risk, with a population of 3.2 million. So far, vaccination campaigns have been carried out only in certain sectors. Between January and September [2003], only 42.6 percent (1.9 million persons vaccinated) of the desired coverage of 80 percent has been achieved. In some critical locations, such as Semprun, Catatumbo, Colon, and Sucre, the coverage does not reach 20 percent. Sanchez further commented that the vaccination coverage in the 7 high-risk states (Zulia, Tachira, Merida, Apure, Barinas, Bolivar, and Amazonas) is less than 30 percent. <u>View Report</u>

Please contact the below-listed POC for suggested improvements and/or comments regarding this report. This report is also available on the USACHPPM website at <u>http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/Hioupdate/</u>.

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