

**USACHPPM**  
**HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO) UPDATE**

24 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 <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/>. The information in the HIO Update should provide an increased awareness of current and emerging health-related issues.

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## HOT TOPICS

### Abiding Smallpox Immunity Could Have a Down Side

17 October – ProMed reported people who were vaccinated against [smallpox](#) before the scourge was eliminated are probably still protected against severe and fatal disease in the event of an accidental or intentional outbreak. That's the good news. The bad news is that vaccinated individuals who develop mild disease could unwittingly increase the spread of infection, according to an article in the American Journal of Epidemiology. Dr. Martin Eichner, of the University of Tubingen, Germany, stated from data collected during a smallpox epidemic in England in 1902 to 1903, he estimates that 17 percent of unvaccinated cases of smallpox would be mild, regardless of age. His analysis revealed that protection against severe and fatal disease among individuals vaccinated during infancy declined quite slowly. Thus, more than half of the adults vaccinated even 50 years earlier who might contract the disease would experience only a mild illness. Eichner also analyzed data from outbreaks in Europe between 1950 and 1971 and found that the proportion of cases of smallpox infection that were fatal was greatly reduced -- by about 80 percent -- in the two decades after vaccination. "Such residual protection should greatly reduce the number of severe and fatal cases expected in case of a bioterrorist attack," he writes, "but it may also increase the risk that some previously vaccinated cases who develop mild disease may remain unrecognized for a longer period of time, while moving around freely and disseminating the infection." [View Article](#)

### AIDS Drugs Slash Death Rates

16 October – MSNBC News reported cocktails of [AIDS](#) medicines have slashed death rates by more than 80 percent and now most patients taking the drugs can expect to survive more than a decade and perhaps much longer, scientists said. The introduction of life-saving drug combinations known as Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) in 1997 means AIDS is no longer an automatic death sentence. Death rates were halved shortly after the drug cocktails became available and declined by over 80 percent by 2001. "Nine out of 10 people could expect to live for 10 years regardless of the age at which they became infected. We haven't reached the medium yet so it could be 17 or 20 years — we can't really say at the moment," said Dr. Kholoud Porter, of Britain's Medical Research Council (MRC). Before HAART, only about half of people infected would have expected to be living 10 years later and even fewer if they were more than 40 years old when they were infected. [View Article](#)

### Delayed Onset of Malaria — Implications for Chemoprophylaxis in Travelers

16 October – The New England Journal of Medicine published a study stating most antimalarial agents used by travelers act on the parasite's blood stage and therefore do not prevent late-onset illness, particularly that due to species that cause relapsing [malaria](#). Authors examined the magnitude of this problem among Israeli and American travelers. In more than one third of malaria-infected travelers, the illness developed more than two months after their return. They concluded most of these late-onset illnesses are not prevented by the commonly used and effective blood schizonticides. Agents that act on the liver phase of malaria parasites are needed for more effective prevention of malaria in travelers. [View Article](#)

## Eating Snails Can Kill, Australian Medics Say

18 October – ProMed reported while escargot is the pride of French cuisine, eating common garden slugs or snails can be fatal. The Medical Journal of Australia made the discovery after a patient with mysterious symptoms was found to have eaten two garden slugs for a dare. A young man who showed puzzling symptoms over a period of weeks was diagnosed with human [eosinophilic meningitis](#) after eating the mollusks, which are hosts to the larval stage of a lung worm parasite, the Journal said. "Repeated questioning revealed that the patient had ingested, five weeks earlier for a dare, two slugs from a garden in a Sydney suburb," said co-author of the report John Walker of the Department of Medicine at Sydney University. "Humans become accidental hosts when they ingest the larval stage in raw or undercooked mollusks or crustaceans, or in fresh vegetables contaminated by infected mollusks," Walker said. The *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* parasite is the most common infectious cause of eosinophilic meningitis worldwide and is endemic in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Basin. [View Article](#)

## Gene Mutation Responsible for Crohn's Disease Inflammation Identified

16 October – Science Daily reported a mutation in one of the genes that might be responsible for the inflammation that characterizes [Crohn's disease](#) has been identified by researchers at Temple University's School of Medicine (TUSM). Their study appears in the October 15 issue of *Blood*. Although the exact cause of Crohn's disease, a digestive disorder afflicting approximately 500,000 adults in the U.S., remains unknown, scientists agree that it is governed by the immune system and has a genetic component. While other researchers have found several genes that indicate an increased susceptibility to Crohn's disease, the Temple study went a step further and explored the role of genetics in causing the inflammation that characterizes the disease. [View Article](#)

## New Drug to Treat Malaria

16 October – AllAfrica.com reported a new anti-[malaria](#) drug has been developed in Kenya. Launched early in the week, Lapdap is a result of concerns raised over the disease's increasing resistance to current treatment. The drug is designed to treat acute uncomplicated falciparum malaria and approved for children over five kg and adults. It is taken once a day for three days. Each Lapdap tablet is a combination of two components - chlorproguanil and dapsone - which block proteins vital to the malaria parasite's survival, the researchers said. The new drug was seen to be more successful in treating patients than sulphadoxine pyrimethamine (SP), with overall 96 per cent of patients demonstrating treatment success using Lapdap against 89 per cent using SP. In regard to resistance, Lapdap has a short half life which creates a short resistance selection window and should prolong its anti-malarial efficacy. [View Article](#)

## On-The-Job Asthma Most Common in Cleaners, Farmers

21 October – Reuters reported people working in the cleaning, farming and transportation industries are among the most likely to develop [asthma](#) as a result of their jobs, according to new study findings. Other jobs that carried a high risk of causing or aggravating asthma and breathing problems in workers included those associated with entertainment, protective services, mining, construction, mechanics, textile, and fabrication. All in all, the authors discovered that an estimated 26 percent of cases of asthma in adults are caused or aggravated by the workplace environment. These results demonstrate that employers need to implement more safeguards to protect their employees from a lifetime of breathing problems, study author Dr. George Delclos of the University of Texas-Houston told Reuters Health. The first step to controlling asthma and wheezing involves identifying what in the workplace is causing breathing problems in workers, Delclos said. After that, making the environment

more breathable might involve substituting materials, limiting how much of an asthma-causing material is in the air, limiting workers' exposure to that material, or giving them protective gear, he added. [View Report](#)

## WHO Has Plan to Cut Bathing Deaths

16 October – The World Health Organization (WHO) unveiled plans on Thursday to cut the number of deaths from bathing accidents every year — nearly half a million in total — and those caused by infection from polluted waters. Officials of the United Nations agency said poorer countries would be able to boost their tourist trade by adopting the preventative measures laid out in its new 220-page guidelines for governments and local authorities. “Deaths from accidents and drowning, and often long-term illness resulting from pollution in rivers and coastal waters, are a big challenge to public health administration on all continents,” WHO water and sanitation expert Jamie Bartram said. The WHO says 80 percent of drownings, totaling some 400,000 a year among bathers and boaters, as well as near-drownings which can cause permanent brain damage especially among young children, can be prevented if the right measures are taken. [View Article](#)

## World Health Groups Plan New Campaign on Measles

16 October – Reuters reported world health groups are sketching out a new campaign against [measles](#), a preventable disease that still kills 750,000 young people each year, health officials said. Delegates from 60 countries, including representatives from 45 "priority" nations -- mainly in Africa -- where 95 percent of measles deaths occur, met last week in Cape Town to assess the global campaign against the disease. Many remain outraged that children continue to die from the disease when a cheap vaccine, at 12 U.S. cents a dose, has been available for 40 years. Measles accounts for half of vaccine-preventable deaths among children worldwide, and is one of the most readily transmitted communicable diseases. [View Article](#)

# USEUCOM

## Central African Republic: Diarrhea Epidemic in North Confirmed

16 October – ProMed reported the Pasteur Institute in the Central African Republic capital, Bangui, has confirmed an epidemic of [diarrhea](#) in the northwest of the country, where at least 40 people died in late September 2003. Of the 24 tests carried out, 15 revealed the presence of [Shigella dysenteriae](#) Dr. Antoine Talarmin, the director of the Pasteur Institute stated. Public consumption of unclean water was, he said, the cause of the epidemic. The institute is still testing well waters to determine which need to be purified. Talarmin said the disease had proven resistant to cheap antibiotic drugs such as bactrim and ampicillin, thus necessitating the use of the stronger and more expensive drug ciprofloxacin. An MSF representative, Ignasi Soler, stated that the NGO had already supplied local health centers with ciprofloxacin and that treatment had started. He said a MSF team was due to inspect the affected villages on Thu, 16 Oct 2003 and will deliver more drugs. Several cases of water-borne diseases have been reported nationwide since the state water utility, the Societe de Distribution des Eaux en Centrafrique, suspended supplies in October 2002. However, clean water supplies have been restored in Bozoum and its surrounding areas since Oct 2003, which could help halt the spread of diarrhea. [View Report](#)

## France: 2 Cases of Locally Contracted West Nile Virus Infection

21 October – ProMed reported health experts stated that the 1st cases of human infection by [West Nile virus](#) seen in France for 40 years had originated in the country and had not been contracted abroad. A case reported on 6 Oct 2003 concerned a man who had visited Spain during the 2- to 14-day incubation period. After being treated in the hospital, the patient, who lives in the south of France, was able to go home. Health authorities now report that in August 2003 the man's wife showed symptoms of a benign form of the illness. Unlike her husband she had not left her home during the incubation period. These new elements "confirm the hypothesis of a locally-based infection ... and therefore of the circulation of the virus at the end of the summer period in the northeast region of the Department of the Var [in the southeast of France]." [View Report](#)

## Malaria Outbreak Blamed on Troops' Failure to Take Drug in Liberia

18 October – ProMed reported the large outbreak of [malaria](#) among Marines who spent time ashore in the West African nation of Liberia in the summer was apparently caused by a nearly wholesale failure of the troops to follow protective measures, and in particular not taking a once-a-week malaria-preventing drug. Blood samples taken from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit right after malaria was diagnosed in several troops in early September 2003 showed that only 5 percent had been regularly taking the recommended drug, mefloquine. Only 12 percent wore uniforms properly treated with the insecticide permethrin. Only 27 percent reported using the time-released insect repellent issued to them. And none slept under insecticide-treated mosquito nets. The findings were presented this week in closed briefings to the House and Senate Armed Services committees. David L. McMillan, a Navy physician said a team of military and civilian epidemiologists, infectious disease physicians, and preventive medicine specialists who met on 9 Oct 2003 to review the episode concluded that better education about the risk of malaria is the best way to prevent future outbreaks. The group did not think that requiring unit commanders to directly observe people taking their medicine -- a strategy employed with great success in civilian tuberculosis treatment -- would be practical or necessary. McMillan said that when investigators asked the 41 people treated at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda whether they were afraid mefloquine might have psychological effects, none said he or she was. Complacency appeared to be the main reason people did not take it. [View Report](#)

## WHO Launches Mass Polio Jab Campaign in West Africa

22 October – Reuters reported the World Health Organization (WHO) Wednesday began a \$10 million campaign to immunize 15 million children against [polio](#) in west and central Africa following the spread of the disease in Nigeria. The WHO said hundreds of thousands of volunteers and health workers aimed to vaccinate every child in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger and Togo within three days in order to stop the advance of the paralyzing disease from neighboring Nigeria. Nearly a dozen cases had already been reported in the countries targeted by the initial campaign, the Geneva-based WHO said. A similar program is planned for Chad and Cameroon in mid-November. The global health body expressed concern that the disease had returned from northern states of Nigeria to reinfect Lagos, making the west African nation the country with the greatest number of polio cases in the world. It said there are now seven countries in the world where polio is endemic -- Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Egypt, Afghanistan, Niger and Somalia. [View Article](#)

# USCENTCOM

## Blood Donations Halted From Personnel Deployed To Iraq

21 October – DefenseLINK reported a parasitic disease being spread by sand flies in Iraq has prompted officials who oversee the military's blood supply to implement a one-year donor deferral for military personnel serving in that country. The reason for the deferral is a form of the disease [Leishmaniasis](#), which causes sores or lesions on the skin, and which in its most serious form can cause death. The issue with those who are exposed is that there is an incubation period before any symptoms appear — the deferral will prevent them from unknowingly donating blood. Since 2002, military health officials have reported 22 cases of the disease, with the majority being reported this year. People who actually get the disease are permanently deferred. According to the Armed Services Blood Program office, the parasite that causes the disease has been proven to survive in blood products stored under standard conditions for up to 25 days, and at least six cases of transfusion-transmitted cases of the disease have been reported. [View Article](#)

## Kyrgyzstan: Anthrax Outbreak Could Have Been Avoided

16 October – ProMed reported 8 people in the southern Kyrgyz provinces of Osh and Batken have been hospitalized under suspicion of having contracted [anthrax](#). According to the epidemiological department at the Kyrgyz health ministry, all those suspected of contracting anthrax took part in slaughtering a cow with the disease. Part of the meat was divided among themselves, while the remaining 120 kg was sold to the residents of Toolos village in the Nookat district of Osh province. Some 65 people, who consumed the infected meat, were put under observation. The skin and the head of the slaughtered cow had been given to some local people and had not been located. Meanwhile, preventive measures are being taken in districts on the border of Osh and Batken provinces. [View Report](#)

## Saudi Arabia: Risk of Resurgence of Rift Valley Fever

16 October – ProMed reported changes, local or global, in climatic, environmental, and demographic patterns have played a role in the emergence of [zoonoses](#) in Saudi Arabia. With the recent floods following exceptionally heavy rainfalls in southwestern Saudi Arabia, large swathes of human habitation were inundated with floodwater, with many people displaced in Jizan province and related areas. A geographically expanding arboviral disease, [Rift Valley fever \(RVF\)](#) is caused by a phlebovirus. RVF-endemic zones are often predisposed to outbreaks following unusually high rainfall and flooding. Heavy rainfalls also preceded the 2000 outbreak of RVF that confirmed the endemic nature of the disease in Saudi Arabia. The risk of RVF resurgence within the region and beyond is very high. The abundance of potential vectors and the exposure of susceptible domestic animals that are associated closely with displaced persons further underscore the immediate and long-term risks. Mosquito vectors in the region include *Aedes vexans arabiensis*, *Culex pipiens*, and *Culex tritaeniorhynchus*. Other epidemic vectors may enter and modify the transmission cycle. *Aedes albopictus*, another competent vector, exists in the Makkah-Jeddah axis and may be more widespread than is presently known. *Culicoides* spp, usually abundant after floods, are locally endemic. RVF virus (RVFV) has been isolated from biting midges in Nigeria and Kenya. Flood-amplified populations of phlebotomine sandflies (competent RVFV vectors) as well as ticks play complementary roles in RVF transmission. In massive numbers, *Phlebotomus* spp., *Simulium* spp., *Glossina morsitan*, and *Culicoides* spp. may mechanically spread RVFV. [View Report](#)

## Saudi Arabia: Suspected Malaria in Asir Province

16 October – ProMed reported a disease believed to be [malaria](#) has swept Al-Qaymah village in Tihamat Qahtan, Asir Region. 6 people, including 4 children, contracted the disease. They suffered vomiting, fever, headache, chest pain, and general weakness. The recent floods following exceptionally heavy rainfalls in Southwestern Saudi Arabia is thought to be responsible for the outbreak. A source said authorities have launched a campaign to combat mosquitoes and other disease carriers mainly by spraying insecticides. The source said all laboratory tests done on the infected persons were positive for malaria. During the past 2 weeks, he said, all houses in the area were sprayed and the residents given mosquito nets. An awareness campaign is also going on. [View Report](#)

## USNORTHCOM

### Arizona: 3 Human Cases of St. Louis Encephalitis Virus Infection

15 October – ProMed reported 3 Maricopa County residents have been diagnosed with [St. Louis encephalitis](#), a mosquito-borne illness that can cause death in rare cases. The Maricopa patients sought medical attention after becoming ill with fever, headaches, and confusion. Health officials say that's more cases than usual but still relatively few considering the county's 3.2 million residents. All 3 have recovered, said Doug Hauth, a spokesman for the Maricopa County Department of Public Health. [View Report](#)

### Chicago: Free Meningitis Inoculations Offered

20 October - ABC News reported the Chicago Department of Health is offering free inoculations against [bacterial meningitis](#) to gay men on the city's north side in response to a meningitis outbreak that has killed three people. Dr. John Wilhelm, the city's health commissioner, said laboratory test results confirmed that four of six meningitis cases reported so far were from a bacterial strain for which there is an effective vaccine. Wilhelm said the disease is not tied to sexual orientation, but the recent cluster of cases appears to be centered among gay or bisexual men who have had close personal contact since Oct. 1. [View Article](#)

### FDA and CDC Statement Concerning Rumors About Recalled Lot of Influenza Vaccine

17 October – The CDC reported rumors have been circulating that a "contaminated" lot of [flu vaccine](#) has been recalled by the FDA. This is false. No contamination of any flu vaccine has been identified anywhere in the U.S., and the FDA has not recalled any lot of flu vaccine. Flu vaccine is routinely tested for safety, purity, and potency and all lots released have met these standards. As with any vaccine, flu vaccine is capable of causing some side effects, these are very rarely severe. Most side effects from flu vaccine are mild, such as arm soreness, redness or swelling where the shot was given, fever, or achiness. While FDA and CDC are currently investigating several recent reports of possible significant allergic reactions to flu vaccine, it is important to note that the number and type of reactions reported to date are not unexpected. The reactions reported, not all of which may have been caused by the administration of vaccine, do not, at this time, suggest any problem with the flu vaccine. However, FDA and CDC will continue to investigate these and any other reports and will provide any further information as available. [View Entire Statement](#)

## Highly Active Compound Found in Coffee May Prevent Colon Cancer

17 October – The American Chemical Society reported drinking coffee may help prevent [colon cancer](#), according to a group of researchers in Germany. They identified a potent antioxidant compound in the popular brew that appears in animal studies to boost the activity of phase II enzymes, which are thought to protect against colon cancer, the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States. The study is scheduled to appear in the Nov. 5 issue of the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry. [View Article](#)

## Many Teenage Girls Underestimate STD Risk: Study

15 October – Reuters reported teenage girls who have unprotected sex and engage in other risky sexual behavior may underestimate their odds of getting a sexually transmitted disease, the results of a new study suggest. The study included 209 sexually active teen girls, most of whom were African American or Latina. Over the course of 18 months, almost one out of four adolescent girls in the study were diagnosed with [chlamydia](#) or [gonorrhea](#), even though "most of those had predicted that there was little or no chance of that happening," the investigators report. In fact, about 89 percent of the girls felt that they were at little to no risk of getting an STD. This may have been wishful thinking, since 74 percent of the girls reported engaging in risky sex, having symptoms of an [STD](#) or having had an STD in the past. [View Article](#)

## New Jersey: Child Hospitalized After Encephalitis Infection

21 October – ProMed reported a 2-year-old Burlington County girl is undergoing treatment for severe neurological damage after becoming the 1st person in New Jersey to be infected with [eastern equine encephalitis](#) in nearly 20 years. The girl was hospitalized on 28 Aug 2003 after developing a fever, seizures, and other symptoms 5 days earlier, state health officials announced on Tue 21 Oct 2003. Doctors diagnosed her with encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain, and later tests by the Centers for Disease Control confirmed the infection was eastern equine encephalitis, state Health and Senior Services Commissioner Clifton R. Lacy said. The victim is the 11th reported eastern equine encephalitis case in the United States in 2003, but the 1st in New Jersey since 1984. [View Report](#)

## Pentagon Investigates Fort Stewart

21 October – The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported the Pentagon is sending an investigative team to Fort Stewart today to investigate allegations that ill and injured reservists, many returning from the war in Iraq, are being treated like second-class citizens at the sprawling Army post in South Georgia. U.S. Sen. Christopher Bond (R-Mo.) is also sending a representative to investigate conditions at the base. Some of about 600 reservists currently on "medical hold" at Fort Stewart complain that they are being housed in barracks without window screens or air conditioning and have to walk, sometimes on crutches, to outdoor latrines. Some say they have waited weeks or months for appointments with Army doctors. The reservists claim that regular Army troops with medical problems are being given priority attention at Fort Stewart. Bond has also asked the Army to investigate possible problems at three other posts where soldiers are being demobilized. [View Article](#)

## Skin Infection Plaguing Athletes

16 October – CBS News reported health and sports officials are warning schools and sports teams about a hard-to-treat skin infection once common to hospitals and prisons that's now plaguing athletes on the playing field. The National Federation of State High School Associations sent a warning Tuesday to states about a staph infection that can't be cured by the usual penicillin-related antibiotics.

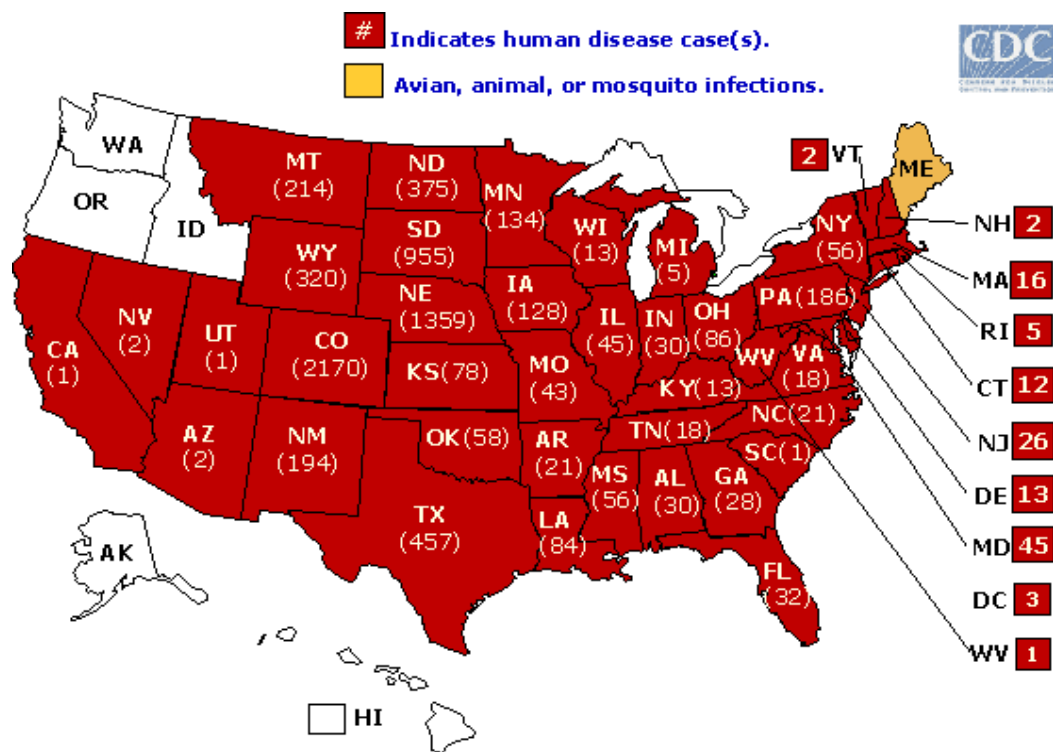


On Monday the NCAA's medical committee urged college athletic departments to be alert for the infections and to practice careful hygiene. Though usually mild, [methicillin-resistant \*Staphylococcus aureus\* \(MRSA\)](#) can progress to a life-threatening blood or bone infection. Several athletes who got the infection have been hospitalized. [View Article](#)

## U.S. Doctors Conduct More Breast Cancer Tests But Don't Detect More Cancer

22 October – Scientific American reported women in the U.S. may be subjected to unnecessary tests following a mammogram, according to the results of a new study. Researchers writing today in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* report that American women are recalled for further tests, such as biopsies, twice as often as their British counterparts. Yet [breast cancer](#) detection rates in the U.S. and the U.K. are about the same. The team believes that the lower recall rates in the U.K. can be attributed in part to the centralization of British screening--the National Health Service runs a program that provides nearly all mammographic examinations for women aged 50 and up. Also, the threat of malpractice lawsuits in the U.S. may make American radiologists overly cautious. [View Article](#)

## West Nile Virus in the United States as of October 21, 2003



reported HIV cases. However, according to experts, the actual figure was much higher and AIDS prevention in the country was very serious, said Dai. According to the 2002 China HIV/AIDS Report, blood is the major means of HIV transmission and 63.7 percent of the blood transmission is through intravenous drug use. About 8.1 percent of China's HIV carriers were infected with the virus through sex and 53.6 percent of the HIV carriers in China are young people between the age of 20 to 29. [View Article](#)

## Experts Project India AIDS Epidemic Could Be World's Most Severe by 2010

14 October –VOA News reported experts project that the [AIDS](#) epidemic in India could be the most severe in the world by the year 2010. Policymakers and businesspeople in New York and New Delhi met via videoconference to discuss new ways to stem the alarming rate of infection. Already, about 4.5 million people living in India are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. If circumstances continue at the present rate, the U.S. National Intelligence Council estimates that number could balloon to 25 million infected Indians, or 4 percent of the population in just seven years, making it the country with the largest number of AIDS cases in the world. [View Article](#)

## India: Cerebral Malaria in Faridabad

18 October – ProMed reported cerebral [malaria](#) has broken out in the Mewat province, Haryana Region. Two people of Dhauj and Swamika villages succumbed to the disease at Escorts Hospital earlier this week. The district malaria office was unaware of the outbreak. Unconfirmed reports from Hathin spoke of at least 20 deaths due to malarial fever in the surrounding villages. [View Report](#)

## India: Dengue Fever Update

20 October – ProMed reported the authorities in Mumbai have admitted that the [dengue](#) situation in the city is much more serious than previous years. Doctors say the number of dengue cases has risen in the month of October, 2003, and every day at least one new patient is admitted to the hospital with the disease. What's even more alarming is that while 120 dengue cases were reported during 2002 there had just been one death. But in 2003, 187 cases have been reported with 5 deaths. Doctors say the rise in cases points to the dismal state of sanitation and hygiene in the city. It is also a clear indication of just how ineffective the BMC's cleanliness drive across the city has been. In New Delhi, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has reported that 9 people have recently died from dengue. While 257 new cases were just reported with the MCD, the total figure has gone up to 1216 -- with 938 being reported from Delhi alone. In Delhi, South Zone is worse-hit with 163 cases reported, followed by 108 from Shahdara (South), 106 from Shahdara (North) and 98 from Civil Lines. Officials confirmed that there are 2000 suspected cases admitted in the various government hospitals. In Karnataka, Nearly 1000 people have been diagnosed with dengue fever [so far in 2003] and 7 deaths have been reported. The number of cases of Dengue Fever is also increasing in Kanpur and Lucknow. [View Report](#)

## Malaysia: Dengue claimed 28 lives this year

20 October – ProMed reported there were 28 deaths from hemorrhagic [dengue](#) fever in Malaysia between January & August 2003. Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng said the number of cases this year was 278. He said court action was taken against 119 people for allowing the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes on their premises, while 10,901 compound notices and 6,912 warnings were also issued. He said checks were carried out on 2.4 million premises and fogging done at 7.2 million premises. The water at 82,359 premises was treated with insecticide. [View Report](#)

# USSOUTHCOM

## USSOUTHCOM Dengue Fever Update

20 October – ProMed reported according to the most recent report from the ministry of health, 12,885 cases of [dengue](#) fever have already been registered in Costa Rica, and the number continues to increase. Eduardo Lopez, vice minister for health, commented that 38 of the detected cases correspond to dengue hemorrhagic fever [DHF]. These numbers are already higher than those registered for 2002, when 12,251 cases of dengue fever were recorded, 27 of which were of DHF. Lopez announced that the country's medical centers receive an average of 600 new cases each week and that the coastal zones are the most affected. The health authorities have expressed their concern that the rainiest months of the year are still to come. In El Salvador, government sources announced that the number deaths due to dengue fever in has reached 6. So far this year [2003], at least 4,076 suspected cases of dengue fever have been registered, among which 1,522 cases of classic dengue fever and 81 cases of DHF have been confirmed. Groups of physicians, epidemiologists, and soldiers are carrying out extensive fumigation campaigns and "home by home" inspections in the capital, San Salvador, and peripheral areas, where the largest number of cases (almost 80 percent) is concentrated. The official also urged the population to collaborate in the elimination of mosquito breeding sites so that the outbreak could be controlled. [View Report](#)

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