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News

Next update: **20 April 2007** Last updated: **13 April 2007**, Volume 1, No 15

▶ Imported chikungunya virus in the United Kingdom, 2006

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Imported chikungunya virus in the United Kingdom, 2006

Health Protection Agency's Special Pathogens Reference Unit (SPRU) reported 133 cases of chikungunya infection in the United Kingdom (UK) in 2006. Of those, 45 were laboratory confirmed (by polymerase chain reaction [PCR] and/or virus isolation), 30 were probable cases (clinical symptoms and serologically positive [both IgG and IgM]), 35 were classified as suspected cases (clinical symptoms, relevant travel history and IgG positive), and 23 had a past exposure (IgG positive with no clinical details or travel history, or IgG positive with known history of past exposure).

Sixty-eight of the 133 cases reported travelled to the Indian Ocean islands (58 to Mauritius, six to the Seychelles, and four to Madagascar), where a large outbreak was reported earlier in the year [1,2]. Most of these cases were reported by the SPRU between 2 March and 31 August 2006; the outbreak has since declined, with only one imported case from the Indian Ocean reported since then, in December.

Thirty-four cases reported recent travel to India, where an outbreak began in February 2006 [3]. Nearly 1.4 million suspected cases were reported in 15 of India's 31 states in 2006 [4], with 1985 cases confirmed. Imported cases were not seen in the UK until May (one case); the majority of cases were reported later in the year (27 cases reported between August and November; four cases reported in December).

An outbreak of chikungunya was also reported in Sri Lanka; since mid-October 2006 over 37,000 suspected cases have been reported in eleven districts [5]. Of these, 1058 samples were tested and 682 were positive for chikungunya virus. Imported cases from Sri Lanka started to be seen in the UK in November and December (three and seven cases respectively).

Cases were also reported in returning UK travellers who had been to Nigeria (two), Tanzania (one), Kenya (one), and Australia (one).

The outbreaks in India and Sri Lanka appear to be waning, although a few cases are still being reported. In January and February 2007, there were 22 cases of chikungunya reported in UK travellers (14 in January, eight in February); 16 had travelled to Sri Lanka, two to India, and four had no country stated).

Nearly 800,000 United Kingdom residents travelled to India in 2005, a 21% increase compared to 2004 [6]. Travellers to India and Sri Lanka, as well as to the Indian Ocean Islands, should remain aware of the risk of infection, which is transmitted by *Aedes* sp mosquitoes (the same mosquito that transmits dengue fever, a disease which is also prevalent in India and Sri Lanka). *Aedes* mosquitoes are active during daylight hours (particularly around dusk and dawn) and prevention relies on insect bite avoidance.

Further information about chikungunya can be found in the NaTHNaC clinical update of 7 February [7] or on the HPA website at http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/Chikungunya/default.htm.

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fitfortravel re-launched

fitfortravel (<http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk>), the NHS public access website providing a country-by-country guide to travel health information maintained a by the Travel Health team of Health Protection Scotland, has been re-launched.

New features include:

- interactive malaria maps
- clearer graphics and layout
- improved navigation tools
- 'upfront' news page
- additional advice sheets

fitfortravel contains country specific information for every country in the world, including advice on immunisations, certificate requirements, malaria prevention and general health topics such as animal bites, jet lag, accidents and sun exposure.

Enteric

Next update: 11 May 2007 Last updated: 13 April 2007, Volume 1, No 15

Enteric Routine Data Reports

- General outbreaks of foodborne illness in humans, England and Wales: weeks 10-13/07
- Salmonella infections, (faecal specimens) England and Wales, reports to the HPA (Salmonella data set): February 2007
- Common gastrointestinal infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports: weeks 10-13/07
- Less common gastrointestinal infections laboratory reports, England and Wales: weeks 01-13/07

General outbreaks of foodborne illness in humans, England and Wales: weeks 10-13/07

Preliminary information has been received about the following outbreaks.

Health Protection Unit	Organism	Location of food prepared or served	Month of outbreak	Number ill	Cases positive	Suspect vehicle	Evidence
South East London	S.Enteritidis PT12	School	March	119	101	–	–

M (microbiological): identification of an organism of the same type from cases and in the suspect vehicle, or vehicle ingredient(s), or detection of toxin in faeces or food; D (descriptive): other evidence, usually descriptive, reported by local investigators as indicating the suspect vehicle or food; S (statistical): a significant statistical association between consumption of the suspect vehicle(s) and being a case.

Salmonella infections (faecal specimens), England and Wales, reports to the HPA salmonella data set): February 2007

Details of serotypes of 605 salmonella infections recorded in February are given in the table below. In March 2007, 568 salmonella infections were recorded and preliminary information was received about one outbreak (see table above).

	February 2007
S. Enteritidis (PT4)	71
S. Enteritidis (other PTs)	189
S. Typhimurium	84
S. Virchow	22
Others (typed)	239
Total Salmonella (provisional data)*	605

*Figures quoted from the Health Protection Agency salmonella data set are for isolates confirmed and typed by Laboratory of Enteric Pathogens (LEP).

Common gastrointestinal infections, England and Wales, laboratory reports: weeks 10-13/07

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received				Total reports	Cumulative total to	
	10/07	11/07	12/07	13/07	10-13/07	13/07	13/06
<i>Campylobacter</i>	660	496	407	322	1885	7296	7779
<i>Escherichia coli</i> O157*	2	4	6	4	16	68	79
<i>Salmonella</i> †	127	143	152	87	509	2186	1551
<i>Shigella sonnei</i>	15	8	13	7	43	153	110
Rotavirus	651	667	654	564	2536	4986	8958
Norovirus	110	106	103	52	371	2027	2346
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	29	31	19	17	96	403	481
<i>Giardia</i>	40	33	34	29	136	507	637

*Vero cytotoxin-producing isolates (data from Health Protection Agency's Laboratory of Enteric Pathogens (LEP).

† Data from Health Protection Agency's Laboratory of Enteric Pathogens.

Less common gastrointestinal infections laboratory reports, England and Wales: weeks 01-13/07

Laboratory reports	Total reports 01-13/07	Cumulative total to 13/2007	Cumulative total to 13/2006
Adenovirus*	10	10	11
Astrovirus	8	8	32
Sapovirus	1	1	2
<i>Shigella boydii</i>	27	27	21
<i>Shigella dysenteriae</i>	5	5	11
<i>Shigella flexneri</i>	52	52	76
<i>Plesiomonas</i>	6	6	13
<i>Vibrio</i> spp.	5	5	4
<i>Yersinia</i> spp	10	10	4
<i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>	15	15	22
<i>Blastocystis hominis</i>	46	46	89
<i>Dientamoeba fragilis</i>	18	18	32

*Includes Adenovirus EM faeces and Adenovirus group F.