

This weekly bulletin provides updates on threats monitored by ECDC.

I. Executive summary

EU Threats

West Nile virus - Multi-country (World) - Monitoring season 2020

Opening date: 20 May 2020

Latest update: 10 July 2020

During the West Nile virus transmission season, which usually runs from June–November 2020, ECDC monitors the occurrence of infections in the EU/EEA and EU neighbouring countries. ECDC publishes weekly epidemiological updates to inform blood safety authorities. Information is available at the NUTS 3 level (nomenclature of territorial units for statistics 3) or in GAUL 1 (global administrative unit layers 1) for areas where at least one locally acquired human infection has been reported.

→Update of the week

Between 3 and 9 July 2020, no cases were reported from EU Member States or EU neighbouring countries. This week, no deaths have been reported.

Monitoring environmental suitability of *Vibrio* growth in the Baltic Sea - Summer 2020

Opening date: 23 June 2020

Elevated sea surface temperature (SST) in marine environments with low salt content offer ideal growth conditions for certain *Vibrio* species. These conditions occur during the summer months in estuaries and enclosed water bodies with moderate salinity.

ECDC has developed a model to map the environmental suitability for *Vibrio* growth in the Baltic Sea ([ECDC Vibrio Map Viewer](#)). Please note that this model has been calibrated to the Baltic Region in Northern Europe and might not apply to other worldwide settings prior to validation.

→Update of the week

As of 10 July 2020, in EU/EEA countries, the environmental suitability for *Vibrio* growth in the Baltic Sea was identified to be very low to low. For the next five days it is considered generally to be very low, to low, except in the regions of Satakunta, Southwest Finland, Uusimaa and Kymenlaakso (Finland); Gulf of Riga (Estonia and Latvia), Gdansk Bay (Poland), Kalmar Strait and Stockholm Archipelago (Sweden) where the risk is considered to be medium-to-high.

Outside EU/EEA countries, overall the environmental suitability for *Vibrio* growth in the Baltic Sea was identified to be medium to high. For the next five days it is considered to be very low, to low, except in Vyborg and Saint Petersburg (Russia), where the risk is considered to be medium-to-high.

Measles – Multi-country (World) – Monitoring European outbreaks

Opening date: 9 February 2011

Latest update: 10 July 2020

Measles cases in the EU/EEA and UK continue to occur among both adults and children. Outbreaks are being reported across the EU/EEA and the UK, including in countries that had previously eliminated or interrupted endemic transmission. A sharp decrease in the reporting of measles cases has been observed during the COVID-19 pandemic across the world.

→Update of the week

Since the previous monthly measles update in ECDC's Communicable Disease Threats Report (CDTR) on 19 June 2020, updates have been provided for nine EU/EEA countries and the UK: France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and the UK. Other countries did not report new cases of measles.

Most of the cases in 2020 have been reported by: Romania (1 284), Bulgaria (257), France (219) and Germany (131).

In 2020, two deaths have been reported in the EU/EEA and the UK, both from Bulgaria.

Relevant updates outside EU/EEA countries and the UK are available for the WHO AFRO Region and Switzerland.

WHO announced on 8 July 2020 that Sri Lanka and Maldives have eliminated measles and rubella ahead of the 2023 target. The announcement was made after the fifth meeting of the South-East Asia Regional Verification Commission for Measles and Rubella Elimination, held virtually. Maldives reported the last endemic case of measles in 2009 and of rubella in October 2015, while Sri Lanka reported the last endemic case of measles in May 2016 and of rubella in March 2017.

Routine immunisation sessions should be maintained as long as COVID-19 response measures allow, according to [WHO Regional Office for Europe guidelines](#). [WHO guidelines](#) recommend that governments temporarily pause preventive immunisation campaigns where there is no active outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease.

In May 2019, WHO classified measles outbreaks across the European Region as a [Grade 2 emergency](#). On 29 August 2019, the [European Regional Verification Commission for Measles and Rubella Elimination \(RVC\)](#) determined that, for the first time since the verification process began in the Region in 2012, four countries (Albania, the Czech Republic, Greece and the United Kingdom) had lost their measles elimination status.

The [monthly measles report published in the CDTR](#) provides the most recent data on cases and outbreaks from the publicly available information of national public health authorities or media. This report is supplementary to [ECDC's monthly measles and rubella monitoring report](#), based on data routinely submitted by 30 EU/EEA countries and the UK to The European Surveillance System (TESSy). Data presented in the two monthly reports may differ.

COVID-19 associated with SARS-CoV-2 – Multi-country (World) – 2020

Opening date: 7 January 2020

Latest update: 10 July 2020

On 31 December 2019, the Wuhan Municipal Health and Health Commission reported a cluster of pneumonia cases of unknown aetiology with a common source of exposure at Wuhan's 'South China Seafood City' market. Further investigations identified a novel coronavirus as the causative agent of the respiratory symptoms for these cases. The outbreak has rapidly evolved, affecting other parts of China and other countries. On 30 January 2020, WHO's Director declared that the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), accepting the Committee's advice and issuing temporary recommendations under the International Health Regulations (IHR).

→Update of the week

Since 4 July 2020 and as of 10 July 2020, 1 400 142 new cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) (in accordance with the applied case definition in the countries) have been reported, including 33 608 new deaths.

Globally, the number of cases has increased from 10 845 275 cases to 12 245 417, and the number of deaths has risen from 521 113 to 554 721.

In the EU/EEA and the UK, the number of cases has increased from 1 541 965 cases to 1 572 854 (+30 889 cases), and the number of deaths has risen from 177 675 to 179 018 (+1 343 deaths).

More details are available [here](#).

Disclaimer: Due to a recent reclassification and retro-correction of COVID cases from the UK, we do not display any value for the UK in the 14-day notification rate map.

Non EU Threats

Ebola virus disease - eleventh outbreak - Democratic Republic of the Congo - 2020

Opening date: 4 June 2020

Latest update: 10 July 2020

On 1 June 2020, the Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) [declared](#) the eleventh outbreak of Ebola virus disease in the country. The outbreak is located in Equateur Province in the northwest of the country, close to the border with Congo.

→Update of the week

Since the last update and as of 7 July 2020, 12 additional confirmed cases and five additional deaths have been reported from Equateur Province in the DRC.

Lotumbe health zone is the sixth health zone in the Equateur province that has been recently affected. It has reported two confirmed cases whose locality is difficult to reach by road.

II. Detailed reports

West Nile virus - Multi-country (World) - Monitoring season 2020

Opening date: 20 May 2020

Latest update: 10 July 2020

Epidemiological summary

Between 3 and 9 July 2020, no cases were reported from EU Member States or EU neighbouring countries. This week, no deaths have been reported.

Since the beginning of the 2020 transmission season and as of 9 July 2020, EU Member States have reported one human case in Romania. No cases have been reported from EU neighbouring countries. So far, no deaths have been reported.

During the current transmission season, no outbreaks among equids or birds have been reported so far.

ECDC links: [West Nile virus infection atlas](#)

Sources: TESSy | Animal Disease Notification System

ECDC assessment

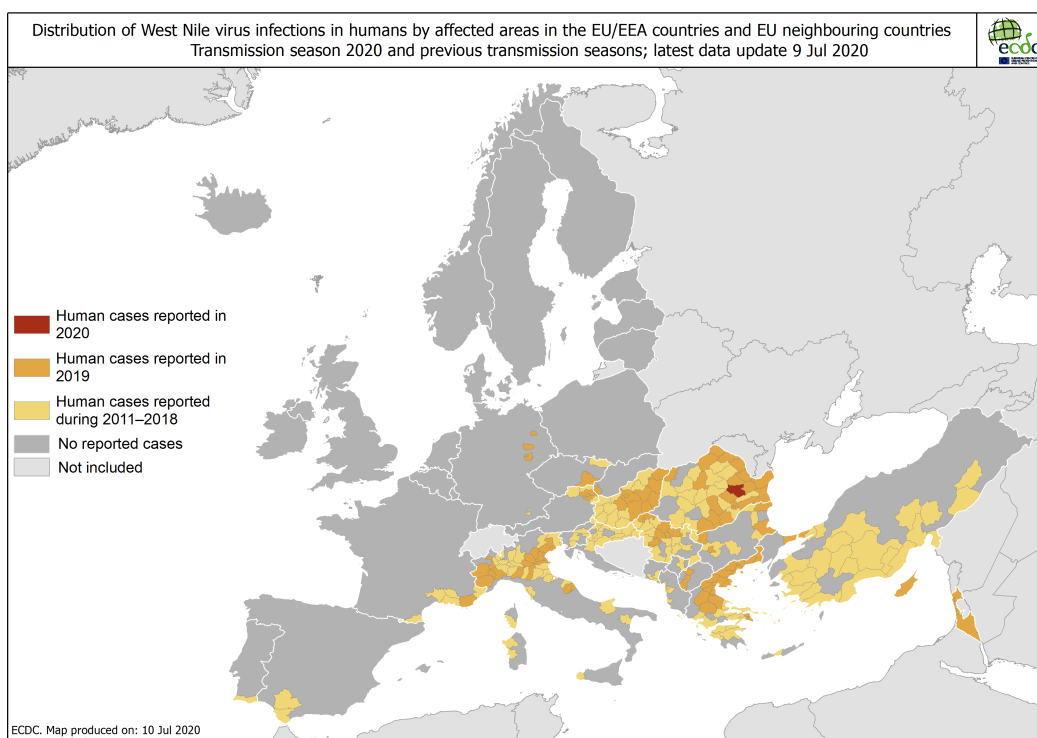
So far, one human case has been reported from an EU Member State during the 2020 transmission season, which is consistent with observations of seasonal transmission in previous years. In accordance with Commission Directive 2014/110/EU, prospective donors should be deferred for 28 days after leaving a risk area for locally-acquired West Nile virus unless the result of an individual nucleic acid test (NAT) is negative.

Actions

During the transmission season, ECDC publishes West Nile virus maps and an epidemiological summary every Friday.

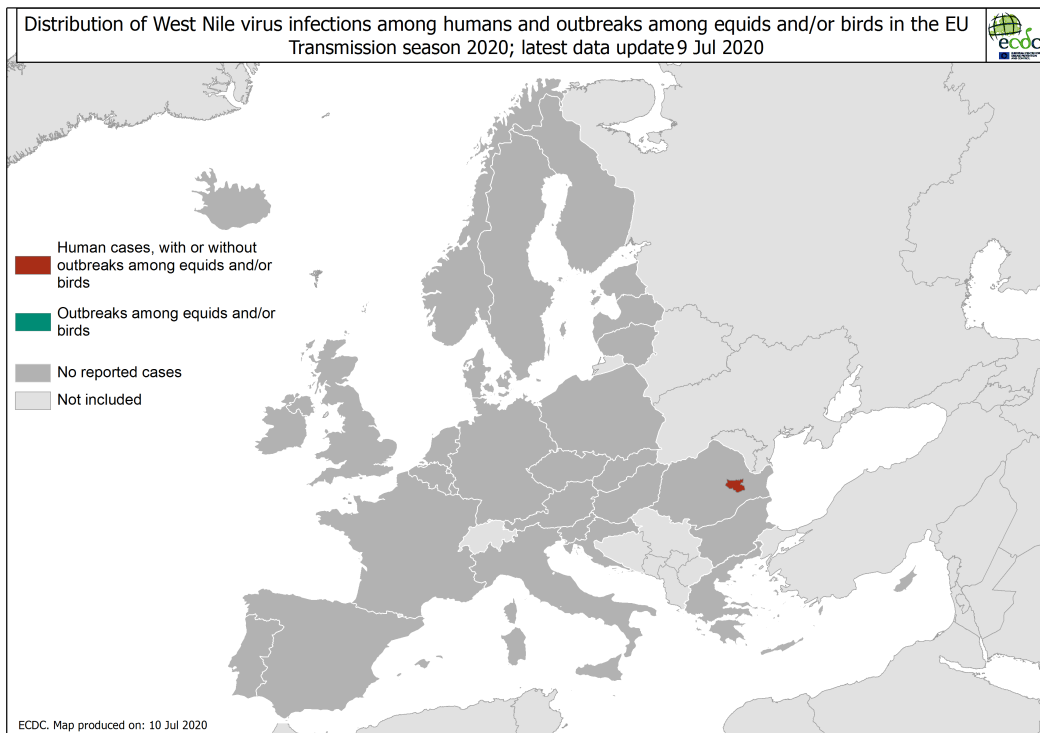
Distribution of human West Nile virus infections by affected areas as of 9 July

ECDC



Distribution of West Nile virus infections among humans and outbreaks among equids and/or birds in the EU as of 9 July

ECDC and ADNS



Monitoring environmental suitability of *Vibrio* growth in the Baltic Sea - Summer 2020

Opening date: 23 June 2020

Epidemiological summary

As of 10 July 2020, in EU/EEA countries, the environmental suitability for *Vibrio* growth in the Baltic Sea was identified to be very low to low. For the next five days it is considered generally to be very low, to low, except in the regions of Satakunta, Southwest Finland, Uusimaa and Kymenlaakso (Finland); Gulf of Riga (Estonia and Latvia), Gdansk Bay (Poland), Kalmar Strait and Stockholm Archipelago (Sweden) where the risk is considered to be medium-to-high.

Outside EU/EEA countries, overall the environmental suitability for *Vibrio* growth in the Baltic Sea was identified to be medium to high. For the next five days it is considered to be very low, to low, except in Vyborg and Saint Petersburg (Russia), where the risk is considered to be medium-to-high.

Sources: [ECDC](#) | [National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service](#)

Please note that this model has been calibrated to the Baltic Region in Northern Europe and might not apply to other worldwide settings prior to validation. For the Baltic Sea, the model parameters to be used in the map are the following values: number colour bands (20) scale method linear, legend range minimum value (0), and maximum value (28).

ECDC assessment

Elevated SSTs in marine environments with low salt content offer ideal environmental growth conditions for certain *Vibrio* species. These conditions can be found during the summer months in estuaries and enclosed water bodies with moderate salinity. Open ocean environments do not offer appropriate growth conditions for these bacteria due to high salt content, low temperatures and limited nutrient content. These *Vibrio* species can cause vibriosis infections, particularly *V. parahaemolyticus*, *V. vulnificus* and non-toxicogenic *V. cholera*.

In the past, vibriosis in humans caused by these species in the Baltic region has occurred during hot summer months, particularly when SSTs were elevated (above 20 degrees Celsius). The most common clinical manifestations are gastroenteritis with nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea, wound infections when a cut has been exposed, infected wounds or abrasions due to contaminated

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seawater, primary septicaemia and otitis externa. In addition to contracting vibriosis through contact with natural bodies of water, especially marine or estuarine water, other risk factors for illness include the consumption of shellfish, particularly raw oysters.

Actions

ECDC is monitoring this threat on a weekly basis during the summer of 2020 and report on increased environmental suitability for growth of *Vibrio* species.

Measles – Multi-country (World) – Monitoring European outbreaks

Opening date: 9 February 2011

Latest update: 10 July 2020

Epidemiological summary

Since the previous monthly measles update in ECDC's Communicable Disease Threats Report (CDTR) on 19 June 2020, updates have been provided for nine EU/EEA countries and the UK: France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and the UK. Other countries did not report new cases of measles.

Most of the cases in 2020 have been reported by: Romania (1 284), Bulgaria (257), France (219) and Germany (131).

In 2020, two deaths have been reported in the EU/EEA and UK, both from Bulgaria.

Relevant updates outside EU/EEA countries and the UK are available for WHO AFRO Region and Switzerland.

[WHO](#) announced on 8 July 2020, that Sri Lanka and Maldives have eliminated measles and rubella, ahead of the 2023 target. The announcement was made after the fifth meeting of the South-East Asia Regional Verification Commission for Measles and Rubella Elimination, held virtually. Maldives reported the last endemic case of measles in 2009 and of rubella in October 2015, while Sri Lanka reported the last endemic case of measles in May 2016 and of rubella in March 2017.

Routine immunisation sessions should be maintained as long as COVID-19 response measures allow, according to the [WHO European Office for Europe guidelines](#). [WHO guidelines](#) recommend that governments temporarily pause preventive immunisation campaigns where there is no active outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease.

In May 2019, WHO classified measles outbreaks across the European Region as a [Grade 2 emergency](#). On 29 August 2019, the [European Regional Verification Commission for Measles and Rubella Elimination \(RVC\)](#) determined that, for the first time since the verification process began in the Region in 2012, four countries (Albania, the Czech Republic, Greece and the United Kingdom) had lost their measles elimination status.

The [monthly measles report published in the CDTR](#) provides the most recent data on cases and outbreaks from the publicly available information of national public health authorities or media. This report is supplementary to [ECDC's monthly measles and rubella monitoring report](#), based on data routinely submitted by 30 EU/EEA countries and the UK to The European Surveillance System (TESSy). Data presented in the two monthly reports may differ.

Epidemiological summary for EU/EEA countries and the UK with updates since last month

[France](#) reported 219 cases of measles in January–May 2020, according to TESSy, an increase of one case since the previous report for January–March 2020.

[Germany](#) reported 131 cases in 2020 as of week 28 (ending 12 July 2020), an increase of four cases since the national report for week 24 (ending 14 June 2020).

[Ireland](#) reported 16 cases in 2020 and as of week 27 (ending 5 July 2020), a decrease of one case since the national report for week 23 (ending 7 June). According to TESSy, 18 cases were reported in January–April 2020.

[Italy](#) reported 98 cases of measles from 1 January to 31 May 2020. Of these cases, 52 were reported in January, 37 in February and 9 cases in March. No cases were reported in April and May. There were no deaths reported in Italy in 2020.

[Poland](#) reported 24 cases in 2020 and as of 30 June, an increase of one case since 31 May 2020. Same number is

[Portugal](#) reported eight cases according to TESSy in January–May 2020. An increase of one case since the previous TESSy report. In addition, [media](#) reports decreasing vaccination coverage against measles in Portugal with a drop of more than 50% and 40% in April and May 2020, respectively, compared to the numbers in the same period in 2019.

[Romania](#) reported 1 284 cases in 2020 and as of 3 July 2020, an increase of 42 cases since the national report on 5 June 2020. Since the beginning of the outbreak in October 2016 and as of 3 July 2020, Romania has reported 20 192 confirmed measles cases, including 64 deaths.

[Spain](#) reported 91 cases as of 5 July (week 27), an increase of four cases since 26 April 2020. Most of the cases in 2020 were reported from [Catalonia](#) (71).

The [United Kingdom](#) reported 84 cases in January-May 2020, according to TESSy, an increase of two cases since the previous TESSy report for May 2020.

Relevant epidemiological summary for countries outside the EU/EEA and the UK

A global overview is available on [WHO's website](#). Additional information with the latest available data is provided for several countries.

[Switzerland](#) reported 35 cases of measles in 2020 and as of 7 July, an increase of one case since 9 June 2020.

According to [WHO AFRO](#) as of 5 July 2020, outbreaks of measles have been reported in several countries. The [Democratic Republic of the Congo \(DRC\)](#) reported 64 552 cases of measles, including 1 206 confirmed cases and 898 deaths (CFR: 1.4%), these cases were reported from 10 January to 21 June 2020. This represents an increase of 3 788 cases and 95 deaths since 24 May 2020. Over the past four weeks (weeks 22 to 25) a decreasing trend in the number of cases was observed in the provinces of: Bas-Uele, Haut Katanga, Kinshasa, Kongo Central, Kwango, Lomami, Lualaba, Maniema, Sud Kivu and Tshopo. Since 2019 a total of 375 960 measles cases and 6 941 deaths (CFR 1.8%) have been reported in the country.

Outbreaks of measles in 2020 have also been reported in Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and South Sudan.

There were no updates from [WHO PAHO](#) (Pan American Health Organization) and [WHO WPRO](#) (Western Pacific Region).

ECDC assessment

Measles cases are being reported in the majority of European countries and many countries across the world. Measles remains endemic in a number of EU/EEA countries and the UK, and affects all age groups, highlighting large population immunity gaps. To protect themselves both at home and when travelling, people of all ages should check their vaccination status and ensure they are vaccinated with two doses of a measles-containing vaccine. Particular care is recommended to avoid infants under one year or those for whom vaccination is contraindicated being potentially exposed to measles, as these groups are at increased risk of infection and possible complications. For a more complete overview, consult ECDC's [risk assessment](#) 'Who is at risk of measles in the EU/EEA?' published on 28 May 2019.

Actions

ECDC monitors the measles situation through epidemic intelligence, which supplements a monthly report with measles surveillance data from The European Surveillance System (TESSy) for 30 EU/EEA countries.

COVID-19 associated with SARS-CoV-2 – Multi-country (World) – 2020

Opening date: 7 January 2020

Latest update: 10 July 2020

Epidemiological summary

Since 31 December 2019 and as of 10 July 2020, 12 245 417 cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) have been reported, including 554 721 deaths.

Cases have been reported from:

Africa: 542 312 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are South Africa (238 339), Egypt (79 254), Nigeria (30 748), Ghana (23 463) and Algeria (17 808).

Asia: 2 741 451 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are India (793 802), Iran (250 458), Pakistan (243 599), Saudi Arabia (223 327) and Turkey (209 962).

America: 6 406 420 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are United States (3 118 008), Brazil (1 755 779), Peru (316 448), Chile (306 216) and Mexico (282 283).

Europe: 2 543 831 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Russia (707 301), United Kingdom (287 621), Spain (253 056), Italy (242 363) and Germany (198 178).

Oceania: 10 707 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Australia (9 059), New Zealand (1 192), Guam (310), French Polynesia (62) and Northern Mariana Islands (31).

Other: 696 cases have been reported from an international conveyance in Japan.

Deaths have been reported from:

Africa: 12 461 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are South Africa (3 720), Egypt (3 617), Algeria (988), Nigeria (689) and Sudan (641).

Asia: 65 848 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are India (21 604), Iran (12 305), Turkey (5 300), Pakistan (5 058) and China (4 641).

America: 280 190 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are United States (133 291), Brazil (69 184), Mexico (33 526), Peru (11 314) and Canada (8 749).

Europe: 196 080 deaths; the five countries reporting most deaths are United Kingdom (44 602), Italy (34 926), France (29 979), Spain (28 401) and Russia (10 843).

Oceania: 135 deaths; the four countries reporting deaths are Australia (106), New Zealand (22), Guam (5) and Northern Mariana Islands (2).

Other: seven deaths have been reported from an international conveyance in Japan.

EU/EEA and the UK:

As of 10 July 2020, 1 572 854 cases have been reported in the EU/EEA and the UK: United Kingdom (287 621), Spain (253 056), Italy (242 363), Germany (198 178), France (170 094), Sweden (74 333), Belgium (62 210), Netherlands (50 743), Portugal (45 277), Poland (36 951), Romania (30 789), Ireland (25 565), Austria (18 613), Czechia (12 919), Denmark (12 916), Norway (8 954), Finland (7 273), Bulgaria (6 672), Luxembourg (4 719), Hungary (4 220), Greece (3 672), Croatia (3 416), Estonia (2 011), Iceland (1 882), Lithuania (1 857), Slovakia (1 851), Slovenia (1 776), Latvia (1 154), Cyprus (1 010), Malta (674) and Liechtenstein (85).

As of 10 July 2020, 179 018 deaths have been reported in the EU/EEA and the UK: United Kingdom (44 602), Italy (34 926), France (29 979), Spain (28 401), Belgium (9 781), Germany (9 054), Netherlands (6 128), Sweden (5 500), Romania (1 834), Ireland (1 743), Portugal (1 644), Poland (1 551), Austria (706), Denmark (609), Hungary (591), Czechia (352), Finland (329), Bulgaria (262), Norway (252), Greece (193), Croatia (115), Slovenia (111), Luxembourg (110), Lithuania (79), Estonia (69), Latvia (30), Slovakia (28), Cyprus (19), Iceland (10), Malta (9) and Liechtenstein (1).

EU: As of 10 July 2020, 1 274 312 cases and 134 153 deaths have been reported in the EU.

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC):

On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 constitutes a PHEIC. On 11 March 2020, the Director-General of [WHO](#) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. The [Third International Health Regulations \(IHR\) Emergency Committee meeting](#) for COVID-19 was held in Geneva on 30 April 2020. This committee concluded that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to constitute a PHEIC.

Sources: [Wuhan Municipal Health Commission](#) | [China CDC](#) | [WHO statement](#) | [WHO coronavirus website](#) | [ECDC 2019-nCoV website](#) | [RAGIDA](#) | [WHO](#)

ECDC assessment

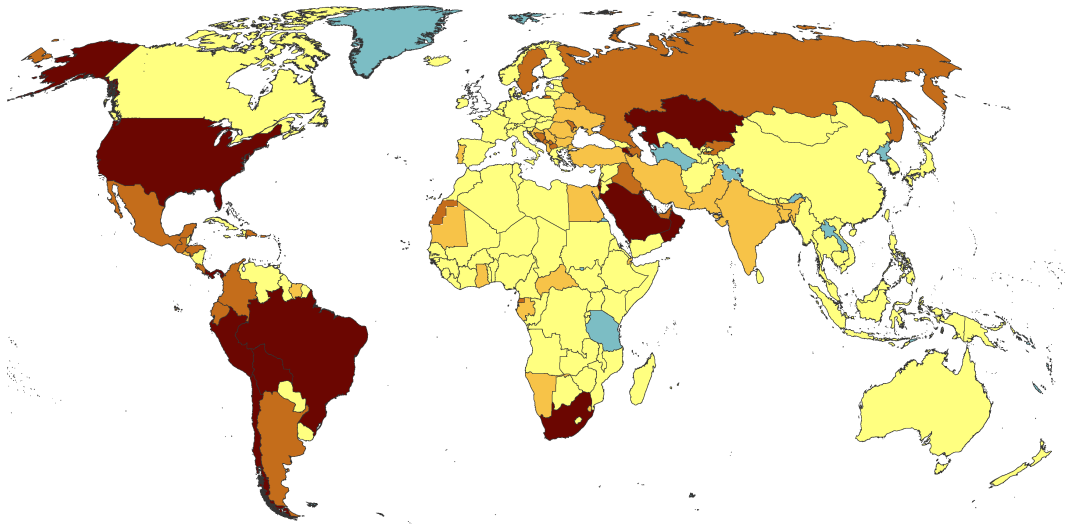
Information on the COVID-19 situation and a risk assessment can be found on the [ECDC website](#).

Actions

ECDC activities related to COVID-19 can be found on the [ECDC website](#).

Geographic distribution of 14-day cumulative number of reported COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population, worldwide, as of 10 July 2020

ECDC



14-day COVID-19 case notification rate per 100 000, as of 10 of July, 2020

< 20.0	20.0 - 59.9	60.0 - 119.9	≥ 120.0	No new cases reported
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The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the European Union.

Date of production: 10-Jul-20

Ebola virus disease - eleventh outbreak - Democratic Republic of the Congo - 2020

Opening date: 4 June 2020

Latest update: 10 July 2020

Epidemiological summary

Since the start of the outbreak and as of the 07 July 2020, a total of 46 cases (43 confirmed, three probable), including 19 deaths, have been reported from Bikoro (15), Bolomba (8), Iboko (4), Lotumbe (2), Mbandaka (15) and Wangata (2) health zones in Equateur province in the DRC. In total, two healthcare workers have been affected.

Since the beginning of the vaccination campaign with rVSV-ZEBOV-GP on 5 June 2020, 8 758 people have been vaccinated.

Background: From May to July 2018, the [9th Ebola outbreak](#) in the DRC occurred in Mbandaka, Bikoro and in the Equateur province, leading to a total of 54 cases, including 33 deaths. According to WHO, this current event seems to be separate from the [10th Ebola outbreak](#) in the eastern part of the country, which has reported 3 470 cases, including 2 287 deaths and was declared over on 25 June 2020. [Sequencing](#) results confirm the new outbreak as a separate spill-over event. This is the DRC's [11th outbreak](#) of Ebola virus disease since 1976 when the virus was first discovered.

Besides Ebola outbreaks, the country is currently battling other major outbreaks such as COVID-19, measles, cholera, monkeypox, polio and the bubonic plague.

Sources: [WHO Afro Sitrep](#) | [WHO Afro bulletin](#) | [WHO DON](#) | [WHO News item](#) | [Dr Tedros](#)

ECDC assessment

Ebola outbreaks in the DRC are recurrent as the virus is present in an animal reservoir in many parts of the country. Implementing response measures is crucial, and a high level of surveillance is essential to detect and interrupt further transmission early. Response measures might be challenging amid the other outbreaks in the country. The overall risk to the EU/EEA is very low, especially with the current travel limitations.

WHO Assessment: On 3 June 2020, the [WHO assessment](#) revealed that the current resurgence is not unexpected, given the identification of wildlife spillover potential in Africa, the high population density in the region and the sociological, ecological, and

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environmental drivers that could influence the emergence of EVD. There is a need for further resources, and several challenges have been identified for the response in this area.

Actions

ECDC monitors this event through epidemic intelligence. ECDC published on 25 May 2018 a rapid risk assessment on the ninth outbreak in DRC: [Ebola virus disease outbreak in Equateur Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo, First update](#).

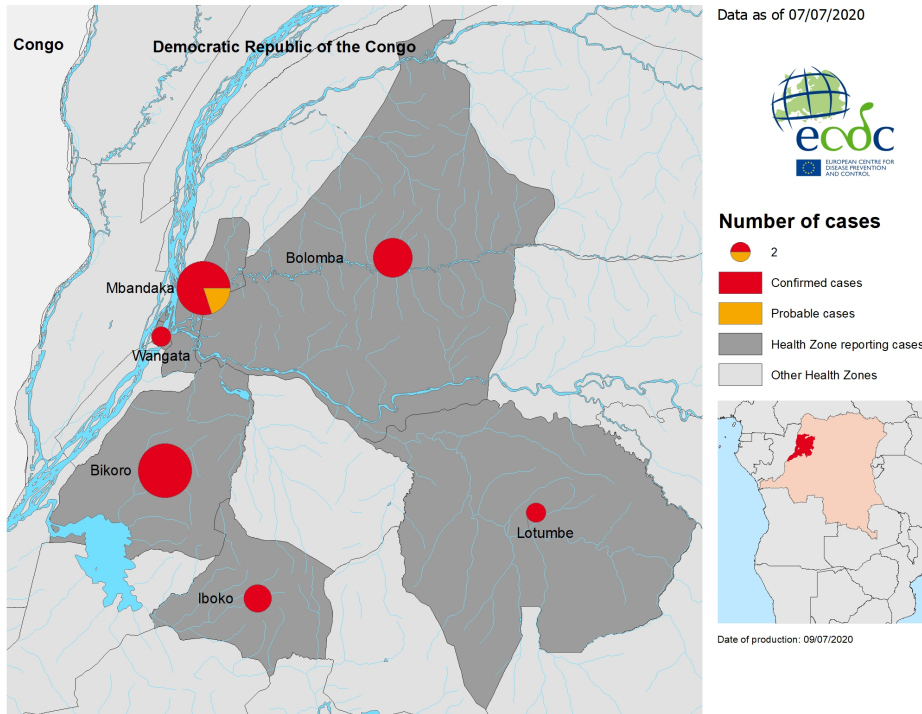
Ebola Virus Disease cases distribution in Equateur Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo, as of 7 July 2020

Source: ECDC

	Number of confirmed cases	Number of probable cases	Confirmed and probable cases	Number of deaths	Conf/Prob cases in past 7 days
Democratic Republic of the Congo	43	3	46	19	
Equateur	43	3	46	19	
Bikoro	15	0	15	5	ACTIVE
Bolomba	8	0	8	1	ACTIVE
Iboko	4	0	4	1	ACTIVE
Lotumbe	2	0	2	0	ACTIVE
Mbandaka	12	3	15	10	ACTIVE
Wangata	2	0	2	2	
Cumulative Total	43	3	46	19	

Geographical distribution of confirmed and probable cases of Ebola virus disease, Equateur Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo, as of 7 July 2020

Source: ECDC



The Communicable Disease Threat Report may include unconfirmed information which may later prove to be unsubstantiated.