



### INFORME RESUMEN DE AMENAZAS A LA SALUD PÚBLICA INTERNACIONAL

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#### NDM-1 CARRYING ENTEROBACTERIACEAE - WORLDWIDE ex INDIA, PAKISTAN

A Belgian man died from a drug-resistant so-called superbug originating in South Asia, a doctor said Friday [13 Aug 2010], the 1st reported death from the new health threat. A 2nd Belgian was infected after being hospitalized after an accident during a trip to his native Montenegro, but recovered following treatment in Belgium, another expert said.

The 1st victim was infected while being treated in a hospital in Pakistan and died in June 2010, Denis Pierard, a microbiologist from AZ VUB hospital in Brussels where the man had been treated, told Belgian media.

"He was involved in a car accident during a trip to Pakistan. He was hospitalized with a major leg injury and then repatriated to Belgium, but he was already infected," the doctor said. Despite being administered colistin, a powerful antibiotic, the patient died.

He was infected by a bacterium that carried the gene New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase (NDM-1) that makes ordinary bacteria such as *E. coli* resistant to [almost all] antibiotics. It was identified last year [2009] in a Swedish patient admitted to hospital in India.

"The epicentre of the presence of this bacterium seems to be India and Pakistan, but it appears through contact and travel, its spread is becoming wider," said Youri Glupczynski from the University of Leuven.

Germany

Date: Mon 16 Aug 2010

An enzyme which makes bacteria resistant to "almost all antibiotics" has reached Germany, the [German newspaper] Bild said, citing information from the Robert Koch Institute, the federal institution responsible for disease control and prevention.

There have been "individual, isolated proofs of bacteria that produce" the gene, New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase (NDM- 1), the newspaper said, quoting the Institute.

Communicated by:

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UK health authorities were this week [week of 15 Aug 2010] alerted to an alarming jump in patients infected with a new and powerful type of "superbug". The study identified 37 cases of patients infected with bugs carrying the so-called NDM-1 gene, discovered in 2009 and found to confer the almost total antibiotic resistance.

There were about another 140 cases detected across South Asia, raising concerns India's role as a global hub for low-cost surgery would spread the new powerful superbugs worldwide.

Professor Peter Collignon, head of infectious diseases at Canberra Hospital, said Australia had recorded 3 NDM-1 cases. "At least 2 of the people (infected) had been in hospitals in India and

have come back to Australia. We have to do what we can to stop these bugs from coming into Australia ... for our common bugs to lose the miracle drugs, it is a problem."

Fuente: Promed

### **EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS - USA (18): (MICHIGAN) EQUINE, HUMAN SUSPECTED**

A 2nd possible human case of a dangerous viral infection has surfaced in Kalamazoo County [Michigan]. Eastern equine encephalitis [EEE] [virus] has already sickened and killed dozens of horses in Barry, Calhoun, Cass, and St Joseph Counties. Mosquitoes carry the virus and can infect both horses and humans, but human cases are rare. The Centers for Disease Control says there is a 33 percent mortality rate for those infected with EEE [virus], and many of those who survive suffer significant brain damage.

The virus is passed on through infected mosquitoes and officials say the reason they've seen so many cases in 2010 is because of the hot, humid weather, which is encouraging the growth of mosquitoes.

The good news is that most people don't get an infection from the virus, and some [who become infected] don't show signs or symptoms of serious illness. "It's only about 5 percent of people infected with this virus that will get encephalitis, which is infection of the brain and spinal cord," said Dr Richard Tooker, chief medical officer

in Kalamazoo County. "That's obviously serious, and the symptoms would be pretty profound. People will have headaches, stiff neck, perhaps nausea, and vomiting. They may act confused, delirious and that may progress even to coma." Dr Tooker says since 1964 there have only been 13 cases of EEE [virus infection] in humans in Michigan, so he says it's not a common illness.

Dr Tooker did however advise that people take precautions to avoid mosquitoes by replacing broken screens, wearing insect repellent and long-sleeved clothing, and dumping out standing water. He says it takes no more than a teaspoon of water for mosquito larvae to grow.

Fuente: Promed

### **Florida death toll rises for mosquito-borne virus**

Florida (Reuters) - Four Florida residents have died from a mosquito-borne disease that normally afflicts horses, health officials reported on Tuesday as the swampy state enters peak season for mosquito-borne illnesses.

Health officials said last month that two Tampa-area residents had died from eastern equine encephalitis, a viral disease that inflames the brain.

Two additional deaths from the disease known as EEE have since been confirmed, one in the state capital of Tallahassee and one in the northwest Florida town of Sopchoppy.

The disease mostly affects unvaccinated horses but a handful of human deaths are recorded each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There is no human vaccine for the disease, which kills a third of its human victims and often leaves survivors with significant brain damage.

The Florida Department of Health is also tracking two other less deadly mosquito-borne diseases, West Nile virus and dengue fever.

EEE and West Nile virus have been detected in 43 of Florida's 67 counties, while dengue cases have been confirmed in two south Florida counties, Monroe and Broward, according to the state Department of Health.

The dengue virus began showing up in Florida in 2009 after an absence since its last major outbreak in 1934. At least 28 confirmed cases of domestically transmitted dengue fever have been reported in Florida this year, along with 67 foreign-acquired cases. The disease is more prevalent in Central and South America.

Carina Blackmore, state public health veterinarian, said the number of mosquito bites to people, horses and livestock resulting in EEE or West Nile appears consistent with the last several years.

"The two things we try to relay are get rid of mosquitoes and avoid contact," said Blackmore, adding that August and September are peak seasons for most mosquito-borne illnesses.

State health officials are urging residents to avoid contact with mosquitoes by wearing protective clothing and using insect repellent, especially products that include DEET. Homeowners are also asked to remove standing water where mosquitoes breed.

Fuente: Promed

### **Egg recall tied to salmonella grows to 380 million**

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and MIKE STOBBE  
Associated Press Writers

ATLANTA (AP) - Hundreds of people have been sickened in a salmonella outbreak linked to eggs in three states and possibly more, and health officials on Wednesday dramatically expanded a recall to 380 million eggs.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is working with state health departments to investigate the illnesses. No deaths have been reported, said Dr. Christopher Braden, a CDC epidemiologist involved in the investigation.

Initially, 228 million eggs were recalled but that number was increased to the equivalent of nearly 32 million dozen-egg cartons.

Minnesota, a state with some of the best food-borne illness investigators in the country, has tied at least seven salmonella illnesses to the eggs.

Other states have seen a jump in reports of the type of salmonella. For example, California has reported 266 illnesses since June and believes many are related to the eggs. Colorado saw 28 cases in June and July, about four times the usual number. Spikes or clusters of suspicious cases have also been reported in Arizona, Nevada, Illinois, Texas and Wisconsin.

Salmonella is the most common bacterial form of food poisoning. And the strain involved in the outbreak is the most common strain of salmonella, accounting for roughly 20 percent of all salmonella food poisonings.

Unfortunately, current lab tests do not allow health officials to fingerprint this form of salmonella as precisely as other kinds of food-borne illness. So determining the size of a salmonella enteritidis outbreak is a little more challenging, Braden said.

The Food and Drug Administration also is investigating.

Much of the investigation so far has been centered on restaurants in California, Colorado and Minnesota where sick people ate. They are not necessarily breakfast places - it's possible some got sick from eating a salad dressing that had a raw egg in it, or eating soup with an undercooked egg dropped in, Braden said.

In one state, a cluster of illnesses seem to stem from meringue pie, health officials said.

Eggs from Wright County Egg in Galt, Iowa, were linked to several illnesses in the three states. The eggs were distributed around the country and packaged under the names Lucerne, Albertson, Mountain Dairy, Ralph's, Boomsma's, Sunshine, Hillandale, Trafficanda, Farm Fresh, Shoreland, Lund, Dutch Farms and Kemp.

The initial recall was issued last week. Eggs affected by the expanded recall were distributed to food wholesalers, distribution centers and food service companies in California, Colorado, Minnesota, Arkansas, Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Oklahoma, Oregon, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin.

"We are undertaking this additional recall to further protect the safety of consumers - this voluntary measure is consistent with our commitment to egg safety, and it is our responsibility," Wright County Egg officials said in a statement Wednesday evening.

In an earlier statement, company officials said the FDA is "on-site to review records and inspect our barns." The officials said they began the recall Aug. 13.

The most common symptoms of salmonella are diarrhea, abdominal cramps and fever within eight hours to 72 hours of eating a contaminated product. It can be life-threatening, especially to those with weakened immune systems.

This form of salmonella can be passed from chickens that appear healthy. And it grows inside eggs, not just on the shell, Braden noted.

Thoroughly cooking eggs can kill the bacteria. But health officials are recommending people throw away or return the recalled eggs.

Fuente: Promed