



INFORME RESUMEN DE AMENAZAS A LA SALUD PÚBLICA INTERNACIONAL

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CHIKUNGUNYA VIRUS IN FRANCE SPARKS ALERT

French health authorities have asked doctors on the Riviera to be on the alert after a second case was detected in the region this weekend of the mosquito-borne chikungunya virus. Two 12-year-old girls in the town of Frejus have caught the virus that causes fever, headaches and arthritic-type symptoms that leave victims stooped, officials said on Sunday.

They noted that both cases were "native," meaning that the victims had not travelled to the parts of eastern Africa, southeast Asia or the Indian subcontinent where the virus is widespread.

The first ever "native" cases of dengue fever were detected in the French Riviera region earlier this month when two people were diagnosed with the disease that causes a flu-like illness for most victims but which can sometimes be deadly. Dengue is carried by the same tiger mosquito that transmits the chikungunya virus. The insect has moved north in recent years.

There is no known vaccine or treatment for chikungunya, which has infected millions of people in Africa and Asia and can cause debilitating pain and, in extreme cases, death. An outbreak on the French Indian Ocean island of Reunion in 2005 infected a quarter of the population in less than two years, causing some 250 deaths.

Fuente: Medisys

PLAGUE BREAKS OUT IN TIBET

China has issued a health alert in its south-western region of Tibet after five people were diagnosed with the plague, an often fatal infectious disease.

One of the five has already died from a severe lung infection attributed to the pneumonic plague, while one other patient was in a critical condition, the Tibet health department said in a statement on its website. The outbreak was first detected on Thursday last week in Latok village in Tibet's Nyingchi Prefecture, the department said.

The four patients, all of whom had contact with the deceased, have been quarantined, it said. Disease control experts have been dispatched to the area in an effort to control the further spread of the disease, it said.

The department also issued a warning to anyone who has visited the region near the outbreak to seek immediate medical attention should they develop fever, cough or other flu-like symptoms common to the plague.

Fuente: Medisys

ANTHRAX, HUMAN UK (23): (ENGLAND, SCOTLAND), REPORT

Heroin laced with anthrax has killed 16 people in the UK [13 in Scotland, 3 in England - Mod.MHJ] over the past 9 months. The ongoing outbreak is the largest the country has seen for decades, and the 1st ever recorded in injecting drug users.

With cases still turning up [the last case was reported in England in late August 2010, some 7 weeks after the last Scottish case. - Mod.MHJ], questions linger as to whether the infection will persist in this population, and how the drug became contaminated in the 1st place.

Since December 2009, infection with anthrax bacteria has been confirmed in 47 people in Scotland, and officials have investigated hundreds more suspected cases, said Colin Ramsay, consultant epidemiologist at Health Protection. By February 2010 cases of the disease started appearing in England, where 3 people have now died and another recovered from their infection.

At least 2 cases linked to the outbreak were also spotted in Germany. Only one case of anthrax in an injecting drug user has ever been seen before, in Norway in 2000. Medics involved in this case coined the phrase 'injectional anthrax' to describe the route of transmission and appearance of the infection. Both the transmission route and symptoms of injectional cases of anthrax differ from the existing 3 forms of the disease, which are known as cutaneous (skin), gastrointestinal or inhalational anthrax. As a result of the current outbreak, injectional anthrax is now recognised as a new form of the disease.

Fuente: Promed