

7 BEYOND OUR BORDERS

The 'Beyond our Borders' column focuses on selected and current international diseases that may affect South Africans travelling abroad. Numbers correspond to Figure 9 on page 12.

1. Cholera: Yemen

Over 500 000 persons have contracted cholera and over 2 000 people have died since the outbreak began to spread rapidly in war-torn Yemen at the end of April. Campaigns are underway to improve general hygiene measures with messages of how to prevent cholera. Humanitarian aid is ongoing.

2. Avian influenza A(H7N9) viruses

A total of 1 557 laboratory-confirmed cases of human infections with avian influenza A(H7N9) has been reported in China since 2013 with a total of 592 deaths from the virus (38% mortality). The Chinese government has assessed that it is still likely that sporadic cases will occur in the country, taking into consideration the previous epidemic situation and risk assessment.

3. Lassa Fever: Nigeria

Between weeks one and 30 (2017), 366 suspected Lassa fever cases with 88 laboratory-confirmed cases and 56 deaths (CFR, 15.30 percent) from 68 local government authorities in 22 states were reported compared to 760 suspected cases with 74 laboratory-confirmed cases and 87 deaths (CFR, 11.45 percent) from 128 LGAs (27 States) during the same period in 2016. Investigations and active case search is ongoing in affected states.

4. MERS-CoV: Saudi Arabia

In the week of the 12th to the 18th of August 2017, the Saudi Arabia MOH reported 4 new confirmed cases, 1 newly reported fatality and 2 new reported recoveries. As of 18 August 2017, there has been a total of 1 701 laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS-CoV infection, including 687 deaths [CFR 40.4 %],

991 recoveries, and 23 currently active cases, since 2012.

5. Dengue fever: India, China, south east Asia and the Pacific

Dengue fever outbreaks have been increasingly reported across India, China, south east Asia, including Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Pakistan, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Philippines, Laos, Japan and the Pacific (Samoa, Fiji, French Polynesia). Travellers to these areas are advised to take precautions against mosquito bites. Refer to www.promedmail.org, Dengue update 10, 27 August 2017.

6. Dengue fever: Cote D'Ivoire

As of 8 August, 623 cases and 2 deaths (192 laboratory-confirmed cases using PCR, 66% DENV-2, 29% DENV-3, and 5 % DENV-1) have been reported. All cases are from Abidjan, with the majority arising from the Cocody Bingerville suburban area.

7. Cholera: Malawi

Cholera was reported in 9 people in the Chikwawa district [Southern region] of Malawi on 21 August 2017.

Source: (www.promed.org) and the World Health Organization (www.who.int)

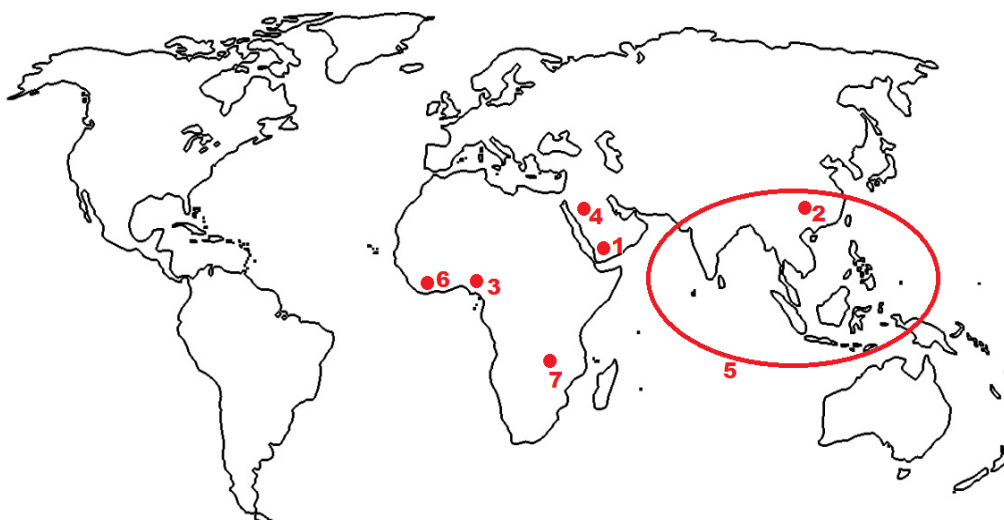


Figure 9. Current outbreaks that may have implications for travellers. Numbers correspond to text above. The red dot is the approximate location of the outbreak or event