



Femeraid Air Rescue International – Weekly Medical Alert 3



FEMERAID AIR RESCUE INTERNATIONAL

# *Weekly Medical Alert*

**15 – 22 OF JANUARY  
WEEK 3 - 2017**

***Femeraid Air Rescue International Unit assesses on weekly basis all Health risk around the World and produces a summarized report for Knights and Dames of Our Sovereign Order and State .***

**Medical Alerts this week : 16      New alerts:5      Updated alerts:11**

**Continents – American/ Europe/Asia/ Africa**

**Countries- Brazil / US / China / Angola / Madagascar / Vanuatu / Australia / Vietnam / Saudi Arabia / Dominican Republic / Haiti / Romania / Pakistan**

**Red Flags** (Imminent risks/ Death)-  (6)

**Yellow Flags** (Actions should be taken) -  (10)

**Green Flags** (Be aware of ) -  (0)

**Femeraid Air Rescue International**

**Emergency number**  
244 921548797

Malta / Angola  
La valleta / Luanda

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**These medical alerts are compiled by Femeraid Air Rescue team with reliable information from WHO, CDC Atlanta and others.**

**If a Knight or Dame requires more details about a particular risk or location and how to mitigate the risk, please contact our team through the details provided on last page**

#### [Brazil: Yellow fever outbreak](#)

There is an outbreak of yellow fever in Minas Gerais with at least 10 municipalities affected. There have been several fatalities. There were outbreaks in the states of Sao Paulo and Goias in December 2016. Yellow fever is a viral disease transmitted by mosquitoes. Symptoms range from a mild flu-like illness to a severe haemorrhagic fever with liver failure. About half of all serious cases are fatal. Prevention is through vaccination and avoiding mosquito bites. Travellers visiting affected areas should be vaccinated at least ten days prior to arrival to prevent infection.

#### [United States: Mumps outbreak](#)

A large mumps outbreak continues across the United States. More than 45 states have reported cases, including the District of Columbia. The states of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, New York and Oklahoma have recorded the most cases. The outbreaks are largely linked to local university campuses and schools however, workplaces have also been affected in some states. Mumps is caused by a virus that spreads from person-to-person via infected droplets. It is highly contagious and nearly all cases occur among unvaccinated people. Symptoms include fever, painful and swollen glands, pain on swallowing and in men, the testes can become inflamed. Serious complications can occur. All travellers should ensure they are fully vaccinated against mumps.

#### [China: Bird flu in humans](#)

Human cases of bird flu continue to be reported. Some have resulted in severe illness and death. Cases have been recorded in at least ten provinces including Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guizhou, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Shandong, Shanghai and Zhejiang. A case occurred in Macao, and three cases in Hong Kong imported from the mainland. The majority of people infected had direct contact with birds. There is no indication bird flu is spreading readily between people. The overall risk of infection appears to be low. Prevent infection by paying attention to hygiene and avoiding contact with birds and their environment.

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### [Angola: Cholera outbreak](#)

A cholera outbreak in the municipality of Soyo, province of Zaire, has caused a number of deaths. Cholera is spread via contaminated food and water. Symptoms include vomiting and profuse, watery diarrhoea which can lead to severe dehydration. Travellers staying in quality accommodation are at low risk. Pay strict attention to hygiene and consider vaccination.

### [Angola: Local Zika transmission](#)

Cases of locally-acquired Zika infection have been reported in Angola. Zika is transmitted primarily through mosquito bites however sexual transmission also occurs. Although symptoms of Zika are usually mild and self-limited, severe and irreversible birth defects may occur in the babies of women infected when pregnant. Pregnant women are advised to consider postponing travel to any area where Zika virus transmission is ongoing and to discuss their risks with their doctor. Those who are in affected areas should protect themselves against mosquito bites and sexual transmission. After travel, ongoing precautions against sexual transmission are recommended for 8 weeks at least.

### [Madagascar: Plague outbreak in Atsimo-Atsinanana, Ihorombe](#)

Cases of plague continue to be reported in Atsimo-Atsinanana and Ihorombe regions of Madagascar. Many have died. Although plague is known to occur in Madagascar, the outbreak affected area lies outside of regions that commonly report cases. The disease is caused by a bacterium which mainly affects rodents. It is occasionally transmitted to humans when they are bitten by fleas carrying the bacteria, or more rarely via contact with an infected animal or person. Prevent infection by avoiding flea bites and maintaining strict hygiene precautions.

### [Vanuatu: Increase in dengue activity](#)

Cases of dengue continue to rise in Vanuatu. Port Vila is the most affected area. Cases have also been reported from Efate, Eton, Mele and Tanna. Dengue is consistently present in the country. The disease is spread by mosquitoes, and is present in both rural and urban areas. Dengue can cause a range of symptoms and has no particular treatment. Some people, especially those who have been infected before, get a more severe form that can lead to fatal complications. Prevent infection by avoiding mosquito bites.

### [Australia: Melioidosis in the Northern Territory](#)

There is an increased risk of melioidosis associated with recent windy and rainy conditions. The bacterial infection can cause a severe illness, especially in people who have underlying health conditions. It is spread through open skin wounds, and through inhaling the bacteria. Prevent infection by staying indoors during strong windy and rainy weather, and wear protective gear when in muddy areas, or when handling soil, or items with soil or mud.

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### [Vietnam: Ongoing Zika transmission](#)

Zika outbreak is ongoing in parts of Vietnam, particularly in Ho Chi Minh city. Zika is transmitted primarily through mosquito bites. Sexual transmission occurs. Although symptoms of Zika are usually mild and self-limited, there is a risk of severe and irreversible birth defects in the babies of women infected when pregnant. Pregnant women are advised to discuss their risks with their doctor and consider postponing travel to any area where Zika virus transmission is ongoing. Those who are in affected areas should protect themselves against mosquito bites and sexual transmission. After travel, ongoing precautions against sexual transmission are recommended

### [Saudi Arabia: MERS-CoV](#)

Cases of Middle East Respiratory syndrome (MERS-CoV) continue to be reported across Saudi Arabia. Several cases have been recorded this year, including some fatalities. Since the beginning of November 2016, over 40 cases have been reported. There is no suggestion that the virus is transmitting more readily. Overall the risk to travellers is low if precautions are taken. Avoid contact with sick people and practice good general hygiene. Avoid contact with camels and do not eat or drink raw camel products, this is especially important if you have underlying health problems.

### [Dominican Republic: Leptospirosis outbreak](#)

An increase in cases of leptospirosis continues, especially in the north. Leptospirosis is always present in the Dominican Republic but the country experiences surges after storms and during the rainy season. The bacterial disease is mainly spread through contaminated water entering the body through the skin or mucous membranes (eyes, nose, or mouth). Symptoms are often mild and flu-like, but the infection can be severe. Untreated, it can cause organ failure which can be fatal. Antibiotics are used to treat the disease. Prevention is through avoiding exposure and paying attention to hygiene.

### [Haiti: Ongoing cholera outbreak](#)

A Cholera outbreak continues in Haiti. An increase in cases has been reported since Hurricane Matthew struck in early October. Although cholera activity has been occurring throughout the country, the departments of Grand Anse, Nippe and Sud are worst affected. Cholera is a known risk in Haiti. It spreads via contaminated food and water. Symptoms include vomiting and profuse, watery diarrhoea which can lead to severe dehydration. Travellers staying in quality accommodation are at low risk. Pay strict attention to hygiene and consider vaccination.

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### [Australia: Increase in mosquito-borne diseases](#)

Viruses spread via mosquito bites, such as Ross River and Barmah Forest viruses, are increasing, particularly in parts of New South Wales and Victoria. Recent rains have led to an increase in mosquitoes. In far north Queensland, locally-acquired cases of dengue fever have been reported. Symptoms common to these diseases include fever, muscle and joint aches, headache and rash. Prevent infection by avoiding mosquito bites.

### [Romania: Measles outbreak](#)

An outbreak of measles is underway. Approximately 1,800 cases have been reported, 800 of which occurred in only 6 weeks. Most people with the disease had not been vaccinated and authorities have ramped up vaccination campaigns to prevent further spread of the disease. At least 30 counties have recorded cases, while Arad, Bristrita and Mures regions are the worst affected. Several fatalities have occurred. Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus that spreads from person-to-person via infectious droplets. Prevention is through vaccination.

### [United States: Locally acquired Zika in Texas and Florida](#)

Locally acquired Zika infection continues to be reported from Miami-Dade County in the State of Florida. Several cases have also been reported from the County of Cameron in the State of Texas.

### [Pakistan: Chikungunya outbreak in Karachi](#)

An outbreak of chikungunya is ongoing in Sindh province. This is the first time cases of the disease have been confirmed in the country. Chikungunya can cause a severe illness, particularly in newborn babies, older adults, and people with underlying health issues (such as diabetes, heart disease, weakened immune system). Prevent infection by avoiding mosquito bites.

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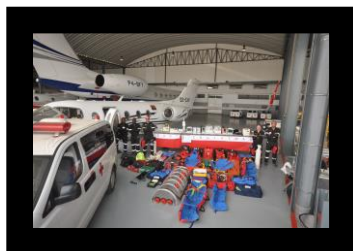
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*We are anywhere*

*Everywhere...you may need*

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