



Femeraid Air Rescue International – Weekly Medical Alert 4



FEMERAID AIR RESCUE INTERNATIONAL

# *Weekly Medical Alert*

**23 – 30 OF JANUARY  
WEEK 4 - 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 .*

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Medical Alerts this week : 16    New alerts: 4    Updated alerts: 12  
 Continents – America /Asia/ Africa /Middle East  
 Countries- Zambia/ China /Thailand / Cuba /Pakistan /Brazil /United States  
 /New Caledonia / Solomon Islands /Tanzania /Canada /Malaysia /Singapore/  
 Nigeria/ Pakistan / Yemen.

**Red Flags** (Imminent risks/ Death)-  (1)

**Yellow Flags** (Actions should be taken) -  (14)

**Green Flags** (Be aware of ) -  (1)

**Femeraid Air Rescue International**

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**Emergency number**  
244 921548797

Malta / Angola  
La valleta / Luanda

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**These medical alerts are compiled by Fameraid 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**

### [Zambia: Anthrax outbreak reported in Western province](#)

There is an outbreak of anthrax among cattle in Kalabo, Western Zambia and the consumption of contaminated meat has infected a number of people. In response, authorities are implementing quarantine measures to stop the spread and urging locals not to eat the meat or to touch any animals that die suddenly. Anthrax is a potentially fatal bacterial disease that spreads to people through contact with infected animals or their products. Symptoms depend on the type of anthrax infection and include ulcers, fever, swollen lymph nodes, breathing difficulty and gastrointestinal symptoms. Anthrax is treated with antibiotics. The risk of infection is limited to those knights and dames who are in the affected area and are in contact with animals or their products or environment.

### [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 Hong Kong has reported four imported cases, 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.

### [Thailand: Zika virus](#)

Locally-acquired Zika cases have been reported from a number of regions including Bangkok, BuengKan, Chiang Mai, Chanthaburi, and Phetchabun. Zika is transmitted primarily through mosquito bites. While less common, sexual transmission occurs. Although symptoms 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 discuss their risks with their doctor and consider delaying travel to Zika-affected areas. Those Knights and Dames who are in affected areas should protect themselves against mosquito bites and sexual transmission. After travel to the affected areas, ongoing precautions against sexual transmission are recommended for at least 8 weeks according WHO.

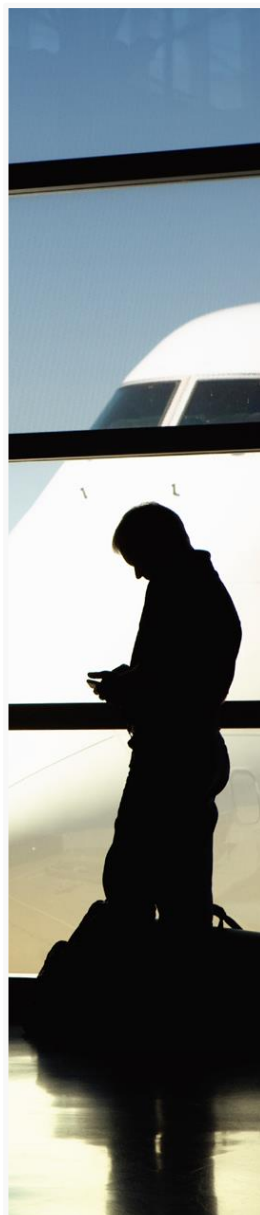
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### Cuba: Malaria cases in Cienfuegos province

Cases of malaria have been detected in the municipality of Rodas in Cienfuegos Province. Malaria is not a known risk in Cuba. The disease is spread through mosquito bites and can prevent malaria our unit recommend Malarone for malaria prophylaxis.

### Pakistan: Polio update

Polio remains an ongoing risk. In addition to the regular strains of polio, 'circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2)' strain has been detected in a paralytic case and an environmental sample. 'Wild polio virus type 1' strain was also found to be in circulation in the environment. Polio is a highly contagious viral illness that causes paralysis and death. It is prevented by vaccination and careful selection of food and water. The risk for Knights and Dames is low. Vaccination is recommended prior to travel to Pakistan, and proof of vaccination may be required to exit the country, and for entry to subsequent destinations

### Brazil: Yellow fever outbreak

Cases of yellow fever, including several fatalities, have been reported from at least 15 municipalities of Minas Gerais. There were previous outbreaks reported 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. The Knights and Dames travelling and 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 Knights and Dames should ensure they are fully vaccinated against mumps.

### New Caledonia (France): Dengue outbreak

An increase in cases of dengue fever has been recorded in New Caledonia since late December 2016. A large spike occurred in the first week of January and authorities have stepped up human health surveillance and mosquito control measures as a result. Dengue outbreaks have occurred on other islands in the South Pacific and passenger travel between

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the islands can introduce the virus to local mosquitoes. The disease is spread by mosquitoes, and these inhabit 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. Although a vaccine has been developed, it is only available in a small number of countries and is not recommended. Prevent infection by avoiding mosquito bites prevention.

### [Solomon Islands: Rise in Dengue activity](#)

Cases of dengue fever continue to be reported in almost all provinces. Guadalcanal province, including the capital Honiara, is significantly affected. Central, Choiseul, Malaita, Isabel, Makira, Temotu and Western provinces have also recorded cases. Dengue is consistently present in Solomon Islands. It 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.

### [Tanzania: Cholera outbreaks](#)

There are two cholera outbreaks in the regions of Katavi and Dodoma, causing a number of fatalities. Cholera is spread via contaminated food and water. Symptoms include vomiting and profuse, watery diarrhoea which can lead to severe dehydration. The Knights and Dames staying in quality accommodation are at low risk. Pay strict attention to hygiene and consider vaccination.

### [Canada: Rise in gastrointestinal illnesses linked to oysters](#)

An increase in gastrointestinal illnesses, related to consumption of oysters, has been reported from parts of British Columbia. Many people have fallen ill after eating raw or improperly cooked oysters in homes and restaurants. Cases are anticipated to increase further. Gastrointestinal infections usually cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and cramps in stomach. Although self-limiting, these infections may occasionally cause severe illness. To prevent gastrointestinal infections, practice hygiene and select safe food and water.

### [Malaysia: Zika transmission](#)

Local transmission of Zika virus has been reported in parts of Malaysia including, Likas, Sabah and Johor Bahru. Increased surveillance and mosquito control activities are ongoing. Zika may be established in the local mosquito population however, the extent and intensity of spread is uncertain at this time. 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

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### Singapore: Local cases of Zika

Local Zika cases have been reported in Singapore. The outbreak was centered around the Aljunied Crescent, Sims Drive, Kallang Way and Payar Lebar areas, however some confirmed cases worked or live in other areas of the city. The first local cases were detected in August 2016. The virus may now be established in the local mosquito population.

### Nigeria: Lassa fever outbreak

There has been an increase in Lassa fever cases. At least seven states have recorded infections, including several fatalities. Authorities are responding to prevent further spread. Lassa fever is a viral haemorrhagic fever, transmitted to humans on contact with excretions from infected rodents. Outbreaks occur through direct contact with body fluids of an infected person. Risk to the Knights and Dames travelling to Nigeria is low. Prevent infection through observing strict hygiene and avoiding contact with sick people.

### 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 measures.

### Yemen: Cholera outbreak deepens

A major cholera outbreak continues in Yemen, with more than 15,000 suspected cases, including numerous deaths. The affected governorates include Abyan, Aden, Al-Bayda'a, Al-Dhale'a, Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, Amran, Dhamar, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahij, Raymah, Sana'a, Ta'izz and also Sana'a City. The majority of cases (>80%) have been in Aldala'a, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Lahaj and Ta'izz. Cholera is consistently present in the country and is spread via contaminated food and water. Symptoms include vomiting and profuse, watery diarrhea which can lead to severe dehydration. The Knights and Dames staying in quality accommodation are at low risk. Pay strict attention to hygiene and consider vaccination.

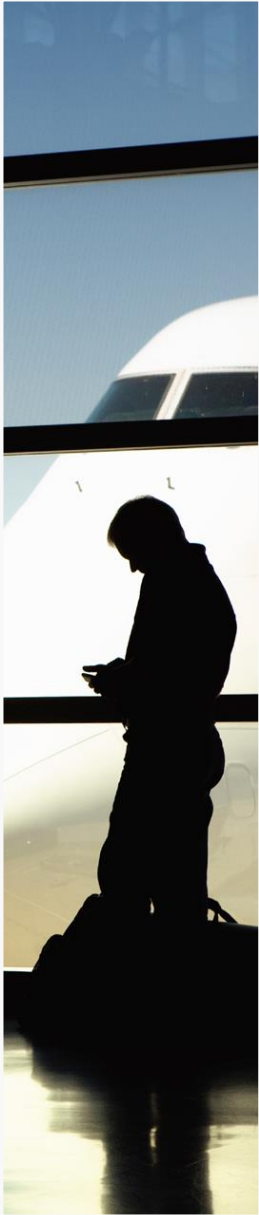
## FEMERAID AIR RESCUE TEAM INTERNATIONAL UNIT

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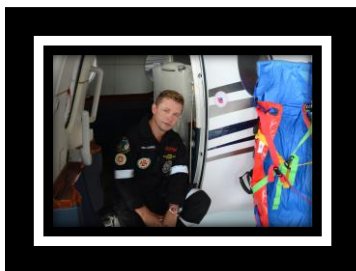
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