

Department of Health
 Bureau of Quarantine
International Health Surveillance Division
Quarantine Services and International Health Surveillance System (QSIHSS)
Health Information Update

Source: WHO, Event Information Site for IHR National Focal
 Event Updates: **14 February 2019 to 19 February 2019**

Event Updated	Country	Hazard	Disease	Event Description	IHR Assessment
2019-02-19	Mexico	Infectious	Antibiotic Resistant Agents (Resistant <i>P. aeruginosa</i> infections linked to hospitals in Tijuana for surgical procedures)	On 12 February 2019, the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization received a report regarding surgical site infections caused by antibiotic resistant <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> traced to an hospital in Tijuana, Mexico. As of 11 February, a total of 20 cases have been identified in 9 states in the United States, including 16 confirmed and 4 suspected cases. As per the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US-CDC) case definition, a confirmed case is defined as Verona integron-encoded metallo-beta-lactamase-producing carbapenem-resistant <i>P. aeruginosa</i> (VIM-CRPA) isolated from a patient who had an invasive procedure in Mexico in the month prior to collection of VIM+ culture. A suspect case is CRPA unavailable for mechanism testing or pending mechanism testing from a patient who had an invasive procedure in Mexico in the month prior to collection of culture. Two of the cases were reported retrospectively and had dates of specimen collection in 2015 and 2017, while the remaining cases had dates of specimen collection between 5 September 2018 and 24 January 2019. Fifteen of the total cases reported having surgery, primarily for weight loss, at the Grand View Hospital in Tijuana, Mexico, while the remainder reported attending Florence Hospital (the 2 retrospective cases), Clinica San Juan (1 case), mi Doctor (1 case), and Angeles Hospital (1 case). Half of the cases reported used the same medical tourism agency based in the United States. A total of 13 cases have been hospitalized in the United States for complications following procedures in Mexico. One patient with a bloodstream infection and several underlying comorbidities who underwent a procedure in Tijuana died; this patient did not have surgery at Grand View Hospital. Of the 17 cases with available information, 14 (82%) were female, and ages range from 29 to 62 years (median 39 years). Most patients have presented with a surgical site infection. In addition to the United States and Canada, the same medical tourism agency based in the United States reportedly referred 6 patients from 5 different countries to Grand View Hospital since 1 August 2018. As part of the local investigation, it was identified that reusable equipment was	Public Health Risk (PHR)



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				<p>not being appropriately processed at the Grand View Hospital, which poses a small but potential risk of transmission for bloodborne infections among patients.</p> <p>On 9 January, the US-CDC issued a Travel Notice (Alert level 2) regarding resistant <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> infections linked to surgeries at Grand View Hospital and on 28 January an update was published. On January 22, 2019, the US-CDC issued a notification on its website recommending that individuals who had surgery at Grand View Hospital on or after August 1, 2018 talk to their healthcare provider about getting tested for the bloodborne pathogens hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).</p> <p><i>WHO recommends against the application of any general travel or trade restrictions to Mexico based on the information available for this event.</i></p>	
2019-02-14	Nigeria	Infectious	Poliomyelitis, Acute Paralytic, Vaccine-associated	<p>A circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) that originated in Jigawa State, Nigeria, since 2018, continues to spread geographically. A cVDPV2 case has been confirmed in Kwara state, in the West of the country, from Baruten Local Government Area (LGA), located on the border with Benin. The case had onset of paralysis on 5 December 2018, in a 3-year old girl. Kwara State is a previously non-infected state that has not implemented any outbreak response. This ongoing outbreak that originated in Jigawa State in 2018 has continued to spread nationally, as well as internationally to the neighboring Republic of Niger. Since detection of the original outbreak in Jigawa last year, 43 cases have now been reported, including 34 cases from seven different states in Nigeria, and nine cases from the Republic of Niger have been reported. It is pertinent to mention that Nigeria is also affected by a separate cVDPV2 outbreak localized in Sokoto State (most recent cVDPV2 isolate: June 2018). Three cVDPV2-positive environmental samples were reported in the past week: one from Maiduguri LGA in Borno state, collected on 11 December; one from Zaria and one from Ikara LGAs in Kaduna state, collected on 30 November and 11 December 2018 respectively.</p> <p>The ongoing spread of this outbreak is of concern, and the risk of further spread internationally is now magnified, given the proximity of the Kwara case to the Republic of Benin.</p>	Public Health Risk (PHR)



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				<p>The International Health Regulation recommends that all travelers to polio-affected areas be fully vaccinated against polio. Residents and visitors for more than four weeks from infected areas should receive an additional dose of OPV or inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) within four weeks to 12 months of travel. As per the advice of the Emergency Committee convened under the International Health Regulations (2005), efforts to limit the international spread of poliovirus must continue as it remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Countries affected by poliovirus transmission are subject to Temporary Recommendations. To comply with the Temporary Recommendations issued under the PHEIC, any country infected by poliovirus should declare the outbreak as a national public health emergency and consider vaccination of all international travelers.</p>
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*A **public health risk** is something that is (or is likely to be) hazardous to human **health** or could contribute to a disease or an infectious condition in humans.