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Health Information Update

Source: WHO, Event Information Site for IHR National Focal
Event Updates: **17 August 2018**

Event Updated	Country	Hazard	Disease	Event Description	IHR Assessment
2018-08-17	France	Infectious	Yellow Fever	<p>On 14 August 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) received information about a confirmed yellow fever case in French Guiana. On 10 August 2018, the French National Reference Centre for arboviruses (Institut Pasteur de la Guyane) reported an autochthonous laboratory confirmed case of yellow fever in an unvaccinated 47-year-old Swiss man in French Guiana. The case lived in a forest area of the commune of Roura, French Guiana, since April 2018, and was involved in a trail development in the week preceding the onset of symptoms. The patient developed flu-like symptoms on 4 August and on 8 August was hospitalized in Cayenne, French Guiana, with a fulminant hepatitis. On 9 August, he was transferred to Paris where he received a liver transplant.</p> <p>Epidemiological and entomological investigations have been conducted and no additional case in the zone of patient's accommodation has been identified. Contacts persons did not report any unusual non-human primates (NHP) mortality in this area. RT-PCR conducted at French National Reference Centre for arboviruses, Institut Pasteur de la Guyane was positive for yellow fever.</p> <p>The following measures were done by public health authorities: Vector control measures strengthened around the risk zone (accommodation, health care facilities, airport). Information to health care workers to raise awareness about yellow fever. Mass media communication (press release, radio spot) for local awareness, encouraging vaccination. Reinforcement of control of immunization status of travelers</p> <p>Yellow fever is an acute viral hemorrhagic disease that has the potential to spread rapidly and cause serious public health impact in unimmunized population. Vaccination is the most important means of preventing the infection. <i>French Guiana is considered at risk for yellow fever transmission and a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for travelers over one (1) year of age.</i> Vaccination coverage in French Guiana is optimal, however, the coverage in some populations could be suboptimal and therefore at risk for yellow fever infections. Yellow fever can easily be prevented through immunization provided that vaccination is administered at least 10 days before travel. A single dose of yellow fever vaccine is sufficient to confer sustained immunity and life-long protection against yellow fever disease and a booster dose of the vaccine is not needed.</p> <p>WHO, therefore, reminds Members States to strengthen the control of immunization status of travelers to all potentially endemic areas. Viraemic returning travelers may pose a risk for the establishment of local cycles of yellow fever transmission in areas where the competent vector is present. If there are medical grounds for not getting vaccinated, this must be certified by the appropriate authorities.</p> <p><i>WHO does not recommend that any general travel or trade restriction be applied on French Guiana based on the information available for this event.</i></p>	Public Health Risk (PHR)

*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.