



The Union/Steve Forrest/Workers' Photos

been studied in the UK with a long follow-up, but not before in Africa.

The TITI study in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, and the Central African Republic involved screening children younger than 5 years who had been in contact with active tuberculosis and giving preventive treatment

to those who were negative. Of the 1745 children who started 6 months of isoniazid or 3 months of rifampicin-isoniazid, 94% completed treatment and only one developed active tuberculosis.

Lead author Valérie Schwoebel said the activity was well accepted within

the programmatic context. "The next step is how to take advantage of the results to implement the contact investigation at national scale, with countries adapting the model to their own organization."

Campaigners welcome the focus on prevention but say it should be an equal part of a three-pronged approach including treatment and better diagnostics. Lucica Ditiu, a dynamic Romanian public health doctor who runs the Stop TB Partnership, a global UN partnership of 1800 organisations in 100 countries, says that one of the biggest problems the tuberculosis community has had in the past was to prioritise one over the other. "I would put them in one package. People need to think in a comprehensive way, and use a comprehensive package. That will be the only way that we will end TB."

Jacqui Thornton

Jacqui Thornton was a media scholar at the 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health, which provided her air fare and accommodation expenses to attend



Infectious disease surveillance update

Measles in DR Congo

222 939 cases of measles have been reported in DRC, from the beginning of the year to Oct 20, including 4435 deaths. Overall, 230 of the 519 health zones in the country have confirmed outbreaks. Most cases have been reported from Tshopo, Kasai, Haut-Lomami, Kwilu, and South Ubangi provinces. This is this year's largest outbreak. Children younger than 5 years are the most affected, especially those who lose their maternal immunity early.

Dengue in Spain

On Nov 7, one of the first ever cases of sexually transmitted dengue fever was reported in Madrid, Spain. The case was diagnosed at the Ramón y Cajal Hospital, in a man who had unprotected sex with another man who had recently visited Cuba and the Caribbean. The patient arrived with symptoms of high fever, cutaneous

erythema, and intense pain, following microbiological confirmation of dengue fever. The patient had no history of travel to an endemic area globally or having visited the coastal areas in Spain where the vector has settled. Genetic testing showed that the patient and the sexual partner harboured the same strain, which matches the strain currently circulating in Cuba.

Hepatitis A in NJ, USA

541 cases of hepatitis A have been reported in New Jersey, USA between the beginning of the outbreak in December 2018 and Nov 2, including six deaths. Of these cases, 512 met the national outbreak case definition used to standardise information from the affected states. 337 of 398 cases with data available were hospitalised. Most cases have been reported in the south of the state with the highest numbers being reported in Camden county (140) and Gloucester county (62).

New Jersey is one of 28 states currently dealing with hepatitis A outbreaks. According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nationally since the outbreaks began in 2016, 27 634 people have been infected.

Klebsiella in Germany

An outbreak of multidrug-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* sequence type 307 was reported in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, in Germany. The strain is carbapenemase producing (NDM-1 and OXA-48) and colistin resistant. As of Oct 21, 17 cases have been reported from three hospitals and a rehabilitation centre. Six of the 17 cases presented with symptoms; the remaining were carriers. *K pneumoniae* ST307 is a high-risk clone expanding globally, including in the EU/EEA in 2019 where it was introduced through Germany and Finland.

Ruth Zwizwai

For more on **measles in DR Congo** see <http://outbreaknewstoday.com/drcongo-measles-epidemic-continues-rise-nearly-223k-cases-to-date-38239/>

For more on **dengue in Spain** see <http://outbreaknewstoday.com/dengue-sexual-transmission-reported-in-madrid-45857/>

For more on **hepatitis A in the USA** see <https://www.nj.com/news/2019/11/nj-hepatitis-a-outbreak-number-of-cases-up-to-541-as-hundreds-line-up-for-vaccines.html>

For more on **klebsiella in Germany** see <https://www.promedmail.org/post/6758919>