



Issouf Sanogo/Staff

every day by a nurse and take an 8-week course of antibiotics that caused side-effects, including nausea, headaches, a metallic taste in her mouth, and crippling lethargy.

Fortunately, her wounds did not require surgery, which is reserved for severe cases.

In the short term, increased awareness about Buruli ulcer and

documents such as WHO's training guide should help clinicians in endemic areas. However, to control Buruli ulcer in Australia, there needs to be a better understanding of why it has been increasing in this area. Johnson warns that "we are now observing the appearance of new endemic areas and currently there may be five or more active foci of disease transmission with different dynamics", but also points out that occurrence of Buruli ulcer has been known to fluctuate in Australia. In the 1990s, the disease was endemic on Phillip Island, off the south coast, but now no longer. No one knows why. WHO and local researchers will continue to monitor the disease in southeast Australia.

Rebecca Barksby



## Infectious disease surveillance update

For more on **Ebola in DR Congo** see <http://www.promedmail.org/post/6406092>

For more on **measles in Ukraine** see <http://outbreaknewstoday.com/rate-measles-ukraine-rising-35k-cases-reported-year-date-81902/>

For more on **MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia** see <https://www.who.int/csr/don/29-march-2019-mers-saudi-arabia/en/>

For more on **salmonella in Canada** see <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/public-health-notices/2019/outbreak-salmonella.html>

For more on **Lassa fever in Nigeria** see <http://www.promedmail.org/post/6408268>

### Ebola in DR Congo

1107 cases of Ebola virus infection have been reported in North Kivu and Ituri provinces in DR Congo as of April 3. 289 suspected cases remain under investigation. A total of 695 patients have died from their illness while 339 people have recovered. Since vaccinations began on Aug 8, 2018, 94 791 people have been vaccinated with the rVSV-ZEBOV vaccine. The epidemic is not slowing. According to WHO, in the last week of March alone there were 72 newly confirmed cases and one new probable case. Between March 11 and 31, 57 health areas in 12 health zones reported new cases.

### Measles in Ukraine

During March 22–28, 2254 cases of measles were reported in Ukraine (1133 in adults and 1141 in children). 35 002 cases of measles have been reported since the beginning of the year as of April 1. 15 886 adults and

19 116 children have been ill, with 14 deaths.

### MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia

Between Feb 1 and 28, 68 more cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infection have been reported in Saudi Arabia, including ten deaths. 49 of the cases were reported in Wadi Aldawasir, including seven of the deaths. The remaining 19 were reported in regions including Riyadh and Al Qassim. From 2012 to Feb 28, 2019, a total of 2374 laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS-CoV have been reported worldwide, including 823 associated deaths.

### Salmonella in Canada

63 laboratory-confirmed cases of *Salmonella enteritidis* illness reported across six provinces in Canada are being investigated to determine the source of the outbreak. The cases were reported between November, 2018

and March, 2019, with patients ranging from the age of 1 to 87 years-old; 18 patients have been admitted to hospital. The cases were reported in several provinces, including British Columbia (23), Alberta (ten), Manitoba (ten), Ontario (ten), Saskatchewan (eight), and Quebec (two).

### Lassa fever in Nigeria

During March 25–31, 16 new confirmed cases of Lassa fever were reported across five states in Nigeria. During this period, two deaths were reported, one from Taraba state and the other from Bauchi state. Up to March 31, 2034 suspected cases have been reported across 21 states in Nigeria in 2019. Of those, 526 were confirmed as positive and 1693 negative, while the remaining 15 are classified as probable. Of the confirmed cases, there have been 121 deaths reported. 6489 contacts have been identified.

Ruth Zwizwai