

Annual emerging infection surveillance report for 2021

February 2022

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Key: Outcomes of the Emerging Infectious Agent Report analysis

Risk assessment	Colour	Decision/action
Very low	White	No further action No further action required at this time beyond the formal recording of the analysis and any subsequent recommendations for further or on-going review
Likely very low and/or insufficient information at this time	Grey	Minor changes to GDRI If new infectious agent, maintain awareness and gather additional information before taking any other action.
Low	Green	No specific additional action at this time Maintain awareness
Potential risk	Amber	Potential risk present Although a potential risk, the reports are currently either ad-hoc cases or increasing spread of known risk. Close watching brief for changes in incidence and spread of infectious agent. Ongoing review of the situation, which may be dealt with in the first instance by the Professional Director of JPAC and chairs of relevant SACs, but which may subsequently require action from SACTTI.
Potential risk	Red	Risk present Risk present and a full SACTTI risk assessment is required, together with possible immediate action. SaBTO involvement may be required. If immediate action is required, this to be discussed initially between Professional Director of JPAC and the Chairs of relevant SACs.
n/a	Blue	Relevant for organ donation.

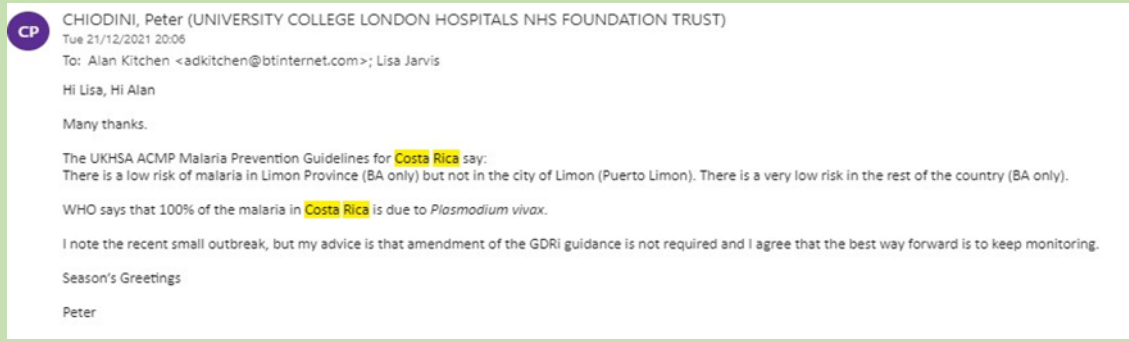
EIARs that required action, further discussion or monitoring, or no action by SACTTI

Month	Year	Infectious agent/disease	Country	Comment	SACTTI Review
Dec/Jan	2020	WNV	Brazil	NON PEER REVIEW West Nile virus detection in horses in three Brazilian states. [WNV not in GDRI]	No action: Report of case in 2015 in human. Serological evidence only. Do not apply WNV flag at this stage.
Dec/Jan	2020	Bat Lyssavirus	France	France reports death due to rabies-European bat Lyssavirus type 1, a 1st for the mainland in France.	No action: Information for ODT
Jan/Feb	2021	West Nile Virus	Europe	Epidemiological update: West Nile virus transmission season in Europe, 2020: Badajoz, Spain not covered by GDRI	Action: Monitor ECD WNV reports in 2021. GDRI can be updated if further cases identified in Badajoz in 2021
Jan/Feb	2021	Chikungunya	USA	In 2020, 22 chikungunya virus disease cases were reported in the US [States not included in GDRI]	No action: All imported cases
Jan/Feb	2021	HHV8	USA	Donor-derived human herpesvirus 8 and development of Kaposi sarcoma among 6 recipients of organs from donors with high-risk sexual and substance use behavior.	No action: Information for ODT
Jan/Feb	2021	HTLV	Japan	Estimation of the window period of human T-cell leukemia virus type 1 and 2 tests by a lookback study of seroconverters among Japanese voluntary blood donors:	No action: Data on HTLV Window Period for SACTTI HTLV Risk Assessment
Jan/Feb	2021	Yellow Fever	Asia	Yellow fever in Asia-a risk analysis.	Action: SACTTI risk assessment in progress
Feb/Mar	2021	Hemoplasma haemohomini	Australia	Hemoplasma haemohomini, A New Human Pathogen membranes, resulting in fever and hemolytic anemia. In animals the disease is associated with underlying immunosuppression and or coinfection with other pathogens.	No action: Case report
Feb/Mar	2021	Malaria	El Salvador	The World Health Organization has granted El Salvador certification of malaria elimination. [Currently risk cat C in GDRI].	Action: Chair of SACCSO informed 02/03/2020
Feb/Mar	2021	Powassan virus	USA	Powassan Virus Infection Likely Acquired Through Blood Transfusion Presenting as Encephalitis in a Kidney Transplant Recipient	Action: Case report - maintain watching brief

Month	Year	Infectious agent/disease	Country	Comment	SACTTI Review
Mar/Apr	2021	Babesia	UK	Severe babesiosis due to Babesia divergens acquired in the United Kingdom:	Action: Discussed at SACTTI parasite meeting
Mar/Apr	2021	Babesia	USA	Using Data Surveillance to Understand the Rising Incidence of Babesiosis in the United States, 2011-2018:	Action: Discussed at SACTTI parasite meeting
Mar/Apr	2021	Toscana Virus	Romania	Emergence of Toscana Virus, Romania, 2017–2018: report of a series of severe neuroinvasive infections caused by Toscana virus, identified by real-time reverse transcription PCR testing,	No action: Theoretically an agent capable of TTI although no reports to date
Apr/May	2021	Zika	USA	FDA decision that Zika Virus is no Longer a Relevant Transfusion-Transmitted Infection. Because ZIKV is no longer an RTTI, blood establishments may discontinue testing for ZIKV.	No action: For SACTTI Zika Risk Assessment
Apr/May	2021	Malaria	Spain	Migration-associated malaria from Africa in southern Spain:	Action: Maintain watching brief
Apr/May	2021	Malaria	Europe	In 2019, 8,641 malaria cases were reported in the EU and EEA, of which 8,638 were confirmed. Nine confirmed cases were reported as acquired in the EU	No action: Cases acquired in EU considered individually as they arose
May/Jun	2021	Dengue	USA	Fatal Dengue Acquired in Florida:	Action: Monitor. Low number of locally acquired cases.
May/Jun	2021	Malaria	China	China is certified malaria-free by WHO: [GDRI - Yunnan province listed as risk area]	Action: Inform Chair of SACCSD
May/Jun	2021	Filariasis	International	Filariasis and transfusion-associated risk: a literature review.	No action: Rare examples of transfusion-transmitted filariasis, without serious clinical effect, suggest that filariasis poses low transfusion risk.
May/Jun	2021	HHV8	Italy	Successful Treatment of Suspected Donor-derived Human Herpesvirus-8 Infection in a Liver Transplant Patient With Coronavirus Disease-19.	No action: For ODT
May/Jun	2021	Malaria	France	Preventing transfusion-transmitted malaria in France:	No action: TTIs from malaria ab negative/DNA positive donations noted.
Jun/Jul	2021	Monkey B virus	China	First Human Infection Case of Monkey B Virus Identified in China, 2021:	No action: Covered in DSG for animal bites outwith UK

Month	Year	Infectious agent/disease	Country	Comment	SACTTI Review
Jun/Jul	2021	Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic fever (CCHF)	Spain	On 18 June 2021, the ECDC reported two cases of CCHF in Spain during 2021.	Action: CCHF Risk Assessment to be reviewed at next SACTTI
Jun/Jul	2021	HBV	Japan	Prolonged incubation period of hepatitis B in a recipient of a nucleic acid amplification test-negative hepatitis B virus window donation.	No action: Report to SACTTI. Of note for possible TTI investigations
Jun/Jul	2021	HBV	Netherlands	HBV donor screening could be limited to MP-NAT and anti-HBc screening in the Netherlands. MP-NAT and anti-HBc improved blood safety, HBsAg did not.	No action: Noted for UK anti-HBc screening implementation. Monitoring of anti-HBs levels and if fall below 200 IU/L donor removed from service.
Jun/Jul	2021	HIV	USA	Population studies have documented increased rates of drug use among MSM but authors emphasize that most MSM do not report substance use (other than alcohol) or have substance use disorders.	No action: Drug/sex association identified in gateway questions (FAIR)
Jun/Jul	2021	Lassa fever	Guinea	Lassa fever - outbreak; Guinea: been identified for follow up.	Action: SACCSD previously informed of Guinea Ebola outbreak. Inform re. Lassa cases
Jun/Jul	2021	SARS-CoV-2	Brazil	Analysis of current SARS-CoV-2 infection in a large population of blood donors evidenced that RNAemia is rare in plasma.	No action: evidence to support that SARS-CoV-2 RNA testing for blood donors not required.
Jun/Jul	2021	SARS-CoV-2	Italy	Liver transplantation performed in a SARS-CoV-2 positive hospitalized recipient using a SARS-CoV-2 infected donor:	No action: Information for ODT
Jun/Jul	2021	SARS-CoV-2	USA	Minipool testing for SARS-CoV-2 RNA in United States blood donors supports current recommendations from international and national regulatory agencies to not screen donors by NAT.	No action: evidence to support that SARS-CoV-2 RNA testing for blood donors not required.
Jun/Jul	2021	WNV	Europe	West Nile virus in Europe in 2021 - outbreaks among equids and/or birds, updated 15 July 2021. Equine outbreak in Southern Spain.	Action: Monitor reports as human cases may follow and require extension of risk area (currently Andalusia)
Jul/Aug	2021	Ebola	Cote D'Ivoire	The first case of Ebola virus disease in Cote d'Ivoire since 1994 has been confirmed.	No action: WHO has reported that a second laboratory has tested samples from a patient suspected of having Ebola and has found no evidence of the virus (31/08/2010) https://www.afro.who.int/news/new-test-finds-no-evidence-ebola-virus-cote-divoire-case

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Jul/Aug	2021	Malaria	Brazil	On 14 July 2021, the State Public Ministry of Bahia reported an outbreak of malaria in the municipality of Itabela, in the state of Bahia.	No action: Malaria guidance under review by SACCCSD. Infection believe to be imported from Manaus which has malaria flag applied
Jul/Aug	2021	Marburg virus disease	Guinea	Marburg virus disease outbreak declared in Guéckédou Guinea; 06 August 2021.	Action: At this stage one human case reported, monitor reports
Jul/Aug	2021	Arboviruses	USA	Arboviral diseases and poverty in Alabama, 2007-2017: authors found a significant spatial convergence between incidence of WNV and poverty rate clustered in the southern part of Alabama. DENV, CHIKV and ZIKV cases showed a different spatial pattern, being mostly located in the northern part, in areas of high socioeconomic status.	No action: Zika - 41 cases in outbreak year 2016, Chik - 19 cases in 2014, Dengue - few cases each year but 5 or less each year, WNV - 61 cases in 2017 - WNV test applied to donors that visit US)
Jul/Aug	2021	Dengue	France	1 autochthonous dengue case has been reported on 29 July, in Toulon, Var department, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, France.	Action: No action but maintain watching brief for any escalation of outbreak
Jul/Aug	2021	Lassa fever	International	Lassa fever amidst the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa: Highly prevalent in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, and Benin	Action: Lassa is considered endemic in West Africa (Benin, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Mali, Sierra Leone and Togo). VHF flag to be applied to countries without flag - contact Chair of SACCCSD. https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/RRA-Lassa-fever-in-the-Netherlands-ex-Sierra-Leone_0.pdf
Jul/Aug	2021	SARS-CoV-2	Greece	Blood and platelet transfusion from a donor with presymptomatic Covid-19:	No action: For SARS-CoV-2 risk assessment
Jul/Aug	2021	WNV	Europe	Between 13 and 19 August 2021, EU and EEA countries reported nine human cases of WNV infection. According to media reports, three human cases of WNV infection have been reported from the province of Seville, Spain.	Action: WNV flag already applied to Andalucia. Monitor WNV reports in Spain
Aug/Sep	2021	Tuberculosis	USA	Tuberculosis Outbreak Linked to a Contaminated Bone Graft Product Used in Spinal Surgery — Delaware, March–June 2021. . M. tuberculosis transmission via bone graft was last described in 1953.	Action: Query from SACTCTP re. latent TB. LJ has emailed Ian Laurenson, Head of Scottish TB Reference Lab for guidance. Discuss at next SACTTI.
Aug/Sep	2021	Ebola	Guinea	Resurgence of Ebola virus in 2021 in Guinea suggests a new paradigm for outbreaks: The 2021	No action: Supports current policy of permanent deferral for donors who have had Ebola and their sexual contacts.

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				lineage shows considerably lower divergence than would be expected during sustained human-to-human transmission, which suggests a persistent infection with reduced replication or a period of latency.	
Aug/Sep	2021	HBV	Japan	Prolonged incubation period of hepatitis B in a recipient of a NAT-negative HBV window donation in 2020.	No action: Support for longer follow-up to ensure TTIs have not occurred (lookback investigations)
Aug/Sep	2021	HEV	Germany	Risk of transfusion-transmitted hepatitis E virus infection from pool-tested platelets and plasma:	No action: SaBTO HEV Working Group in progress
Sep/Oct	2021	Manych virus	Russia	On 9 September 2021, media reported the discovery of a new virus called Manych virus which caused fever in several people in Rostov region, Russia.	Action: Monitor scientific reports through horizon scanning (note: this is a news article reporting 'human cases', not a peer reviewed paper)
Sep/Oct	2021	Yezo virus	Japan	A novel nairovirus associated with acute febrile illness in Hokkaido, Japan:	Action: Monitor further reports through horizon scanning - 2 human cases reported
Sep/Oct	2021	Malaria	Costa Rica	According to Spanish media, on 22 September 2021, an outbreak of malaria has been reported in the settlement of La Trocha (Huetar Norte region) on the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Visitors to the rest of the country including the Pacific coast may be accepted]	Action: Contact Chair of SACTTI Parasite Committee
 <p>CHIODINI, Peter (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST) Tue 21/12/2021 20:06 To: Alan Kitchen <adkitchen@btinternet.com>; Lisa Jarvis Hi Lisa, Hi Alan Many thanks. The UKHSA ACMP Malaria Prevention Guidelines for Costa Rica say: There is a low risk of malaria in Limon Province (BA only) but not in the city of Limon (Puerto Limon). There is a very low risk in the rest of the country (BA only). WHO says that 100% of the malaria in Costa Rica is due to <i>Plasmodium vivax</i>. I note the recent small outbreak, but my advice is that amendment of the GDRI guidance is not required and I agree that the best way forward is to keep monitoring. Season's Greetings Peter</p>					

Month	Year	Infectious agent/disease	Country	Comment	SACTTI Review
Sep/Oct	2021	COVID	USA	Early success transplanting kidneys from donors with new SARS-CoV-2 RNA positivity: A report of 10 cases.	No action: Information for ODT
Sep/Oct	2021	Dengue and Chikungunya	Europe	No autochthonous cases of chikungunya virus disease have been detected in Europe in 2021. In 2021 and as of 29 October 2021, one autochthonous confirmed dengue case has been reported in France.	Action: Discuss with PHE/NHSBT Epidemiology re. getting UK imported case numbers for monthly EIAR from PHE Zoonosis group (as UK data no longer included in ECDC reports)
Sep/Oct	2021	HIV	Brazil	Influence of unreported HIV prophylaxis on the kinetics of post-blood donation HIV seroconversion.	No action: Discussed at SACTTI
Sep/Oct	2021	Malaria	World	WHO recommends ground-breaking malaria vaccine for children at risk:	No action: Future issue wrt malaria screening of vaccinated individuals - for SACTTI parasite
Oct/Nov	2021	Tamdy virus	China	Evidence of Human Exposure to Tamdy Virus, Northwest China.	Action: Maintain awareness. Study limitations as used archive samples so not able to provide direct evidence of a causal relationship between TAMV and human febrile illnesses. High TAMV antibody-positive ratio may not be a result of recent cases but from a outbreak of human TAMV infection in China in 2007. At this stage TAMV is a potential human pathogen.
Oct/Nov	2021	Lassa fever	Nigeria	Virus persistence after recovery from acute Lassa fever in Nigeria: a 2-year interim analysis of a prospective longitudinal cohort study.	No action: supporting evidence for SACTTI recommendation for permanent deferral of sexual contacts of individuals who have had a VHF
Oct/Nov	2021	Malaria	Italy	Transfusion-Transmitted Malaria of <i>Plasmodium malariae</i> in Palermo, Sicily, 2019.	No action: For noting at SACTTI Parasite Committee
Nov/Dec	2021	Pseudorabies	China	A Novel Human Acute Encephalitis Caused by Pseudorabies Virus Variant Strain.	Action: Monitor for further reports
Nov/Dec	2021	Borna Disease Virus-1	France	Fatal encephalitis and Borna Disease Virus-1 seropositivity in two kidney-transplant patients living in the same nonendemic area (Tarbes, France).	No action: Information for ODT
Nov/Dec	2021	Covid-19	Belgium	Organ-specific genome diversity of replication-competent SARS-CoV-2: Virological analysis of postmortem COVID-19 cases demonstrates viremia and dissemination of infectious SARS-CoV-2 to	No action: Information for ODT

Month	Year	Infectious agent/disease	Country	Comment	SACTTI Review
				multiple extrapulmonary organs including the heart, kidney, liver, and spleen.	
Nov/Dec	2021	HAV	France	Transfusion-Transmitted Hepatitis A Virus, France, 2018.	No action: For HAV Risk assessment
Nov/Dec	2021	Toxoplasma	Japan	Clinical characteristics and incidence of toxoplasmosis after autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation:	No action: For Toxo Risk Assessment
Nov/Dec	2021	Toxoplasma	Spain	Hemophagocytic syndrome triggered by donor-transmitted toxoplasmosis as a complication in same-donor recipients of renal transplantation:	No action: Information for ODT and Toxo Risk Assessment

Emerging Infection Report: Review of sources 2021

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to feedback on the joint NHSBT/UKHSA Epidemiology team’s review of resources used in the monthly Emerging Infections Report (EIR). This is the first of a regular annual end to end review of sources to meet the recommendation of the 2021 audit of the UK blood services horizon scanning process carried out by the Government Internal Audit Agency. An SOP has been produced by the team to guide this annual review of sources. This report will feed into the annual review of the JPAC MPD on Preparedness for emerging infectious agents.

This document aims to:

1. Review and document sources used and their relevance to the monthly emerging report
2. Confirm UKHSA EpiIntel sources used and any changes that may impact on relevance and timeliness for items of interest to the UK blood services
3. Confirm the relevance of the Blood Safety team’s monthly Emerging Infections Report for stakeholders and guide any necessary changes to reporting
4. Receive recommendations for improving the surveillance system for increased usability for stakeholders
5. Document any changes to sources and process for producing the Emerging Infection Report

1. Review of sources used by epidemiology team during 2021

During 2021 up to report 9 for September to October, 29 sources were used to compile the monthly emerging report for SACTTI. Of 532 entries there were 496 for information items, 28 potential review items and 6 initial screenings highlighted (Table 1).

Table 1. Count of sources used for the EIR in 2021

Source Review		Status		
Source	Frequency (n)	Information Only	May require review	Initial Screening
PHE EpiIntel	83	75	4	4
Pubmed	78	77	1	0
ECDC	67	65	2	0
EID	35	32	3	0
ProMED	32	29	3	0
CID	22	19	3	1
Transfusion	21	21	0	0
Vox Sang	20	20	0	0
HPS	20	16	4	0
PLOS NTDs	19	18	1	0
NaTHNAc	13	11	2	0
Outbreak News	10	10	0	0
JID	10	10	0	0
Transplant Inf Dis	9	9	0	0
AM J Transplant	8	8	0	0
Eurosurveillance	8	6	2	0

Parasites and vectors	8	8	0	0
Trans Medicine	7	7	0	0
MMWR	6	5	1	0
WHO	6	6	0	0
NEJM	5	4	1	0
Plos Pathogens	5	4	1	0
Epi and Infect	3	3	0	0
PHE Health Protection Report	2	2	0	0
PHE Lit Review	2	2	0	0
ACDP	2	2	0	0
AABB News	1	1	0	0
Lancet Inf Dis	1	1	0	0
PHE	1	1	0	0

Table 2. List of sources used for identifying initial screen or review required

Source	Infectious Disease agent	Country	STATUS (for SACTTI consideration)
CID	Hemoplasma haemohomini	Australia	Initial screen required
PHE EpiIntel	Manych virus	Russia	Initial screen required
PHE EpiIntel	Yezo virus	Japan	Initial screen required
PHE EpiIntel	Tula virus	Germany	Initial screen required
PHE EpiIntel	Monkey B virus	China	Initial screen required
CID	Powassan virus	USA	Update: may require review
CID	Umbre Orthobunyavirus	France	Update: may require review
CID	Human African Trypanisomiasis	International	Update: may require review
ECDC	Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever	Europe	Update: may require review
ECDC	West Nile virus	Europe	Update: may require review
EID	Ebola	Mali	Update: may require review
EID	Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever	Myanmar	Update: may require review
EID	Human Tacheng Tick Virus 2	China	Update: may require review
Eurosurveillance	West Nile virus	Slovakia	Update: may require review
Eurosurveillance	HAV	UK	Update: may require review
HPS	Malaria	Brazil	Update: may require review
HPS (x3)	Malaria	Costa Rica	Update: may require review
MMWR	Tuberculosis	USA	Update: may require review
NaTHNac	Malaria	El Salvador	Update: may require review
NaTHNac	Ebola	Cote D'Ivoire	Update: may require review
NEJM	Dengue	USA	Update: may require review
PHE EpiIntel	West Nile virus	Spain	Update: may require review
PHE EpiIntel	Malaria	china	Update: may require review
PHE EpiIntel	Monkey Pox	UK	Update: may require review
PHE EpiIntel	Marburg virus disease	Guinea	Update: may require review
PLOS NTD	Chikungunya	Ghana	Update: may require review
PLOS pathogens	Prion	UK	Update: may require review
ProMED	Rabies TTI	China	Update: may require review
ProMED (x2)	Ross River Virus	Australia	Update: may require review
Pubmed	Babesia	UK	Update: may require review

2. Confirm sources and any changes with UKHSA EpiIntel

The UKHSA EpiIntel are an important resource for the Epidemiology team and provide daily and monthly horizon scanning reports that form the foundation of the blood service monthly Emerging Infection Report. It is therefore vital to review this process regularly to ensure that the report for SACTTI supports decision making for safe blood donations in the United Kingdom as necessary.

During 2020 and 2021 the monthly EpiIntel report was interrupted but the daily reports which feed into the monthly report continued. Monthly reports were resumed in September 2021.

The Epidemiology team discussed current sources with Katherine Russell and Michael Reynolds of the EIZ team for updates regarding any changes to the EpiIntel resources being used and any changes to the department's process as of 24/11/2021. The Epidemiology team also confirmed the items of interest for the UK blood services as per the SOP and discussed extra information that EIZ could provide, documented in section 5

The EIZ team confirmed they had recently reviewed and updated their sources following Brexit:

- **Audit by Field Epidemiology Training Programme fellow on timeliness September 2021**

The results of the audit were positive with the process used by the EIZ team designated sufficient, sensitive, and timely. A few minor suggestions were made which may be used to update the SOP in future. If any changes made to the EIZ process are likely to impact the Epidemiology unit, the team will be informed.

- **G7 comparison of scanning completeness at COP26**

During the recent COP26 summit the international health team were able to collaborate with governments from other countries. This enabled colleagues to confirm that UKHSA's reporting processes remain robust, timely and relevant following BREXIT. Upon comparison of reports, a single incident was not yet available on public sources accessed by EIZ.

- **Migration to using WHO Epidemic Sources with access to around 14,000 sources**

As highlighted in the feedback from the COP26 collaboration exercise, EIZ have confirmed that migration to this platform has been positive so far. The same risks for emerging infections are being collected and reported as previously with no delays to incidents being identified and included in daily feeds to the joint unit.

The impact of changes to EpiIntel sources so far appears to be positive. No major incidents have been identified that were missed throughout the reporting year. Reporting is timely and accurate with EpiIntel continuing to provide the majority of EIR items requiring initial screen or review by SACTTI.

3. Receive recommendations for improving the surveillance system for increased usability for stakeholders

Chair of SACTTI provided feedback on the July and November 2021 EIR. Key items not required were:

Source	Infectious agent/disease	Country	Comment
CID	Bacterial	USA	Commentary on Fecal Microbiota Transplantation: Tales of Caution
JID	HHV6	Japan	Inherited Chromosomally Integrated Human Herpesvirus 6 Is a Risk Factor for Spontaneous Abortion

Source	Infectious agent/disease	Country	Comment
CID	HIV	USA	Modelling study demonstrated that if the COVID-19 pandemic adversely impacts HIV health service provision in 6 US cities, increased numbers of HIV infections will likely occur, even if HIV risk behaviors decline temporarily due to physical distancing recommendations.
Pubmed	Prion	Canada	Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in pregnancy: the use of modified RT-QuIC to determine infectivity in placental tissues.
Promed	Burkholderia pseudomallei	UK (Ex Ghana)	Case report of melioidosis manifesting as chronic femoral osteomyelitis in patient from Ghana. He had emigrated to the UK 14 months previously
CDC EID	Burkholderia pseudomallei	USA (Ex BVI)	Case report of subclinical Burkholderia pseudomallei Infection Associated with Travel to the British Virgin Islands.
Pubmed	HBV	International	Report on hepatitis B virus elimination status and strategies in circumpolar countries, 2020.

4. Receive recommendations for improving the surveillance system for increased usability for stakeholders

Chair of SACTTI identified annual data updates required from UKHSA (imported cases of Dengue etc) in order to update the SACTTI risk assessments.

5. Document any changes to sources and process for producing the EIAR

a) Amendments to SOP for new sources to use

- **EpiIntel targeted weekly special reports from December 2021**

The EpiIntel team will provide a tailored weekly report for the NHSBT Epidemiology team. These reports should include arboviruses and haemorrhagic viruses in particular, which target the bloodstream

- **EpiIntel Information on undiagnosed infection outbreaks**

The EpiIntel team monitor outbreaks of undiagnosed infections. Many of these were not reported in the daily or monthly summaries due to the uncertainty around the pathogen causing infection. Updates These will now be included in the daily and monthly EpiIntel reports. The joint Epi team will monitor these and include if there is any suggestion of international spread and/or bloodborne infection.

- **EpiIntel Risk Assessments on imported infection from December 2021**

Information on infections at risk of being imported to the UK, or which have been imported in the UK will be shared with the NHSBT/UKHSA joint unit by the EIZ team. These numbers are expected to remain low but have the potential to protect the UK blood supply from imported infections.

- **Feedly app for compiling items of interest**

In 2021 Feedly was identified as a platform that may be of use in streamlining the number of different resources used by the NHSBT/UKHSA joint unit. Feedly aggregates information from around the web into one place. It can be used to view updates on any

topic of interest, whether from the news, blogs, social media posts, RSS feeds, or other sources. The platform can be accessed at: <https://feedly.com/>. An ongoing assessment of Feedly is underway; the current EIR process is being followed with Feedly being run in parallel to determine the value of moving to using Feedly regularly for producing the monthly EIR.

b) Amendments to SOP for items to include/exclude

- Cease reporting on individual flu cases from August 2021. Report on outbreaks and risk assessments only
- Only include mosquito spread if within Europe
- Annual data request to UKHSA for following imported infections to update risk assessments.
 - Epidemiology team request to Travel health team to provide Dengue, Chikungunya, Zika, Yellow Fever.
 - Epidemiology team request to EIZ to provide update on: WNV (HPR), Usutu, Borrelia burgdorferi (HPR), Ebola, CCHF, TBEV, Babesia, Leishmania
- COVID-19 updates were limited to items of direct influence on SARS-CoV2 transmission via blood tissues and organs e.g., viraemia from July 2021
- To exclude Burkholderia pseudomallei

c) Changes to staff

The EIR is currently being run by 3 members of the team to provide cover, Claire Reynolds, Tali Yawitch and Ruth Wilkie. Zoë Gibney has now left the team.

Summary of annual EIAR sources review

The vast majority of items are supplied for information only. Items for review have been useful in updating deferrals. UKHSA were able to provide assurance that Brexit and ongoing pandemic have not impacted on timeliness and completeness of reporting. In fact, EpilIntel will be able to start providing an improved tailored service. SACTTI have provided feedback which has been incorporated into the EIR SOP.