

Annual emerging infection surveillance report for 2023

March 2024

Key: Outcomes of the Emerging Infection Report analysis.....	2
A: EIRs with SACTTI actions.....	3
B: EIRs for SACTTI Parasite committee information.....	7
C: Selected examples of EIRs with no SACTTI action.....	9
D: EIRs for Organ Donation information.....	11
E: Review of EIR sources 2023.....	13



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Chair of Standing Advisory Committee on
Transfusion Transmitted Infection (SACTTI)



Dr Stephen Thomas
Professional Director of JPAC

Key: Outcomes of the Emerging Infection 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.

A: EIRs with SACTTI actions

Month	Year	Infectious agent/disease	Country	Comments	SACTTI Review
Jan	2023	Dengue	Suriname	Dengue virus was shown to be endemic in Suriname, and travellers, especially tourists, at substantial risk of dengue virus infection.	Action: Apply Dengue risk to Suriname (not urgent as other TV risks already applied).
Jan	2023	Ebola	Uganda	On 11 January 2023, Uganda declared the end of the outbreak of Sudan ebolavirus, first reported in September 2022.	Action: Ebola outbreak in Uganda declared over.
Feb	2023	Lassa fever	Ghana	A total number of 14 confirmed Lassa fever cases reported in this outbreak in Ghana, including at least one fatality.	Action: SACTTI to review all Lassa and Marburg outbreaks as done recently for Ebola.
Feb	2023	Nipah virus	Bangladesh	Eight cases of Nipah virus infection, including five deaths, reported in Bangladesh in 2023. The likelihood of exposure and infection for EU/EEA citizens travelling or residing in Bangladesh is currently very low.	Action: Monitor for spread of outbreak, currently small. SACTTI to review all Nipah outbreaks.
Feb	2023	Zika virus	USA	Local transmission of zika virus is a major public health risk, especially for Florida, where Aedes aegypti mosquitoes are abundant.	Action: Update previous review of arbovirus infection in US and take to SACTTI.
Mar	2023	Malaria	Azerbaijan	WHO has certified Azerbaijan and Tajikistan for achieving elimination of malaria in their territories.	Action: Remove malaria risk from Azerbaijan and Tajikistan.
Mar	2023	Marburg virus	Equatorial Guinea	Marburg virus disease reported in Equatorial Guinea, for the first time, in 2023. As of 31 March 2023, 14 confirmed (9 deaths), 20 probable (all deceased) and 1,075 contacts have been identified. This outbreak is currently assessed by UKHSA as presenting as presenting a very low risk to the UK public.	Action: CN 09-2023. VHF risk applied.
Mar	2023	Marburg virus	Tanzania	Marburg virus outbreak with 8 cases and 5 death was declared in Tanzania on 21 March 2023. Cross-border population movements may increase the risk of disease spread. Not thought linked to Equatorial Guinea cases at the moment.	Action: CN 09-2023. VHF risk applied.

Month	Year	Infectious agent/disease	Country	Comments	SACTTI Review
Mar	2023	Iatrogenic botulism	Turkey	A total of 71 cases of iatrogenic botulism in individuals who underwent medical procedures with the injection of botulinum neurotoxin type A health institutions in Türkiye were reported by in the EU region.	Action: report back as not relevant.
Mar	2023	Marburg virus	UK	Marburg virus outbreaks and sporadic cases have been reported in Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Ghana, Guinea, Uganda, South Africa (in a person who had recently travelled to Zimbabwe) and Tanzania.	Action: Review of Marburg infections on agenda for next SACTTI Meeting.
Apr	2023	Marburg virus	Equatorial Guinea	Outbreak of Marburg virus disease declared over in Equatorial Guinea. A total of 17 confirmed and 23 probable cases.	Action: Outbreak declared over 8 June 2023. If no further cases inform Chair SACCSD to update GDRI.
Apr	2023	Marburg virus	Tanzania	Outbreak of Marburg virus disease was declared over in Tanzania. A total of 9 cases with 6 deaths.	Action: Outbreak declared over 2 June 2023. If no further cases, update GDRI.
Jun	2023	Malaria	Belize	On June 2023, WHO announced Belize as malaria free, following over 70 years of continued efforts to stamp out the disease.	Action: Remove malaria risk from Belize.
Jul	2023	Dengue	France	Three cases of dengue have been identified in Alsace in the week ending 23 July 2023. In recent years, the number of autochthonous dengue cases reported in France has increased: 12 in 2020, 48 in 2021 and 66 in 2022. [reported directly to SACTTI Chair]	Action: Monitor to see if isolated cases or if larger clusters of infections arise.
Aug	2023	Dengue	Italy	In August, 6 autochthonous dengue fever cases have been reported from Lombardy and Lazio regions of Italy. Response and control measures are being implemented including preventive measures on blood and organ donors.	Action: Dengue risk applied to Italy.
Aug	2023	Dengue	Spain	On 5 September 2023, media reported a case of autochthonous dengue in Reues, Catalonia for the first time in four years.	Action: Monitor for further reports
Aug	2023	Dengue	Chad	On 15 August 2023, the Ministry of Health in Chad officially declared an outbreak of dengue with 26 confirmed cases and one death.	Action: Continue to monitor. Other TV risks currently applied.

Month	Year	Infectious agent/disease	Country	Comments	SACTTI Review
Aug	2023	Dengue	Bahamas	On 24 August 2023, media reported 16 confirmed cases of dengue in New Providence, Bahamas and one suspected case in Abaco.	Action: Continue to monitor. Other TV risks currently applied.
Aug	2023	Dengue	France	Two autochthonous Dengue cases reported from France in 2023. One of them in Gardanne, the Bouches-du-Rhône department, and one in the Provence Alpes-Côte d'Azur region. Vector control measures were implemented rapidly.	Action: CN 32-2023. Dengue risk applied.
Aug	2023	Dengue	Global	In 2023, over 3.7 million cases and over 2 000 dengue-related deaths have been reported from 70 countries globally. These include six autochthonous dengue cases reported in France and Italy.	Action: Risk applied to areas of France and Italy
Sep	2023	Chikungunya	Burkina Faso	89 cases of chikungunya have been confirmed in Pouytenga in the Center-East region of Burkina Faso.	Action: Risk applied to Burkina Faso.
Sep	2023	Dengue	France	Six clusters of autochthonous dengue virus transmissions with a total of 31 cases have been reported so far in mainland France, including the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region, the Bouches-du-Rhône, the Alpes-Maritimes and Var departments Further cases in the Occitani and the Euvergene Rhone-Alpes regions.	Action: CN 34-2023. Dengue risk applied.
Sep	2023	Dengue	Italy	A total of 42 locally acquired dengue fever cases have been detected in the Lombardy (27) and Lazio (15) regions in Italy.	Action: CN 34-2023. Dengue risk applied.
Sep	2023	Dengue	Chad	An outbreak of dengue is ongoing in Chad, alongside concurrent outbreaks of COVID-19, measles and vaccine derived polio.	Action: Risk applied to Chad.
Sep	2023	West Nile Virus	Europe	A total of 83 human cases of West Nile virus (WNV) infection were reported by Italy, Greece, Romania, France, Spain and Hungary. Autochthonous human cases of WNV infection for the first time this season were reported by Evros and Ioannina in Greece, Cáceres in Spain, Charente in France, Como, Taranto, Lecce and Udine in Italy and Branicevski in Serbia.	Action: CN 34-2023. Risk applied to Spain.

Month	Year	Infectious agent/disease	Country	Comments	SACTTI Review
Oct	2023	Dengue	France	In 2023, 36 autochthonous cases of dengue have been detected in metropolitan France in Gardanne (4) and Boulbonin (9) the Bouches-du-Rhône, Perpignan in the Pyrénées Orientale (11 cases) Nice (1) , Gagnières in the Gard (8), Bourg les Valence in the Drôme (2), Limeil-Brévannes in Ile-de-France (1).	Action: Risk applied to Gard and Pyrénées Orientale. Monitor if more cases identified: Île-de-France and Drôme.
Oct	2023	Dengue	Palau	A total of 8 dengue cases reported from Palau, all of them without travel history.	Action: Risk applied to Palau.
Oct	2023	Chikungunya	Global	Approximately 440,000 cases of chikungunya, including over 350 deaths, have been reported worldwide. As of 23 August 2023, a total of 24 countries reported chikungunya cases from the Americas (16), Africa (4), and Asia (4). The countries reporting chikungunya cases for the first time in 2023 are Burkina Faso and Gambia.	Action: Risk applied to Burkina Faso and Gambia. TV risk applied - risk mitigation.
Nov	2023	Dengue	Cayman Island	A total of 9 laboratory-confirmed cases of dengue have been reported in individuals with no recent travel history in Cayman Island.	Action: Risk applied to Cayman Islands (not urgent as other TV risk applied).
Nov	2023	Dengue	Turks and Caicos	In 2023, 74 suspected and 13 confirmed dengue cases have been reported in Turks and Caicos. Vector control activities have been increased throughout the islands.	Action: Risk applied to Turks and Caicos (not urgent as other TV risk applied).
Nov	2023	West Nile Virus	South Africa	West Nile virus (WNV), a mosquito-borne flavivirus, is endemic to South Africa. The study identified WNV in 8/219 patients with unsolved neurological infections presenting in 2017. WNV was diagnosed in 40/441 of patients presenting 2019 to 2021.	Action: Consider risk for South Africa (not urgent as other TV risk applied).
Dec	2023	Chikungunya	Argentina	There have been 1,740 locally transmitted cases of chikungunya in Argentina since the beginning of 2023.	Action: Apply risk for Argentina (not urgent as other TV risk applied).
Dec	2023	Dengue	Global	Over 5 million cases of dengue have been reported from 86 countries. Autochthonous dengue cases have been reported in Europe from Italy (82), France (43) and Spain (3). In Africa, dengue has been reported by 14 countries.	Action: Apply risk for Egypt.

B: EIRs for SACTTI Parasite committee information

Month	Year	Infectious agent/disease	Country	Comments	SACTTI Review
Apr	2023	Malaria	Brazil	The donor was born in an endemic area of Amazon but lived in Rio de Janeiro (a non-endemic area). He had visited Atlantic Forest where sporadic cases of malaria were reported. PCR confirmed the presence of <i>P. malariae</i> at low level. It was concluded that the donor had recently acquired his infection during Atlantic Forest trips rather than because of being borne in endemic area.	Action: For SACTTI parasite committee information
Jun	2023	Malaria	USA	Two locally acquired <i>P. vivax</i> cases in US; one in Florida and one in Texas. Despite these cases, the risk of locally acquired malaria remains extremely low in the United States.	Action: For SACTTI parasite committee information
Jul	2023	Malaria	Multi	Simian malaria from wild non-human primates is increasingly recognised as a public health threat and is now the main cause of human malaria in Malaysia and some regions of Brazil.	Action: For SACTTI parasite committee information
Sep	2023	Malaria	Costa Rica	The Costa Rican Health Ministry carried out field interventions to contain the malaria outbreak in the Bahía Ballena district in Osa, after the detection of eight cases of malaria. [not covered in GDRI]	Action: For SACTTI parasite committee information
Sep	2023	Malaria	Canada	A 4-month-old infant hospitalized since birth received multiple blood transfusions. In March 2022, <i>P. falciparum</i> was confirmed with nucleic acid testing. The mother was assessed as unlikely to be the source of infection, and one donor who was born and had resided in an endemic West African country for 14 years, was positive for <i>P. falciparum</i> by serology and NAT. This was a probable transfusion-transmitted malaria case from an eligible donor who was found to have unrecognized, asymptomatic, semi-immune malaria infection.	Action: For SACTTI parasite committee information
Sep	2023	Malaria	USA	Malaria test for use on the Cobas® 6800/8800 Systems, a qualitative PCR nucleic acid test (NAT), detects RNA of the five Plasmodium species that cause human disease: <i>P. falciparum</i> , <i>P. vivax</i> , <i>P. ovale</i> , <i>P. malariae</i> , and <i>P. knowlesi</i> in whole blood. Testing of 20,187 blood donations did not identify any reactive samples.	Action: For SACTTI parasite committee information
Sep	2023	Malaria	USA	<i>P. falciparum</i> parasites were viable at all storage conditions in plasma after 1 day of storage based on ability to replicate in cultures. After 7days of storage, parasites were not viable at refrigerated, or frozen to -20°C, but remained viable when stored at room temperature or at -80°C.	Action: For SACTTI parasite committee information

Month	Year	Infectious agent/disease	Country	Comments	SACTTI Review
Sep	2023	Malaria	Australia	A residual risk model considering the risk of visitors versus residents based on comparative rates of confirmed parasitaemia by PCR in those that tested antibody positive demonstrate no testing with time-based restrictions is an acceptable strategy from a risk perspective, however the donation loss is significant. Testing residents only does not change the residual risk while being substantially less expensive and represents the best selective testing option.	Action: For SACTTI parasite committee information
Oct	2023	Malaria	Colombia	77,431 cases of malaria have been reported in 2023; this is 32% higher than in 2022. Most cases detected in Antioquia, Chocó, Bolívar, Córdoba, Nariño, Meta, Risaralda, Buenaventura, and Guaviare.	Action: For SACTTI parasite committee information
Oct	2023	Malaria	USA	A case of autochthonous Plasmodium falciparum Malaria reported from Maryland August 2023. Earlier in 2023, 8 further autochthonous malaria Plasmodium vivax cases were identified in Florida and Texas, in the vicinity of an imported malaria case. Anopheles mosquito species that can transmit malaria exist in many areas in the United States. Locally acquired autochthonous cases have not been identified since 2003 in USA.	Action: For SACTTI parasite committee information

C: Selected examples of EIRs with no SACTTI action

Month	Year	Infectious agent/disease	Country	Comments	SACTTI Review
Jan	2023	West Nile Virus	Africa	An African West Nile virus risk map updated for travellers and clinicians. Popular tourist destinations such as Morocco, Tunisia, and South Africa, considered as high-risk areas for WNV infection.	No action: Literature review in which only Cameroon and Zambia reported human WNV infections
Jan	2023	Dengue	Global	In 2022, 4,110,465 cases of dengue and 4,099 deaths reported globally. These included 65 autochthonous cases of dengue in France.	No action: Risk applied for implicated regions GDRI.
Jan	2023	Leishmania	Brazil	Leishmania infantum detected in asymptomatic blood donors living in an endemic area of Brazil.	No action: Risk assessment in place. Leucodepletion mitigation.
Feb	2023	West Nile Virus	USA	On 9 February 2023, the Massachusetts Public Health announced the second human case of WNV.	No action: Continue to monitor if universal extension of WNV testing period is needed.
Feb	2023	West Nile Virus	USA	One viraemic blood donor identified in 2023 so far according to AABB WNV maps.	No action: Continue to monitor for early cases and review if required.
Mar	2023	West Nile Virus	USA	There have been 2 confirmed WNV viraemic blood donations to date in 2023, in Minnesota and New York.	No action: Early reports noted. Continue to monitor.
Jul	2023	Dengue	Multi	Dengue is a risk in many parts of Asia and the Pacific Islands. The following countries are reporting higher-than-usual numbers of dengue cases: Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Mauritius, Sudan.	No action: Egypt does not have Dengue risk applied. Reports of dengue fever outbreak in Upper Egypt in 2016. No outbreaks reported by WHO. Review.
Aug	2023	Dengue	USA	On 6 September 2023, media reported 3 additional locally acquired dengue cases in Broward and Miami-Dade counties. The total autochthonous cases in the state to 17: Broward (n=3) and Miami-Dade (n=14).	No action: Discussed at SACTTI. Aligns with US Blood Services action. Good surveillance.
Aug	2023	Bacterial	USA	Polymicrobial contaminated apheresis platelet components resulted transfusion-transmitted sepsis in 6 patients from which 3 died. Acinetobacter baumannii complex was found in 6 patients and 6 transfused platelets, S. saprophyticus in 4 patients.	No action: Inform Chair of SACBC
Sep	2023	Prion	Sweden	Patients who underwent transfusion with red blood cell units from donors who developed multiple spontaneous ICHs (likely due cerebral amyloid angiopathy, CAA) had a significantly higher risk of a single spontaneous ICH themselves, compared with patients receiving transfusions from donors who did not develop spontaneous ICH, in both Swedish and Danish cohorts.	No action: To be addressed at SaBTO.
Sep	2023	West Nile Virus	Europe	The autochthonous human WNV infections reported for the first time ever by Gironde, Charente-Maritime, Alpes-Maritimes, Charente and Haute-Corse in France, Sömmerda in Germany, Kastoria and Ioannina in Greece, Imperia, Taranto, Lecce, Cosanze	No action: Areas with more than 5 reported cases have WNV risk applied.

Month	Year	Infectious agent/disease	Country	Comments	SACTTI Review
				and Bari in Italy, Gorj in Romania and Huelva, Valencia, Barcelona, Caceres and Toledo in Spain.	
Sep	2023	Travel-associated	Europe	In 2022, UK residents made 71 million visits, with the top 5 most visited countries being Spain, France, Italy, Greece and Portugal. There were 31 cases Chikungunya, 448 cases of dengue, 51 leishmaniasis, 31 Rickettsial infections, 1 trypanosomiasis and Zika travel-associated infections reported.	No Action: For risk assessments
Nov	2023	Bacterial	Australia	An urgent quarantine notice for 2 separate InterPharma sodium chloride products after the man died at Hospital on the Sunshine Coast. The saline products are said to be contaminated with Ralstonia pickettii, a bacterium that can lead to septic shock and death in immunocompromised people.	No action: Information only. Circulated to the members of SACTTI. Maintain awareness.
Nov	2023	Tick-borne encephalitis	USA	The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends TBE vaccine for U.S. persons who are moving or traveling to an area where the disease is endemic and will have extensive exposure to ticks based on their planned outdoor activities and itinerary.	No action: Information only.
Nov	2023	Tick-borne encephalitis	Global	Based on this NaTHNaC review, country-specific vaccine recommendations have been updated.	No action: Information only.
Dec	2023	Chikungunya	Burkina Faso	Outbreak of chikungunya in Burkina Faso.	No action: Risk already applied.
Dec	2023	HBV	Scotland	Cluster of genotype E acute hepatitis B infection among young women (<=25 years) in four NHS boards.	No action: Reference laboratories aware
Dec	2023	Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic fever	Europe	In the last 10 years, new human CCHF cases reported from Georgia, Türkiye, Albania and, most recently, Spain. Several subnational regions show increased ecological suitability for CCHF, particularly pockets throughout France, Italy, Spain, the Balkans, and the Caucasus.	No action: Monitor. Information for SACTTI members.
Dec	2023	Mpox	DRC	An outbreak of mpox is ongoing in the DRC, with 12 569 cases reported so far in 2023. Most infections are caused by MPXV clade I, which is generally considered to be more virulent than MPXV clade II. Currently, there is no evidence that MPXV clade I is circulating outside certain central African countries.	No action: information only for SACTTI members.
Dec	2023	Usutu virus	UK	In August 2020, the first USUV infected wild birds in the UK were identified. Since then, a small number of wild and captive birds have tested positive between 2021 and 2023, predominantly in the Greater London area. No human cases of USUV have been reported in the UK	No action: information only for SACTTI members.

D: EIRs for Organ Donation information

Month	Year	Infectious agent/disease	Country	Comments	SACTTI Review
Jan	2023	Circovirus	France	Circovirus Hepatitis Infection reported in Heart-Lung Transplant Patient, France.	No action: For ODT information
Jan	2023	Schistosomiasis	Global	The schistosomiasis categorisation chance in China, Guadeloupe, Indonesian Borneo, Oman, Saint Lucia and Saudi Arabia (NaTHNaC review).	No action: For ODT information
Jan	2023	West Nile Virus	USA	Neuroinvasive West Nile virus infections identified retrospectively in 23 solid organ transplant recipients.	No action: For ODT information
Feb	2023	COVID-19	Spain	A nationwide, prospective study supports the safety of the use of organs other than lungs from SARS-CoV-2 RNA positive donors.	No action: For ODT information
Feb	2023	COVID-19	USA	Analysis of short-term outcomes indicates that a COVID-19 positive NAT within 14 days of transplantation in an otherwise medically suitable donor should not preclude consideration of non-lung solid organ transplantation.	No action: For ODT information
Feb	2023	COVID-19	USA	Transplantation of SARS-CoV-2 NAT positive donor organs appears safe for short-term outcomes of death and graft loss and ameliorates the organ shortage.	No action: For ODT information
Feb	2023	Blood-borne viruses	Australia	Study estimated the recently acquired blood-borne virus infections in deceased organ donors using yield-case-methodology. The prevalence of HBV, HCV, and HIV was 0.06% (0.01-0.22), 0.00% (0-0.11), and 0.00% (0-0.11), respectively. The residual risk of HBV was estimated to be 0.021% (0.001-0.119).	No action: For ODT information
Mar	2023	Syphilis	Canada	A retrospective cohort study investigated solid organ transplant recipients who received organs from donors with reactive syphilis tests. Despite post-transplant treatment, 3 of 25 syphilis negative recipients of organs from syphilis positive donors.	No action: For ODT information
Apr	2023	Bacterial	USA	A 10-year review of deceased donor cultures in solid organ transplantation in preventing donor-derived bacterial and fungal infections transmission identified 244 proven or probable transmission events, of which 30% were bacterial and 22% fungal.	No action: For ODT information
Jun	2023	Myeloid sarcoma	USA	Letter calling attention to a previous report of donor-derived myeloid sarcoma in two kidney transplant recipients, who received organs from the same donor.	No action: For ODT information

Jun	2023	Strongyloides	USA	Investigation of asymptomatic donor-derived Strongyloides stercoralis infection in multiple solid organ transplant recipients. Strongyloides screening was not performed at the time of organ procurement. Donor-derived strongyloidiasis suspected in one.	No action: For ODT information
Aug	2023	Herpes simplex virus	Switzerland	Report of two cases of fatal donor-derived HSV hepatitis in liver-transplanted recipients. Both cases occurred in the absence of CMV or HSV prophylaxis. A review of the literature showed a significant series of cases of severe hepatitis, mostly fatal.	No action: For ODT information
Sep	2023	Legionella	USA	In June 2022, two cases of Legionnaires disease were reported in patients, each of whom had received a lung transplant from the same donor, who had drowned in a river.	No Action: For ODT information
Oct	2023	Blood-borne viruses	Australia	NAT window periods were re-calculated based on the Procleix Ultrio Elite Assay (Grifols). Calculated X25 window periods were 5.1 (4.5-5.8), 2.7 (2.4-2.9), and 16.6 (14.2-19.1) days for HIV, HCV, and HBV respectively. Calculated X50 window periods, based on whole body plasma volume, were 11.8 (10.3-13.3), 6.2 (5.6-6.8) and 36.7 (31.3-42.1) days respectively.	No action: For ODT information

E: Review of EIR sources 2023

Prepared by Ruth Wilke and Claire Reynolds

Date: 03 January 2023 (Reviewed: 20 May 2024)

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to SACTTI on the joint NHSBT/UKHSA Epidemiology team's review of resources used in the monthly Emerging Infections Report (EIR) produced as detailed in the JPAC position statement on Arrangements in place for monitoring threats to the UK blood supply from new and emerging infections.

This report looks at sources used in 2023 (January to November) to inform the EIR, the third 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 Position statement on Preparedness for emerging infectious agents (Horizon Scanning).

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. Receive recommendations for improving the surveillance system for increased usability for stakeholders
4. Document any changes to sources and process for producing the EIR

Summary

EpiIntel continue to use the WHO platform and their daily and weekly reporting has provided a large number of useful updates including 30 that have been flagged to SACTTI for review of the GDRI throughout the 2023 period. Close working with UKHSA has provided early updates on Usutu surveillance.

EBA direct reporting to SACTTI chair remains crucial for timely information on outbreaks in Europe as we saw a large increase in items for review, often related to Europe in 2023. SACTTI have provided feedback which has been incorporated into the EIR SOP.

1. Review and document sources used and their relevance to the monthly EIR (Table 1)

Top 5 sources contributing most to the monthly EIR:

- EpiIntel Blood weekly reports
- PubMed
- EpiIntel Daily reports
- ECDC weekly reports and publications
- ProMed

Sources not used:

- New England Journal of Medicine
- PLOS Pathogens
- Epidemiology and Infection
- UKHSA Health Protection Report
- Lancet Infectious Diseases

UKHSA provided SACTTI directly with an update on chikungunya.

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
 - UKHSA continue to successfully use the WHO platform
 - Specific themes or topics can be put forward to WHO to provide specific monitoring relevant to blood safety
3. Receive recommendations for improving the surveillance system for increased usability for stakeholders
 - No items identified for exclusion in 2023 feedback
4. Document any changes to sources and process for producing the EIR
 - Mini audit in progress for EIZ team to further refine the special UKHSA blood specific weekly report.
 - UKHSA EpiIntel monthly reports resumed but already covered by the daily and weekly EpiIntel reporting.

1. Review of sources used by epidemiology team during 2023

During 2023, 40 sources (an increase of 1 from 2022) were used to compile the monthly emerging report for SACTTI. Review items were deduplicated for same source, area and infectious agent. Of 674 entries (a decrease from 810 in 2022) there were 603 for information items (a decrease from 770 in 2022), 65 potential review items (an increase from 33 in 2022) and 6 initial screenings highlighted (similar to 7 in 2022) (Table 1).

Table 1. Count of sources used for the EIR, January to November 2024 (review items deduplicated)

Source Review		Status		
Source	Frequency (n)	Information Only	May require review	Initial Screening
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	174	142	30	2
PubMed	114	107	6	1
PHE EpiIntel Daily	80	74	6	0
ECDC	49	44	5	0
ProMED	33	28	4	1
Transfusion	29	29	0	0
ACDP	27	27	0	0
Outbreak News	23	21	2	0

EID	15	14	0	1
Eurosurveillance	14	13	1	0
HCID	18	18	0	0
AABB News	13	11	2	0
UKHSA	9	7	2	0
NaTHNaC	8	5	3	0
Transplant Inf Dis	8	8	0	0
Journal of Travel Medicine	8	8	0	0
MMWR	7	6	1	0
CDC Travel Advisory	7	7	0	0
PLOS NTDs	5	5	0	0
HAIRS	5	5	0	0
Vox Sang	4	4	0	0
JID	4	4	0	0
Parasites and vectors	4	3	0	1
FDA	4	4	0	0
One Health	4	4	0	0
UKHSA - Daily Hazards	5	4	1	0
IPFA conference	2	0	2	0
AM J Transplant	1	1	0	0

Five sources did not provide any items for the EIR in 2023: *New England Journal of Medicine*, *PLOS Pathogens*, *Epidemiology and Infections*, *UKHSA Health Protection Report*, and *Lancet Infectious Diseases*. It should be noted that some journal entries were reported to the Epidemiology team through EpiIntel daily or weekly reports and reported via those sources.

Table 2. List of sources used for identifying initial screen or review required (note duplication where review listed by the same source for the same agent and area have been removed).

SOURCE	INFECTIOUS AGENTS	AREA	COUNTRY	STATUS (For SACTTI)
EID	New phlebotovirus	Americas	Peru	Initial screen required
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	Orf virus	Asia	China	Initial screen required
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	Ťahyňa virus (TAHV)	Europe	Europe	Initial screen required
Parasites and Vectors	O'nyong-nyong virus (ONNV)	Multiple countries	Global	Initial screen required
ProMED	Haseki tick virus (HSTV)	Asia	Russia	Initial screen required
PubMed	Tembusu virus	Asia	Thailand	Initial screen required
AABB	Marburg virus disease	Africa	Africa	Update: may require review
AABB	malaria	Americas	Costa Rica	Update: may require review
ECDC	Dengue	Europe	France	Update: may require review
ECDC	Dengue	Europe	Italy	Update: may require review
ECDC	Influenza (H5)	UK	UK	Update: may require review
ECDC	WNV	Europe	Europe	Update: may require review
ECDC	WNV	Europe	France/Spain	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	CCHF	Asia	Afghanistan	Update: may require review

SOURCE	INFECTIOUS AGENTS	AREA	COUNTRY	STATUS (For SACTTI)
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	CCHF	Europe	Spain	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	CCHF	Middle East	Afghanistan	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	Chikungunya	Africa	Mali	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	Chikungunya	Europe	Italy	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	Dengue	Africa	Chad	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	Dengue	Americas	Cayman Island	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	Dengue	Americas	Turks and Caicos	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	Dengue	Americas	USA	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	Dengue	Europe	France	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	Dengue	Europe	France	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	Dengue	Europe	Italy	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	Dengue	Europe	Spain	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	Dengue	Other	Bahamas	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	Dengue	Other	Palau	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	DENV, ZIKV and CHIKV	Americas	Argentina	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	malaria	Americas	Belize	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	Malaria	Americas	Colombia	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	malaria	Europe	Germany	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	Marburg Virus disease	Africa	Equatorial Guinea	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	Usutu virus	Europe	France	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	Usutu virus	Europe	Italy	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	Usutu virus	UK	UK	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	WNV	Africa	Senegal	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	WNV	Americas	Brazil	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	WNV	Americas	USA	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	WNV	Europe	Slovakia	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	WNV and Usutu	Europe	Netherlands	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Blood Weekly	WNV/CHIKV	Africa	Namibia	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Daily	CCHF	Europe	North Macedonia	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Daily	Dengue	Africa	Chad	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Daily	Dengue	Europe	Spain	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Daily	Haemorrhagic fever symptoms	Africa	South Sudan	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Daily	Influenza A(H1N2)	UK	UK	Update: may require review
EpiIntel Daily	Malaria	Americas	USA	Update: may require review
Eurosurveillance	Chikungunya & dengue	Americas	Suriname	Update: may require review
IPFA conference	malaria	Americas	Brazil	Update: may require review
IPFA conference	Prion	Europe	Sweden	Update: may require review
MMWR	Malaria	Americas	USA	Update: may require review
NaTHNaC	Dengue	Americas	USA	Update: may require review
NaTHNaC	Malaria	Americas	USA	Update: may require review

SOURCE	INFECTIOUS AGENTS	AREA	COUNTRY	STATUS (For SACTTI)
NaTHNaC	Zika	Europe	France (Ex Comoros)	Update: may require review
Outbreak news	chikungunya	Africa	Burkina Faso	Update: may require review
Outbreak news	Malaria	Americas	Costa Rica	Update: may require review
ProMed	Chagas	Americas	Brazil	Update: may require review
ProMed	Dengue	Europe	France	Update: may require review
ProMed	Nipah virus	Asia	India	Update: may require review
ProMed	Zika virus	Africa	Comoros	Update: may require review
PubMed	babesia	Americas	USA	Update: may require review
PubMed	Prion	Europe	France	Update: may require review
PubMed	Prion	Europe	Italy	Update: may require review
PubMed	Prion	Europe	Sweden	Update: may require review
PubMed	WNV	Africa	Africa	Update: may require review
PubMed	WNV	Africa	South Africa	Update: may require review
UKHSA	Influenza A(H1N2)v	UK	UK	Update: may require review
UKHSA	mpox	UK	UK	Update: may require review
UKHSA AHSA report	Dengue	Africa	Chad	Update: may require review

2. Confirm sources and any changes with UKHSA EpiIntel

The UKHSA EpiIntel reports are an important resource for the Epidemiology team and provide daily, weekly and monthly horizon scanning reports that form the foundation of the blood service monthly Emerging Infection Report.

The Epidemiology team met with members of the EIZ team on 28/06/2023 to discuss the current EpiIntel reporting process. It was confirmed that the WHO platform continues to be used successfully. The EIZ team suggested that it may be possible to add blood safety related stream to the WHO reporting platform. This can be scoped in 2024 if helpful. The Epidemiology team are undergoing a mini audit for the EIZ team to further streamline the Blood Safety weekly report received by the Epidemiology team.

The monthly EpiIntel reports restarted in July (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/emerging-infections-monthly-summaries>) but are preceded by the daily and weekly reports. The specialised Weekly Blood report provided by EpiIntel has provided a number of useful updates that have been flagged to SACTTI for review throughout the 2023 period.

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

Chair of SACTTI provided feedback on EIRs throughout the year: Noted below in 4b changes to SOP

4. Document any changes to sources and process for producing the EIR

a) Amendments to SOP for sources

CHANGED: UKHSA National Situational Awareness Cell (NSAC) daily report used from November 2022 has been updated in 2023 to an online dashboard but continues to provide UK outbreak information. Hepatitis A virus of particular interest

PAUSED: Health Protection Scotland reports (July 2022): Other sources provide information that might have been reported here.

RESTARTED: UKHSA EpiIntel monthly reports: already covered by the daily and weekly EpiIntel reporting

b) Amendments to SOP for process

Watching brief to be maintained for: babesia; CWD; dengue spread in Europe especially France and Italy; Mpox updates for spread not covered by donor selection criteria; WNV spread in Europe especially France and Spain; WNV in USA out of season; Zika spread to Europe; JEV and arboviruses in Australia; Lassa fever, Marburg virus and EBV in Africa; dengue spread in USA; T. cruzi USA; Usutu virus spread to UK, including information on pathogenicity;

To date in 2023, no requests were given to exclude further items from reporting.

c) Changes to staff

The EIR is currently being run by 3 members of the team to provide cover, Claire Reynolds, Ruth Wilkie and Tali Yawitch. Chloe Davison left the team in October 2023.