



Infectious Disease Update for the HPH Sector – October 2019

Domestic Health Security

[What to know about EEE, a mosquito-borne virus on the rise](#) (STAT) If you live in Massachusetts or Michigan, you are probably hearing a lot these days about something called EEE. If not, that combination of vowels may cause you to draw a blank.

[Trump signs order to improve flu-vaccine development](#) (Nature) The US government is launching a programme to modernize the development of flu vaccines. President Donald Trump signed an executive order on 19 September directing the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense to propose a plan and budget for the effort within 120 days.

[Three more dengue fever cases in Miami-Dade; county under mosquito-borne illness alert](#) (Miami Herald) Three more locally transmitted cases of dengue fever have been confirmed, bringing the county's total to eight so far this year, the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County announced Friday.

[PG&E shut-offs: Health systems prepare to move medicines, reschedule appointments](#) (SF Chronicle) Bay Area hospitals do not expect to go dark during the PG&E power shut-offs slated to begin tomorrow, but health systems that also run urgent care clinics, outpatient facilities and smaller doctors' offices — which may not have the large backup generators that hospitals typically have — are preparing for the possibility of losing power.

See also: [California hospitals rely on generators during PG&E power outages](#) (Modern Healthcare)

Global Health Security

[Future of Genetically Modified Babies May Lie in Putin's Hands](#) (Bloomberg) This summer, after a Russian biochemist announced plans to follow in the footsteps of a rogue Chinese researcher and produce genetically modified children, a 150-year-old academic journal that reflects the current scientific consensus called on the world to stop him.

[U.S. and U.K. alert travelers to Tanzania about possible unreported Ebola cases](#) (STAT) The governments of the United States and the United Kingdom are alerting their citizens to the possibility that there may be unreported Ebola cases in Tanzania.

[A World at Risk: Annual report on global preparedness for health emergencies](#) (Global Preparedness Monitoring Board) The world is at acute risk for devastating regional or global



JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL
of PUBLIC HEALTH

Center for
Health Security

disease epidemics or pandemics that not only cause loss of life but upend economies and create social chaos.

See also: [Preparedness for a High-Impact Respiratory Pathogen Pandemic](#) (Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security)

[Blast sparks fire at Russian laboratory housing smallpox virus](#) (The Guardian) A gas explosion has sparked a fire at a Russian laboratory complex stockpiling viruses ranging from smallpox to Ebola, authorities have said. The State Research Centre of Virology and Biotechnology denied that the fire had exposed the public to the pathogens stored inside, some of the deadliest on Earth.

Ebola

[WHO: Ebola outbreak 'back to where it began'](#) (CIDRAP) Mike Ryan, MD, the World Health Organization (WHO) executive director of health emergencies, said today that the Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has been "squeezed into a small geographical area"—a triangle between Mambasa, Beni, Mandima, and Komanda.

Science & Technology

[As Made-To-Order DNA Gets Cheaper, Keeping It Out Of The Wrong Hands Gets Harder](#) (NPR) Patrick Boyle recalls that by the time he got his Ph.D. in biology in 2012, he had worked with just a few other people and managed to manufacture six genes, the basic units of heredity. "Today, we are synthesizing more than 10,000 genes every month," he says, showing off a lab at a Boston biotech company called Ginkgo Bioworks.

Matthew Watson, Senior Analyst
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security

About the [Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security](#):

The Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security works to protect people from epidemics and disasters and build resilient communities through innovative scholarship, engagement, and research that strengthens the organizations, systems, policies, and programs essential to preventing and responding to public health crises. The Center is part of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and is located in Baltimore, MD.

Other Center Publications

For more preparedness and response news and information, [subscribe](#) to:

- Health Security Headlines - A daily update on US and global health security.
- Preparedness Pulsepoints - A weekly update on US government action on readiness and response.
- Clinicians' Biosecurity News – A twice monthly update and expert synopsis of new developments in clinical research and practice that intersect with biosecurity and biodefense.

Disclaimer: This open source information is provided for infrastructure protection planning purposes for the healthcare and public health sector. Any questions, information requests, or comments should be directed to: mwatson@jhu.edu.