

Defining a Special Pathogen

Emory University Resources:

- Session Resources
 - Post session resources (podcast of webinar, presentation slides, responses to unanswered questions) can be found on our website
 - <https://med.emory.edu/departments/medicine/divisions/infectious-diseases/serious-communicable-diseases-program/covid-19-resources/access-past-echo-recordings.html>
- Region 4 Situation Report
 - <https://med.emory.edu/departments/medicine/divisions/infectious-diseases/serious-communicable-diseases-program/covid-19-resources/region-4-situation-reports1.html>
- Register for upcoming sessions on our website
 - <https://med.emory.edu/departments/medicine/divisions/infectious-diseases/serious-communicable-diseases-program/covid-19-resources/echo-upcoming-session.html>
- HHS Region IV Emory University SCDP
 - <https://med.emory.edu/departments/medicine/divisions/infectious-diseases/serious-communicable-diseases-program/covid-19-resources/index.html>
- Region IV Concept of Operations (CONOPS) - Regional Partners and Contacts
 - <https://netec.org/about-netec/partners-regional-contacts/#regional-contacts>
- Emory Serious Communicable Diseases Unit
 - <https://med.emory.edu/departments/medicine/divisions/infectious-diseases/serious-communicable-diseases-program/ebola-resources/index.html>
- NETEC
 - <https://netec.org/>
- NETEC – National Special Pathogens System of Care (NSPS)
 - <https://netec.org/nsps/>

External Resources:

Disclaimer – The Project ECHO post session notes occasionally include third-party links and resources, however linking to additional information and services does not constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Serious Communicable Diseases Unit.

- Healthmap.org (Location based alerts)
- Outbreaknewstoday.com
- Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP), University of Minnesota (UNM)
- The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) - Global Center for Health Security: The Transmission
- Global Biodefense.com
- CDC – Division of High-Consequence Pathogens and Pathology
- Georgia Department of Public Health – Travel Clinical Assistant (TCA)
 - <https://dph.georgia.gov/TravelClinicalAssistant>
- ProMED – International Society for Infectious Diseases
- Johns Hopkins Newsletters

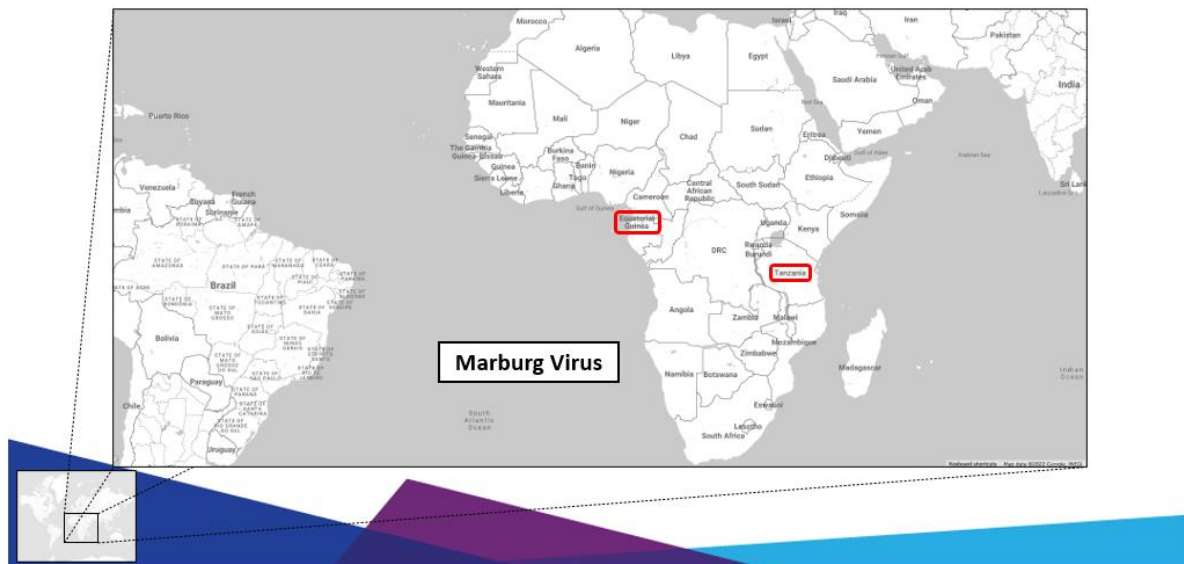
- [Marburg.global.health](https://marburg.global.health) website

Please continue to check your local and state public health websites for additional resources and guidance.

Situation Report

The Emory University Serious Communicable Diseases Program in conjunction with the SRDRS puts together situation reports on special pathogens of concern for our region, HHS Region IV. These Sit Reps are typically published on our website, social media channels, Emory Department of Medicine YouTube Channel and listservs. Here is the current HHS Region IV Special Pathogens Sit Rep.

Situation Report 13 April 2023



- First, simultaneous Marburg Virus outbreaks in Africa continue to present concern and prompted a US Health Alert Network Health Advisory from the CDC on 6 April. Currently there are no confirmed or suspect cases in region 4 or the US, but the outbreaks continue to grow.
- As of 11 April, Equatorial Guinea’s health ministry, which is combating the virus for the first time, reported a new confirmed case and one additional death, bringing the toll to 15 confirmed cases along with 11 fatalities marking a case fatality rate of 73%. Additionally, there have been at least 20 suspect cases, all fatal.
- In Tanzania, in the northern region surrounding what is known as Lake Victoria the current confirmed toll from the outbreak first detected in January following a funeral service, stands at 11 with 5 deaths. There are also at least 4 additional suspect cases, and like in Equatorial Guinea, the first time the virus has appeared in-country. There is no evidence to suggest the outbreaks are linked, and there are multiple international teams on the ground in both countries providing assistance.

Situation Report 13 April 2023



- Now to Nigeria, where Lassa Fever cases continue to skyrocket. As of 26 March, there have now been 823 confirmed cases along with 144 deaths, equating to a case fatality rate of 17.5% among confirmed cases. As comparison, in 2022 there were 880 confirmed cases recorded. The national transmission risk in Nigeria continues to remain very high and healthcare workers in Region 4 are reminded to remain vigilant.

Situation Report 13 April 2023





- And of note, on 26 March, the Guangdong Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention in China reported a human infection with avian influenza AH3N8. This is the third human infection with this virus ever reported – a 56F hospitalized with severe pneumonia who unfortunately

died in the hospital. She had multiple underlying comorbidities and a history of exposure to live birds both at home and at a wet market, where subsequent sample testing revealed influenza AH3 positivity. It is important to note that this virus subtype is unrelated to the H5N1 HPAI viruses currently circulating worldwide and does not have the ability to spread easily from person to person – thus the national, regional and international risk level is low, and this case, while important to note, is not thought to pose a risk to US public health.



<https://scdu.emory.edu>

 @EmorySCDP

 <https://www.youtube.com/@EmoryDOM>



- Lastly, there have been no reports of other suspected or confirmed patients with special pathogens of concern in Region IV at this time.
- For more resources, visit us on the web at scdu.emory.edu

Additional Discussion:

- When collecting patient history, it is essential to minimize bias and stigma
- Travel screening is critical and should be collected along with patient history
 - Collect travel history for all patients, even if they only travelled domestically
- Diseases are present everywhere; therefore, diseases can occur anywhere
 - It is important to recognize that diseases can stem from the United States, not just internationally
- The National Special Pathogens System of Care (NSPS) was developed to enhance disease response and address health inequities by bridging gaps in care
 - This program is an extension to hospital-based care; therefore, hospitals will continue receiving trauma patients