IN BELGIUM

Viral meningitis in Sivry
Between July 1 and 8, nine cases of viral meningitis have been diagnosed in a village of Hainaut (4500 inhabitants). Both adults and children are affected. This localized outbreak is reportedly caused by enteroviruses. Preventive measures have been taken such as hygiene measures, and youth camps have been forbidden in the area up to July 15. Patients are recovering well. Sources: RTBF and health inspection.

IN EUROPE

Cluster of listeriosis in France
During the weeks 22 to 24 of 2002 (May), a cluster of 8 cases of *Listeria monocytogenes* infection with the same serotype and profile has been identified by the surveillance scheme operated by the Institut de Veille Sanitaire and the National Listeria Reference Center at the Institut Pasteur, Paris. One of the patients has died. The main vehicle for transmission has been identified as spreadable sausage, a ready to eat food prepared from raw pork and fat. Five of the seven patients for whom this information was available reported having consumed this type of product. On 3 July, all pork products from this manufacturer were withdrawn from the market. Case surveillance is continuing. Because of the long incubation period (between four days and two months), cases may continue to occur and be reported for several weeks after a thorough product recall. Source: Eurosurveillance weekly, July 4, [http://www.eurosurv.org/update/](http://www.eurosurv.org/update/).

Legionella cluster among pilgrims in Italy
At the end of May 2002, 6 cases of legionnaires’ disease were notified within a few days to the national legionellosis surveillance scheme at the Istituto Superiore di Sanita (ISS). Onset dates range between May 14 and 19, 2002.

Five cases stayed in a hotel in San Giovanni Rotondo (Puglia region) previously notified to the European Working Group for Legionella Infections (EWGLI) as associated with a cluster and where control measures had recently been implemented. A sixth case stayed at a different hotel in San Giovanni Rotondo, but shared with the other cases the visit to the shrine of San Michele at Monte Sant’Angelo and lunch at the same restaurant.

Epidemiological and environmental investigations were immediately undertaken by local and regional authorities in collaboration with the ISS. The hotel that had previously been involved in a cluster was immediately suspected to be one of the possible sources of
infection and therefore sampled, but no legionellas were isolated. All the different sites visited and the buses used by the groups of pilgrims were investigated. A questionnaire aimed at gathering further information about possible exposures has been given to all the participants in the 3 groups, and responses are awaited.

This cluster highlights the difficulties in identifying the source of Legionella infection when package tours include common sites.

On 1 July 2002 new European guidelines under which EWGLI will operate, were introduced. This guidelines were produced by a European working group after wide consultation with all collaborating countries, national and international tour operator bodies and other professional groups.


| IN THE REST OF THE WORLD |

**Dengue fever in Honduras**

A state of emergency has been declared in Honduras on July 4, 2002 in 5 of the country's 18 provinces because of an outbreak of dengue hemorrhagic fever, which has killed 5 children this year. The Public Health Ministry has reported 135 cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever and about 3400 cases of classical dengue so far this year. Source: Promed promed@promedmail.org