

## Weekly update on West Nile fever cases in Europe

In 2010, human cases of West Nile fever were reported in several EU countries, Romania, Hungary, Italy, Spain and Greece. In Greece, a large outbreak affected the northern part of the country in Central Macedonia with 262 human cases and 35 deaths reported. At the same time, outbreaks of West Nile fever were also reported from Turkey and Russia. A map depicting the reported cases in 2010 transmission season can be found here: [West Nile map 2010](#).

The implementation of control measures for ensuring blood safety when cases/outbreaks of West Nile fever are occurring in humans is a major issue for national competent authorities. According to the [EU Blood Directive](#), efforts should be made to defer all blood donations from areas with ongoing transmission of WN to humans. Challenges to the implementation of this blood directive include the impact that such deferrals can have on blood supplies as well as timely collecting the accurate information about areas with ongoing transmission of WN to humans.

The objective of this project is to let national competent authorities for blood safety be aware of areas with ongoing transmission of WN to humans in order to enable them to apply the blood safety EU regulation.

In order to achieve this objective, ECDC provides, for the 2011 transmission season, weekly updates on the reported cases of West Nile fever in humans in the EU Member States and bordering countries (i.e. those included in WHO European region and/or bordering the Mediterranean Sea). The updates are based on information obtained from the countries' health authorities, and refer to human autochthonous cases of West Nile fever only.

The weekly updated map shows in red the areas reporting at least one confirmed human case in 2011. The information is displayed at different spatial scales according to the countries' reporting procedures.

- For EU/EFTA and EU candidate countries, the displayed administrative levels correspond to those defined by EUROSTAT as NUTS 0, NUTS 2 or NUTS 3 (the country, state/province/county and department/commune levels, respectively).
- For the non-EU/EFTA countries, the Global Administrative Unit Layers are used. (See [GAUL disclaimer](#))

Areas where no cases have been reported during the current year are coloured in dark grey. Countries not covered by the weekly updates are coloured in light grey.

West Nile fever in humans is a notifiable disease at the European Union (EU) level according to [European Commission Decision 2009/312/EC](#); the case definition is outlined in [Commission Decision of 28/IV/2008](#). More information about the disease is available on the ECDC website: please see [West Nile fever factsheet](#).