Emerging infections UK, 2016

**Identification**

The Epidemiology unit produces the Emerging Infection Report (EIR), a monthly horizon scanning list of emerging infections with potential to affect the UK blood and tissue supply.

**Risk assessment**

The Standing Advisory Committee on Transfusion Transmitted Infection (SACTTI) risk-assesses EIR and highlights whether further action required by Joint UKBTS Professional Advisory Committee (JPAC).

**Evaluation and decision**

Joint UKBTS Professional Advisory Committee amendments to the Geographical Disease Risk Index included:

- 28 day tropical deferral covering chikungunya, dengue and Zika virus introduced in January 2016
- A temporary 28 day MERS-CoV deferral on return from Saudi Arabia was removed in the absence of cases in UK travellers
- Zika deferrals extended to include:
  - sexual contact with Zika-infected person
  - Florida (state of US)
- NHSBT blood donations available for release because of additional testing for travel-related infections

**224** items updating the Zika situation including: surveillance data, risk assessments and research, plus a travel survey in NHSBT donors.

New risk assessments for:

- Tick-borne encephalitis
- Usutu virus

EIR sources include: PHE Emerging Infections monthly summaries; European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) communicable disease threat reports; Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases (ProMED) outbreak and news alerts; peer reviewed literature

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