



Office of Intelligence and Analysis

Intelligence Note

(U) United States: Dengue Poses Low Risk of Spread Compared to West Nile Virus

14 March 2008

(U) Prepared by the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Branch, Borders and CBRN Threat Analysis Division.

(U//FOUO) The risk of widespread dengue outbreaks in the United States is low.

Recent media reports speculating that dengue may be introduced and spread nationwide, comparable to the spread of West Nile virus, grossly overstate the risk.

- (U//FOUO) The Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center (AFMIC) assesses with high confidence that the risk of widespread dengue virus transmission in the continental United States is low.
- (U//FOUO) AFMIC notes that many of the factors that facilitate the spread and long-term establishment of West Nile virus in the United States do not apply to dengue. For example, more than 60 types of mosquitoes nationwide have been implicated in the spread of West Nile virus, but only two types of mosquitoes, located primarily in the South and Southeast, are capable of spreading dengue.

(U//FOUO) Isolated cases or small case clusters of dengue resulting from sporadic introduction by infected travelers will continue to occur where the two mosquito vectors are present, most likely in Texas along the Gulf Coast and the Mexican border and the Southeastern seaboard. Public health officials, especially in high-risk areas, are likely to be able to rapidly identify and contain any outbreaks because they already have well-developed surveillance systems targeting dengue.

(U) Dengue Fever

(U) Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne viral illness, characterized by 2 to 7 days of fever, headache, muscle and joint aches, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes rash. Patients usually recover fully, but may suffer fatigue for weeks after the illness. Fatalities or serious complications are rare. No vaccine or specific treatment exists for dengue. Prevention involves avoidance of mosquito bites.

(U//FOUO) The attached Defense Intelligence Digest article, prepared by AFMIC, provides details on the characteristics and nature of dengue. The context of the article is the potential threat to U.S. military forces, although the virus's characteristics would be the same for the general population.

(U) Reporting Notice:

(U) DHS encourages recipients of this document to report information concerning suspicious or criminal activity to DHS and/or the FBI. The DHS National Operations Center (NOC) can be reached by telephone at 202-282-9685 or via unclassified e-mail at NOC.Fusion@dhs.gov. For information affecting the private sector and critical infrastructure, contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center (NICC), a sub-element of the NOC. The NICC can be reached by telephone at 202-282-9201 or by e-mail at NICC@dhs.gov. When available, each report submitted should include the date, time, location, type of activity, number of people and type of equipment used for the activity, the name of the submitting company or organization, and a designated point of contact.

(U) For comments or questions related to the content or dissemination of this document please contact the DHS/I&A Production Management staff at IA.PM@dhs.ic.gov, or IA.PM@dhs.sgov.gov, or via unclassified e-mail at IA.PM@hq.dhs.gov.

(U) **Tracked by:** HLTH-010000-01-05, HLTH-020000-01-05, HLTH-030000-01-05