

## Welcome

This publication provides updates for colleagues and partners across UKHSA and the Overseas Territories

If you have any queries, feedback or contributions please contact: [UKOTs.Programme@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:UKOTs.Programme@ukhsa.gov.uk)

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## Fundamentals in surveillance, data management and outbreak investigation skills workshop

In July, the UKHSA UKOTs Programme teamed up with the UK Field Epidemiology Training Programme (UKFETP) to deliver a 'Fundamentals in surveillance, data management and outbreak investigation skills' workshop over four days. Representatives from several OTs, including Anguilla, Bermuda, BVI, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Montserrat, St Helena and TCI, travelled to London to take part in the training. The training was developed by UKFETP fellows, Iona Smith and Katie Thorley, with help from Alison Sykes from the UKFETP team and Petra Manley from the UKOTs team.

The workshop focused on building new skills, sharing learning across the OTs with peer-to-peer discussions alongside building a network with the help of people bingo! The workshop introduced concepts and skills which will be reinforced with a post course exercise completed in their own territory. Participants were asked to develop a surveillance report which will be reviewed in an online session in September to bring everyone back together and share learning. We're looking forward to seeing everyone again in September!

*"Loved the training - thanks so much for including me in it. It has been a pleasure to learn from you all - it has felt very comfortable and you have created a great space to learn together, so big props!"*

*"The presenters were all absolutely divine!!! Very clear with their sessions and explained along the way. I love that they gave a lot of examples which helped me link the information to real situations."*



Delegates and trainers from the fundamentals training course in Heathrow London July 2024

## Oropouche update for the Americas

Oropouche (OROV) is an arbovirus transmitted by bites of midges (*Culicoides paraensis*). The mosquito *Culex quinquefasciatus* can also be involved in transmission. In 2024, over 7,700 cases have been reported in five countries of the Americas: Brazil (6,976 cases by mid-2024), Bolivia, Peru, Cuba and Colombia (as of 23 July 2024). The distribution is widening and so the Caribbean territories may be affected.

Symptoms include sudden onset of fever, headache, stiff joints, aches and pains and, in some cases photophobia, diplopia (double vision), nausea and persistent vomiting. Symptoms can last from five to seven days.

Rarely, severe cases can include aseptic meningitis. Full recovery can take several weeks. Symptoms are similar to other arbovirus infections (dengue, chikungunya)

Testing (blood PCR) is available at CARPHA and the Cayman molecular lab is validating a test. Please contact [matthew.dryden@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.dryden@ukhsa.gov.uk) about any suspected cases. If you wish to send any samples to the UK, we can test them at the Rare and Imported Pathogens Department.



*Culicoides paraensis* (on the left - smaller one in the photo) and *Culex quinquefasciatus* (on the right - larger one in the photo).

Photo from Bruna Lais Sena do Nascimento, Laboratório de Entomologia Médica/SEARB/IEC

## AMR joint statement from the Heads of Government and Chief Medical Officers of the UKOTs

At the UKHSA UKOTs Public Health Conference in Manchester last month, the UKOTs agreed a joint statement on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to present to the United Nations' General Assembly High-Level Meeting, in September 2024. This meeting offers a rare opportunity for global leaders to agree on a pragmatic approach to containing and controlling the existential threat of AMR. There is broad agreement that many of the solutions are known – and not beyond what can be afforded if kept simple and done well.

The UKOTs, through their heads of government and CMOs, will be jointly asking the UN high level meeting to build and sustain global political will for action on AMR, bolstered by public support, civil society advocacy, and private sector partnerships that cross sectors; ensure all humans, animals, and plants have sustainable and equitable access to appropriate and effective treatments and to demonstrate how tackling AMR can also help to mitigate the impact of climate change and biodiversity loss. Within the UKOTs, we plan to achieve our aims through the three pillars of Access, Prevention, Education around AMR: equitable Access to treatments, control, surveillance and Prevention of AMR and Education of the general public and health care workers. For further information contact [matthew.dryden@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.dryden@ukhsa.gov.uk).

## E-Bug Programme

Infection prevention and control (IPC) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) are not just for health care workers and grown-ups! Educating our young people, the workforce, parents and decision makers of the future, is a key strategy in the battle against 'superbugs' and is essential to protect our family, friends and loved ones.

We are actively promoting E-bug as a tool to help with this and are working with any partner territories that would like to utilise this in education and health promotion within local settings.

E-bug, is a suite of free resources and lesson plans for ages 3-16 to support teachers, educators and students in topics relating to EPA and AMR. A vector borne disease prevention module is also being developed with colleagues from a number of UKOT's volunteering for the working group.

You can find more details about E-Bug here: <https://www.e-bug.eu/>; and you can contact Janice Toplass, IPC specialist UKHSA, for further information: [Janice.toplass@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:Janice.toplass@ukhsa.gov.uk).

