

in the past. However, conclusive evidence that EV71 is the causative agent is not yet available.

### *Editorial note*

Reports of EV71 are received in Australia from time to time and several outbreaks have been reported. In 1986 an outbreak amongst infants and young children occurred in southeastern Australia.<sup>3</sup> A large number of cases of HFMD were reported in the community whilst severe disease including central nervous system involvement was also a feature in some cases. The Virus and Serology Laboratory Reporting Scheme, LabVISE collects data from sentinel laboratories on enteroviruses including EV71. No reports of this virus have been made to LabVISE since

1995 when 34 reports were received, mostly in the winter months.

The outbreak in Taiwan now appears to be easing. Investigations are continuing to definitively identify the causative agent. Whilst there is some risk that travellers to Taiwan may be exposed to and possibly infected by the agent of this disease this is very small. Travellers should observe the advice given by the World Health Organization and avoid contact with infected children.

1. Overseas Briefs. *Comm Dis Intell.* 1997;21:188.
2. Overseas Briefs. *Comm Dis Intell.* 1997;21:204.
3. Gilbert G, Dickson K, Waters M et al. Outbreak of enterovirus 71 infection in Victoria, Australia, with a high incidence of neurologic involvement. *Paediatr Infect Dis J.* 1998;7:484-488.

# Overseas briefs

**Source: World Health Organization (WHO)**

## *Cholera*

**Uganda.** The outbreak of cholera which began in late 1997 is continuing. Reports to WHO continue to show high numbers of cases with case fatality rates ranging from 4% to 5.5%. At the end of June 1998 a total of 38,697 cases and 1,576 deaths had been officially reported since the beginning of the outbreak. The total number of affected districts is now 39, covering a large part of the country. Most of the neighbouring countries have also been affected by major cholera outbreaks since late 1997 and continue to report cases.

**Cambodia.** The Ministry of Health has reported a cholera outbreak in Banteay Manthey Province in the north-west of the country. The outbreak started on 14 June 1998 and has so far affected three villages. Up to 29 June, 69 cases and 15 deaths had been reported. Control measures are being carried out by the Ministry of Health. These include enhanced surveillance and a health education campaign.

In 1997 a total of 155 cholera cases were reported in Cambodia. In 1996 and 1995, 4,190 and 3,085 cases were reported respectively.

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*CDI* is produced every four weeks by the National Centre for Disease Control, Department of Health and Family Services, GPO Box 9848 Canberra ACT 2601; fax: (02) 6289 7791, phone: (02) 6289 6895. This journal is indexed by *Index Medicus* and *Medline*.

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