

### Profile of Imported Notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases from South-East Asia Region in Taiwanese between 2008 and 2013

Chia-Wei Chang\*, Pi-Fang Chen, Li-Chu Wu, Li-Li Ho, Yi-Chun Wu

#### Abstract

The travel survey reported that Taiwan citizens visiting to South-East Asia accounted for 15.6% of the total outbound visits in 2013. With the growing trend in visiting to countries in South-East Asia, the possibility of the impact on public health from the imported infectious diseases might be increased.

We profiled the characteristics and the disease distribution of cases, whose onset dates are between 2008 and 2013, by collecting confirmed cases of Taiwanese traveler infected acute infectious diseases in South-East Asia (including Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, and Singapore) from the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System. This study aims to evaluate the case numbers, demographic characteristics and travel-related factors of patient confirmed as imported infectious disease; and the trend of infection rate across the study period.

The results show that the infection rates are higher among citizens traveling to Myanmar, and Laos, following by Cambodia, Indonesia, and Philippines between 2008 and 2013. The proportion of cases infected by vector-borne diseases is higher than food/water-borne diseases in all countries, except in Cambodia. Dengue fever and shigellosis are the most common diseases in vector-borne and food/water-borne disease, respectively. And among our imported cases, business travel and visiting friends and relatives (VFRs) are the most two frequent travel purposes. We discover two major groups with higher number of cases imported from South-East Asia through

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cross-analysis on travel purpose and demographic characteristics, which are (1) 30-59 year-old male citizens traveling on business, and (2) less than 12 and 30-49 year-old citizens traveling for VFRs. Even though the number of citizens visiting South-East Asia keeps increasing in recent six years, the infection rate has been in a trend of going downward since 2011.

Taiwan CDC provides health information actively instead to enhance travelers' health awareness, expecting to change ones' attitude during traveling and practice prevention measures. The future direction would be studying how citizens arrange to travel abroad, and figure out a better and effective information-passing method, so that we could modify the intervention policy and transform the health education information more customized.

**Keywords:** South-East Asia ; Imported Infectious Disease ; Acute Infectious Disease ;  
Travel Type

## The Assessment of Simplified Procedure of Quarantine Measures to Travelers through SKY JET CENTER

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### Abstract

SKY JET CENTER of Taipei SongShan Airport provides an on-site Customs, Immigration, Quarantine and Security (CIQS) services to international and domestic corporate and private jets. It was operated since April, 2012 and the arrival flights were 33 flights per month on average. By 2013, the number has increased to 39 flights per month. However, the Taiwan CDC Quarantine Inspection did not find any suspected communicable disease case during this period. Since the quarantine resource is limited, we analyze the risk assessment and estimate the cost-effectiveness of passengers travel through SKY JET CENTER. The results might be a reference for further policy modification.

The results revealed that, in SKY JET CENTER, 36% of flights arrived after 18:00 (i.e., night flight), and the Quarantine officer would work for an extra 2.6 person-hours overtime for each night flight. Besides, each Quarantine officer provided service to passengers travel through regular terminal in person-hours is 54.1 times more than to who travel through SKY JET CENTER. Furthermore, the rate of unusual health of passengers travel through SKY JET CENTER was extremely lower than who travel through regular terminal. Therefore we suggest that, during regular period, we could provide health education to passengers who travel through SKY JET CENTER, if there is any unusual event reported, proper quarantine measures would be enacted. If there is an international communicable disease outbreak, the quarantine policy might be adjusted. Strengthen quarantine measures will then be conducted especially for high risk flight.

**Keywords:** Quarantine ; SKY JET CENTER ; Communicable disease ; International Airport

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## Shigellosis Outbreak in Military Camp In A Southern County of Taiwan, 2015

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### Abstract

In January 2015, one suspected food-borne diarrhea outbreak occurred in military camp in a Southern County of Taiwan. Shigellosis was detected after examination by the hospital. At the same time, health authorities conducted outbreak investigation to find out the epidemic scale and pathogen and to implement infection control measures. From January 22nd to 23rd, 37 out of 40 symptomatic patients matched with case definition. The attack rate was 8.8%. Anal swabs from 20 persons were collected and 18 specimens were confirmed as *Shigella sonnei* (subgroup D). Furthermore, the pathogen in this outbreak was resistant to ciprofloxacin after drug susceptibility tests. The results were also provided to the hospital for patients' treatment. There was no new case after January 23rd and the epidemic curve was single peak. The experience could be a reference for prevention and control to densely populated institutions and health authorities.

**Keywords:** Military camp ; Shigellosis ; Outbreak

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Weekly Data of Notifiable Infectious Diseases ( by week of diagnosis )

Classification	Disease Diagnosed <sup>1</sup>	Case diagnosis week		Week 24		Week 1—24	
		2015	2014	2015	2014		
Category I	Plague	0	0	0	0		
	Rabies	0	0	0	0		
	SARS	0	0	0	0		
	Smallpox	0	0	0	0		
Category II	Acute Flaccid Paralysis	0	0	8	12		
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type A	1	0	37	61		
	Amoebiasis	7	4	165	111		
	Anthrax	0	0	0	0		
	Chikungunya Fever	0	0	3	5		
	Cholera	0	0	4	1		
	Dengue Fever	9	13	266	164		
	Diphtheria	0	0	0	0		
	Enterohemorrhagic E. coli Infection	0	0	0	0		
	Epidemic Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0		
	Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome	0	0	0	0		
	Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome	0	0	0	1		
	Malaria	0	1	4	8		
	Measles	0	1	24	16		
	Meningococcal Meningitis	0	1	2	3		
	Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	1	6		
	Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0		
	Rubella	0	0	6	4		
	Shigellosis	5	1	87	73		
Typhoid fever	1	1	15	12			
West Nile Fever	0	0	0	0			
Category III	Acute Viral Hepatitis type B	2	1	58	44		
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type C <sup>4</sup>	5	5	100	76		
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type D	0	0	1	0		
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type E	0	2	1	8		
	Acute Viral Hepatitis untype	0	0	1	3		
	Congenital Rubella Syndrome	0	0	0	0		
	Enteroviruses Infection with Severe Complications	0	1	3	5		
	Haemophilus Influenza type b Infection	0	0	1	2		
	Japanese Encephalitis	2	0	3	0		
	Legionellosis	3	0	65	58		
	Mumps <sup>2</sup>	17	18	369	402		
	Neonatal Tetanus	0	0	0	0		
	Pertussis	4	1	53	23		
	Tetanus <sup>2</sup>	0	1	5	2		
Category IV	Botulism	0	0	1	0		
	Brucellosis	0	0	0	0		
	Complicated Influenza	50	24	587	1596		
	Complicated Varicella <sup>3</sup>	0	1	29	32		
	Endemic Typhus Fever	1	0	9	11		
	Herpesvirus B Infection	0	0	0	0		
	Invasive Pneumococcal Disease	5	7	291	344		
	Leptospirosis	0	1	21	15		
	Lyme Disease	0	0	0	0		
	Melioidosis	0	0	10	8		
	Q Fever	1	1	16	27		
	Scrub Typhus	8	7	104	112		
	Toxoplasmosis	0	0	6	6		
Tularremia	0	0	0	0			
Category V	Ebola Virus Disease	0	0	0	0		
	Ebola-Marburg Hemorrhagic Fever	0	0	0	0		
	Novel Influenza A Virus Infections <sup>5</sup>	0	0	0	0		
	Lassa Fever	0	0	0	0		
	Rift Valley Fever	0	0	0	0		
	Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus	0	0	0	0		
Yellow Fever	0	0	0	0			

1. The following 8 chronic diseases are excluded from the table: MDR-TB, Tuberculosis, Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, HIV Infection, AIDS, Hansen Disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.  
 2. Reported cases.  
 3. Since 2014/1/1, "Varicella" was modified to "Complicated Varicella".  
 4. Since 2014/3/6, the case definition for confirmed Acute hepatitis C was changed from "meet the clinical **and** laboratory conditions" to "meet the clinical **or** laboratory conditions".  
 5. Since 2014/7/1, various subtypes of human cases of avian influenza are reported as "novel influenza A virus infections", a Category V Notifiable Infectious Disease. The original "H5N1 flu" and "H7N9 flu", which were respectively listed as a Category I Notifiable Infectious Disease and a Category V Notifiable Infectious Disease were removed from the list on the same day.

### Suspected Clusters

- Twenty-three clusters were reported, including 11 diarrhea clusters, 7 upper respiratory tract infection clusters, 3 influenza-like illness clusters, 1 tuberculosis cluster, and 1 varicella cluster.

### Imported Infectious Diseases

- 9 confirmed cases were imported from 5 countries during Week 24 of 2015.

Disease \ Country	Indonesia	Malaysia	Philippines	Japan	China	Total
Amoebiasis	4					4
Shigellosis	1		1			2
Dengue Fever		1				1
FluSC				1		1
Measles					1	1
<b>Total</b>	5	1	1	1	1	9

Note: The statistics listed in this table include imported cases that were either confirmed or updated\* in the previous week.

- A total of 300 confirmed cases were imported from 25 countries in 2015.
- Top 3 imported diseases : Dengue fever (103), Amoebiasis (96), Shigellosis (49).
- Top 3 countries responsible for most imported cases : Indonesia (199), Philippines (16), Malaysia (15).

### Summary of Epidemic

- **Dengue Fever** : The cluster of dengue cases has continued to grow around the farmers market in Nanzih District, Kaohsiung City, and new cases have been confirmed in Zuoying District. In addition, the epidemic is showing signs of expansion to the surrounding area in North District, Tainan City. In some recently confirmed cases, the interval between the date of seeking first medical treatment and the date of reporting is comparatively longer, and a case is only reported after seeking several times of medical attention. Doctors are advised to stay vigilant for suspected cases to ensure timely cases reporting.
- **Enterovirus** : The enterovirus activity continued to peak. During Week 24, the consultation rate and numbers of visits to outpatient services and ER for enterovirus infection have not fluctuated. In addition, Coxsackie A16 virus is currently the dominant strain circulating in the community, accounting for approximately 30% of all cases. So far, a total of 3 cases of severe enterovirus have been confirmed. Of these cases, two died.
- **MERS** : A total of 175 cases of MERS, including 27 deaths, have been confirmed in South Korea. Travelers planning to visit South Korea are urged to stay vigilant and avoid unnecessary visits to healthcare facilities and hospitals.

### Weekly Data of Notifiable Infectious Diseases (by week of diagnosis)

Case diagnosis week		Week 25		Week 1 – 25	
Classification	Disease Diagnosed <sup>1</sup>	2015	2014	2015	2014
Category I	Plague	0	0	0	0
	Rabies	0	0	0	0
	SARS	0	0	0	0
	Smallpox	0	0	0	0
Category II	Acute Flaccid Paralysis	0	0	8	12
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type A	3	2	40	63
	Amoebiasis	7	3	172	114
	Anthrax	0	0	0	0
	Chikungunya Fever	0	1	3	6
	Cholera	0	0	4	1
	Dengue Fever	18	18	284	182
	Diphtheria	0	0	0	0
	Enterohemorrhagic E. coli Infection	0	0	0	0
	Epidemic Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0
	Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome	0	0	0	0
	Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome	0	0	0	1
	Malaria	0	0	4	8
	Measles	1	1	25	17
	Meningococcal Meningitis	0	0	2	3
	Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	1	6
	Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0
	Rubella	0	0	6	4
Shigellosis	5	4	92	77	
Typhoid fever	2	0	17	12	
West Nile Fever	0	0	0	0	
Category III	Acute Viral Hepatitis type B	0	5	58	49
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type C <sup>4</sup>	2	6	102	82
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type D	0	0	1	0
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type E	0	0	1	8
	Acute Viral Hepatitis untype	0	0	1	3
	Congenital Rubella Syndrome	0	0	0	0
	Enteroviruses Infection with Severe Complications	0	0	3	5
	Haemophilus Influenza type b Infection	0	0	1	2
	Japanese Encephalitis	3	3	6	3
	Legionellosis	3	4	68	62
	Mumps <sup>2</sup>	20	17	389	419
	Neonatal Tetanus	0	0	0	0
	Pertussis	1	0	54	23
	Tetanus <sup>2</sup>	0	0	5	2
Category IV	Botulism	0	0	1	0
	Brucellosis	0	0	0	0
	Complicated Influenza	39	18	626	1614
	Complicated Varicella <sup>3</sup>	2	2	31	34
	Endemic Typhus Fever	1	0	10	11
	Herpesvirus B Infection	0	0	0	0
	Invasive Pneumococcal Disease	5	4	296	348
	Leptospirosis	1	0	22	15
	Lyme Disease	0	0	0	0
	Melioidosis	1	1	11	9
	Q Fever	2	2	18	29
	Scrub Typhus	11	17	115	129
	Toxoplasmosis	0	1	6	7
Tularremia	0	0	0	0	
Category V	Ebola Virus Disease	0	0	0	0
	Ebola-Marburg Hemorrhagic Fever	0	0	0	0
	Novel Influenza A Virus Infections <sup>5</sup>	0	0	0	0
	Lassa Fever	0	0	0	0
	Rift Valley Fever	0	0	0	0
	Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus	0	0	0	0
Yellow Fever	0	0	0	0	

1. The following 8 chronic diseases are excluded from the table: MDR-TB, Tuberculosis, Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, HIV Infection, AIDS, Hansen Disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.  
2. Reported cases.  
3. Since 2014/1/1, "Varicella" was modified to "Complicated Varicella".  
4. Since 2014/3/6, the case definition for confirmed Acute hepatitis C was changed from "meet the clinical **and** laboratory conditions" to "meet the clinical **or** laboratory conditions".  
5. Since 2014/7/1, various subtypes of human cases of avian influenza are reported as "novel influenza A virus infections", a Category V Notifiable Infectious Disease. The original "H5N1 flu" and "H7N9 flu", which were respectively listed as a Category I Notifiable Infectious Disease and a Category V Notifiable Infectious Disease were removed from the list on the same day.

### Suspected Clusters

- Twelve clusters were reported, including 9 diarrhea clusters and 3 tuberculosis clusters.

### Imported Infectious Diseases

- 18 confirmed cases were imported from 7 countries during Week 25 of 2015.

Country Disease	Indonesia	Myanmar	Malaysia	Vietnam	Singapore	Costa Rica	Philippines	Total
Amoebiasis	6		1	1				8
Dengue Fever	1	2	1	1	1	1		7
Shigellosis	2						1	3
<b>Total</b>	9	2	2	2	1	1	1	18

Note: The statistics listed in this table include imported cases that were either confirmed or updated\* in the previous week.

- A total of 313 confirmed cases were imported from 26 countries in 2015.
- Top 3 imported diseases : Dengue fever (110), Amoebiasis (102), Shigellosis (50).
- Top 3 countries responsible for most imported cases : Indonesia (205), Malaysia (17), Philippines (16).

### Summary of Epidemic

- **Dengue Fever** : Two indigenous cases have been confirmed in Hsinchu County. The cluster of dengue cases has continued to grow around the farmers market and Kaohsiung Veterans Home in Nanzih District, Kaohsiung City. The epidemic is showing signs of expansion to the surrounding area in North District, Tainan City, indicating that potential breeding sites have not been removed. In addition, new indigenous cases have been confirmed in East District, Tainan City.
- **Enterovirus** : The enterovirus activity continued to peak. During Week 25, the numbers of visits to ER for enterovirus infection has not fluctuated. In addition, Coxsackie A16 virus is currently the dominant strain circulating in the community, accounting for approximately 44% of all cases. So far, a total of 3 cases of severe enterovirus have been confirmed. Of these cases, two died. The epidemic is expected to gradually slow down for the upcoming summer vacation.



● **MERS** : A total of 182 cases of MERS, including 33 deaths, have been confirmed in South Korea. Travelers planning to visit South Korea are urged to stay vigilant and avoid unnecessary visits to healthcare facilities and hospitals.

### Weekly Data of Notifiable Infectious Diseases (by week of diagnosis)

Case diagnosis week		Week 26		Week 1—26	
Classification	Disease Diagnosed <sup>1</sup>	2015	2014	2015	2014
<b>Category I</b>	Plague	0	0	0	0
	Rabies	0	0	0	0
	SARS	0	0	0	0
	Smallpox	0	0	0	0
<b>Category II</b>	Acute Flaccid Paralysis	2	2	10	14
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type A	4	0	44	63
	Amoebiasis	7	6	179	120
	Anthrax	0	0	0	0
	Chikungunya Fever	0	0	3	6
	Cholera	0	2	4	3
	Dengue Fever	15	21	298	203
	Diphtheria	0	0	0	0
	Enterohemorrhagic E. coli Infection	0	0	0	0
	Epidemic Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0
	Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome	0	0	0	0
	Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome	0	0	0	1
	Malaria	0	0	4	8
	Measles	0	0	25	17
	Meningococcal Meningitis	0	0	2	3
	Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	1	6
	Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0
	Rubella	0	0	6	4
	Shigellosis	1	5	93	82
	Typhoid fever	0	0	17	12
West Nile Fever	0	0	0	0	
<b>Category III</b>	Acute Viral Hepatitis type B	3	0	61	49
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type C <sup>4</sup>	2	4	104	86
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type D	0	0	1	0
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type E	0	0	1	8
	Acute Viral Hepatitis untype	0	0	1	3
	Congenital Rubella Syndrome	0	0	0	0
	Enteroviruses Infection with Severe Complications	0	0	3	5
	Haemophilus Influenza type b Infection	0	0	1	2
	Japanese Encephalitis	8	3	14	6
	Legionellosis	7	1	75	63
	Mumps <sup>2</sup>	19	21	408	440
	Neonatal Tetanus	0	0	0	0
	Pertussis	0	0	54	23
	Tetanus <sup>2</sup>	0	0	5	2
<b>Category IV</b>	Botulism	0	0	1	0
	Brucellosis	0	0	0	0
	Complicated Influenza	34	17	660	1631
	Complicated Varicella <sup>3</sup>	0	0	31	34
	Endemic Typhus Fever	2	3	12	14
	Herpesvirus B Infection	0	0	0	0
	Invasive Pneumococcal Disease	6	3	302	351
	Leptospirosis	1	7	23	22
	Lyme Disease	0	0	0	0
	Melioidosis	2	1	13	10
	Q Fever	3	2	21	31
	Scrub Typhus	8	16	123	145
	Toxoplasmosis	0	0	6	7
Tularremia	0	0	0	0	
<b>Category V</b>	Ebola Virus Disease	0	0	0	0
	Ebola-Marburg Hemorrhagic Fever	0	0	0	0
	Novel Influenza A Virus Infections <sup>5</sup>	0	0	0	0
	Lassa Fever	0	0	0	0
	Rift Valley Fever	0	0	0	0
	Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus	0	0	0	0
Yellow Fever	0	0	0	0	

1. The following 8 chronic diseases are excluded from the table: MDR-TB, Tuberculosis, Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, HIV Infection, AIDS, Hansen Disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.  
2. Reported cases.  
3. Since 2014/1/1, "Varicella" was modified to "Complicated Varicella".  
4. Since 2014/3/6, the case definition for confirmed Acute hepatitis C was changed from "meet the clinical **and** laboratory conditions" to "meet the clinical **or** laboratory conditions".  
5. Since 2014/7/1, various subtypes of human cases of avian influenza are reported as "novel influenza A virus infections", a Category V Notifiable Infectious Disease. The original "H5N1 flu" and "H7N9 flu", which were respectively listed as a Category I Notifiable Infectious Disease and a Category V Notifiable Infectious Disease were removed from the list on the same day.

### Suspected Clusters

● Eleven clusters were reported, including 8 diarrhea clusters, 1 tuberculosis cluster, 1 influenza-like illness cluster, and 1 varicella cluster.

### Imported Infectious Diseases

● 6 confirmed cases were imported from 4 countries during Week 26 of 2015.

Disease \ Country	Indonesia	Philippines	Australia	Maldives	Total
Amoebiasis	2	1	1		4
Dengue Fever		1		1	2
Total	2	2	1	1	6

Note: The statistics listed in this table include imported cases that were either confirmed or updated\* in the previous week.

- A total of 319 confirmed cases were imported from 26 countries in 2015.
- Top 3 imported diseases : Dengue fever (112), Amoebiasis (106), Shigellosis (50).
- Top 3 countries responsible for most imported cases : Indonesia (207), Philippines (18), Malaysia (17).

### Summary of Epidemic

- **Dengue Fever** : One indigenous case has been confirmed in Hsinchu County. The epidemic is showing signs of expansion to the surrounding area in North District and Annan District, Tainan City. The newly confirmed dengue cases were associated with the epidemic in Nanzih District, Kaohsiung City. In some cases, the interval between seeking medical treatment for the first time and the date of reporting is up to 5-7 days, and cases are reported after seeking to 3-4 times of medical assistance. Doctors are advised to stay vigilant for suspected cases to ensure timely case reporting.
- **Enterovirus** : The enterovirus activity continued to peak. Coxsackie A16 virus is currently the dominant strain circulating in the community, accounting for approximately 30% of all cases. So far, a total of 3 cases of severe enterovirus infection have been confirmed. Of these cases, two died. The epidemic is expected to gradually slow down for the upcoming summer vacation.
- **Japanese Encephalitis** : Japanese encephalitis activity has peaked. Thus far this year, a total of 15 cases of Japanese encephalitis have been confirmed. The most cases were reported in southern Taiwan. Taiwan CDC urges the public to take personal precautions against mosquito bites and parents are reminded to make sure their children receive the vaccine timely.

- **MERS** : The epidemic of MERS has slowed down in South Korea. Taiwan CDC has lowered the travel notice level for South Korea from Level 2: Alert for MERS to Level 1: Watch for MERS.

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