

EN
E-003106/2025
Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.10.2025)

To support Member States, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has published the following documents, which include guidelines for Member States: a report on surveillance, prevention, and control of West Nile virus and Usutu virus infections in the EU/European Economic Area (EEA)¹; guidance on vector control practices and strategies against West Nile virus²; a West Nile virus risk assessment tool³; public health guidance for assessing and mitigating the risk of locally acquired Aedes-borne viral diseases in the EU/EEA⁴; an assessment about deferral criteria and testing strategies for dengue virus in blood donors returning from affected areas⁵; several risk assessments for dengue⁶ and chikungunya⁷ virus disease; guidelines for mosquito surveillance⁸.

As Member States are responsible for the definition of their health policy and for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care⁹, the implementation of the said guidelines is voluntary.

The ECDC collects surveillance data on locally acquired West Nile virus infections¹⁰, dengue¹¹ and chikungunya virus disease¹² cases, and publishes worldwide epidemiological overviews for chikungunya¹³ and dengue¹⁴.

The Commission funds a project to eliminate *Aedes aegypti* in Cyprus using the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT)¹⁵. EU4Health funding under the 2025 annual work programme supports vector surveillance and control by the Commission¹⁶. Member States, within their approved programmes, may mobilise resources from Cohesion Policy Funds for investments in public health, including in relation to vector-borne diseases¹⁷. Through Horizon 2020¹⁸ and Horizon

¹ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/surveillance-prevention-and-control-west-nile-virus-and-usutu-virus-infections>.

² <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/vector-control-practices-and-strategies-against-west-nile-virus>.

³ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/west-nile-virus-risk-assessment-tool>.

⁴ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/public-health-guidance-assessing-and-mitigating-risk-locally-acquired-aedes-borne>.

⁵ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/deferral-criteria-and-testing-strategies-dengue-virus-blood-donors-returning>.

⁶ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/dengue/surveillance-and-updates/risk-assessment>.

⁷ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/chikungunya/surveillance-and-updates/risk-assessment>.

⁸ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/infectious-disease-topics/dengue/strategies-and-guidelines-dengue>.

⁹ Article 168(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

¹⁰ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/west-nile-fever/surveillance-and-disease-data/disease-data-ecdc>.

¹¹ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/dengue/surveillance-and-updates/seasonal-surveillance-dengue-eueea-weekly>.

¹² <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/chikungunya-virus-disease/surveillance-and-updates/seasonal-surveillance>.

¹³ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/chikungunya-monthly>.

¹⁴ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/dengue-monthly>.

¹⁵ https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/2024-eu4health-work-programme_en.

¹⁶ https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/2025-eu4health-work-programme_en.

¹⁷ The choice and design of such interventions rest with the Member States and their managing authorities, in the framework of shared management.

¹⁸ <https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open>

Europe¹⁹, over EUR 500 million has been invested in research on vectors and vector-borne diseases.

[calls/horizon-2020_en](#).

¹⁹ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.