

Hazardous or unusual imported infectious diseases

For several decades now, no cases of rare and extremely dangerous communicable diseases have been reported in the country. The last case of smallpox was recorded in 1936, of plague and anthrax - in the year 1710 and 1974 respectively. However, due to emergence of diseases such as viral hemorrhagic fevers (Lassa, Ebola, Marburg, and other fevers) in certain places in the world and the recurrence of epidemic diseases, such as cholera, and an increased flow of travellers, the risk of occurrence of such diseases in the country has increased. Over the period of 1994 – 2014 seven cases of imported dengue hemorrhagic fever were reported, 3 of which were reported in 2014.

Annually, about 125 million travellers from all over the world travel to malaria-endemic areas, over 10 thousand of whom get infected with malaria after returning home and about 1% die of tropical malaria¹².

Several cases of imported malaria are reported annually in the country. The reason to this is irregular use or no use of chemoprophylaxis and insufficient protection against mosquitoes. Over the period of 2005-2014, 37 cases of imported malaria of which one ended in death were reported in the country. The year 2013 accounted for the highest number of cases of imported malaria over the last decade (8 cases).

Today Europe is facing an increasing risk of the spread of West Nile virus. The virus has acquired increased virulence (during the outbreak in Russia in 1999 48% of the infected died)¹³. There is no vaccine against it, hence the main focus should be targeted at mosquito control. In 2014, 74 cases of locally acquired West Nile virus infection were reported in EU (1 in Austria, 15 in Greece , 11 in Hungary, 24 in Italy, 23 in Romania) and 136 cases in the neighbouring countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Israel, Palestine , Russia, Serbia).¹⁴