On 5 June, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) will start publishing maps in anticipation of the 2015 West Nile fever transmission season. The West Nile fever maps data [1] will be displayed through an interactive web-based tool, based on the Surveillance Atlas of Infectious Diseases [2].

Weekly maps and tables of reported autochthonous human cases in Europe and the Mediterranean basin, will be presented through an interconnected webpage, updated every Friday. The updates are based on information obtained from the countries’ health authorities and refer to human autochthonous cases of West Nile fever only. Users will be able to see the location of an area and its epidemiological situation at a glance. A table on the number of cases according to countries and areas will further add to the user friendliness of the tool.

The objective of the West Nile maps project is to inform the competent authorities responsible for blood safety, of areas with ongoing transmission of West Nile virus to humans, in order to support the implementation of European Union (EU) blood safety legislation [3]. According to the legislation, efforts should be made to defer all blood donations from areas with ongoing transmission of West Nile virus WNV to humans to prevent its onward spread. An important consequence of the deferral of blood donations from areas with West Nile fever is the impact on the blood supply for those areas.

To date, no West Nile fever cases have been reported in the EU or neighbouring countries in 2015.

References