



# Today's news

...in brief

Prepared by the Science & Public Affairs Unit

Source: **The New Vision**

Date: Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Country: Uganda

## [Ugandan researchers at HIV conference in America.....Pg4](#)

Over 30 Ugandan researchers are attending the Sixth International Microbicides Conference dubbed M2010, in Pittsburgh, USA. The conference which started on 22 May 2010 has attracted over 1,000 participants including HIV prevention researchers, policy makers, and community advocates from over 35 countries. They will discuss microbicides and other HIV prevention methods like male circumcision, taking Anti-Retroviral drugs (ARVs) before exposure and vaccination. Microbicides are substances designed to prevent sexual transmission of HIV when applied outside the vagina or rectum. They include gels, vaginal rings and films.

## [Pregnancy doubles HIV risk for men.....](#)

A new study presented at the Sixth International Microbicides Conference in Pittsburgh, USA has revealed that the risk of a man acquiring HIV from a woman doubles as soon as she gets pregnant. Dr. Nelly Mugo of the University of Nairobi and Kenyatta Hospital presented the results and explained that biological changes which occur in a woman during pregnancy may make women more infectious than they would otherwise be. A total of 3,321 discordant couples were recruited from Uganda, Botswana, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia, and were followed up for two years to understand the different circumstances and determinants that may contribute to HIV risk. All infected partners were given Anti-Retroviral Therapy to rule out effects of viral load. The study found that while pregnancy was generally associated to with increased risk of transmission either way, for men with HIV positive partners, the link between pregnancy and HIV risk was much clearer.

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Source: **Daily Trust**

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Country: Nigeria

## [Cholera kills four in Nigeria town.....](#)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201005240982.html>

Four people died last Wednesday following an outbreak of cholera at Ibwa community in Gwagwalada Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory. Council Chairman, Alhaji Zakari Angulu Dobi, said two people died on the first day of the outbreak last week, while another two died the following day at the community's health centre. According to him, on

Source: **World Health Organization**

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Country: World Health Authority

## [Pandemic Influenza A \(H1N1\) update.....](#)

[http://www.who.int/csr/don/2010\\_05\\_21/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2010_05_21/en/index.html)

As of 16 May, worldwide more than 214 countries and overseas territories or communities had reported laboratory confirmed cases of pandemic Influenza A (H1N1), including over 18,097 deaths. WHO is actively monitoring the progress of the pandemic through frequent consultations with the WHO Regional Offices and Member States and through monitoring of multiple sources of information.

The most active areas of the Pandemic Influenza virus transmission currently are in parts of the Caribbean and Southeast Asia. In central Africa, there has been increased transmission of seasonal Influenza type B viruses, accounting for 85% of all Influenza isolates in the region. Influenza B also continues to be detected at low levels across parts of Asia and Europe, and has now been reported in Central America.

In Asia, the most active areas of pandemic influenza virus transmission are in parts of South and Southeast Asia, particularly in Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Singapore. In sub-Saharan Africa, limited data from several countries suggest that active transmission of Pandemic Influenza virus in West Africa has now largely subsided. In Ghana, 6% of respiratory samples tested positive for Pandemic Influenza virus during the most recent reporting week. Across the rest of region, the Pandemic Influenza virus continues to be detected sporadically or at low levels, most recently in Angola and Rwanda. Sporadic detections of seasonal influenza H3N2 and influenza B viruses have been reported in western, central Africa and to a lesser extent southern Africa.

The Global Influenza Surveillance Network (GISN) continues monitoring the global circulation of influenza viruses, including pandemic, seasonal and other influenza viruses infecting, or with the potential to infect, humans including seasonal influenza.

receiving information on the outbreak, the council authority immediately sent additional drugs to the affected community in order to control the outbreak. About 118 people were infected by cholera, some of whom included children. The Council boss urged residents of the community to report cases of such diseases early rather than engage in self medication, adding that the council will refurbish the community's bore-hole in order to support the existing water sources.

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