

# Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting the Outbreak of Yellow Fever in Delta State

November 08-14, 2020

## Description

This special edition of the weekly update spotlights emerging threats to public health and human security in the Niger Delta with a focus on the outbreak of yellow fever in Delta State. Yellow fever - an acute viral hemorrhagic disease caused by the yellow fever virus (Flaviviridae) and transmitted through the bites of infected mosquitos - is an epidemic-prone infectious disease with significant public health ramifications. The first known outbreak of yellow fever in Nigeria was reported in 1864 in Lagos. Subsequently, intermittent outbreaks of the disease were reported in the country until 1996. Another outbreak of the disease was reported in 2017 and since then episodic outbreaks of the disease have been reported in the country. Recently, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) confirmed the outbreak of yellow fever in Delta State. Current data indicates a sudden rise in yellow fever related cases and deaths in the State. As of November 6, 2020, for instance, the disease has reportedly caused over 30 fatalities in the State, particularly in Ute-Erume, Ute-Okpu and Idumesa communities in Ika North East LGA.

## Why it Matters

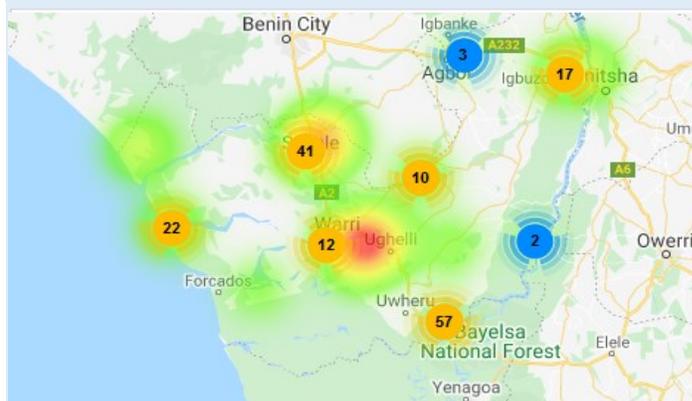
The outbreak of yellow fever is a major threat to individual and collective health security in the State. This could have serious socio-economic and political ramifications, especially in the context of the COVID-19 crisis and civil unrest in the wake of the 'EndSARS' protests.

**Social:** If the infection rate of yellow fever continues, it could overwhelm health facilities and healthcare professionals, particularly against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. This could exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and cause more infections. This could cause a public health crisis and result in far-reaching containment measures that can cause residents a high level of stress and hardship.

**Economic:** The economic consequences of the disease could be as devastating as its epidemiological impact. Increased infection rate could result in travel restrictions and disruption of economic activities. The disease could cause loss of livelihoods and labor shortages. Fear and uncertainties about the disease could adversely affect consumer behavior which could cause loss of productivity and income.

**Political:** The outbreak of the disease could have significant political ramifications in the State, especially against the backdrop of the COVID-19 crisis and 'EndSARS' protests. It could raise concerns about government commitment to public health security. This could cause mass demonstrations and violent protests against the government. On November 10, 2020, for instance, youths reportedly razed a market and attempted to attack a community leader in protest over yellow fever related deaths in Ute-Okpu community, Ika North East LGA.

## Heat Map of Infectious Disease Related Fatalities in Delta State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows the concentration of fatalities related to infectious disease outbreaks in Delta State from January 2016 - September 2020. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org).

## Prognosis

The outbreak of yellow fever disease in Delta State is a public health concern as well as a security and governance challenge. The disease has the potential to spread and cause serious socio-economic and political disruptions. While the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and state government are making efforts to curtail the disease, stakeholders must work with relevant government agencies and media outfits to sensitize the public about the disease and advise residents on appropriate preventive measures.

## Contact Us

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## Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

**Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system:** Text report to **080 9936 2222**

**Incident Details:** Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and Brief Incident Description.



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