1. The Commission is aware of the increase of severe acute hepatitis cases of unknown aetiology in children in the United Kingdom and several EU/European Economic Area (EEA) countries. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) monitors the situation and provides updates on a dedicated webpage\(^1\).

Moreover, different European clinical research networks, several of which receive Horizon 2020 funding (e.g. ECRAID\(^2\), Penta\(^3\)), set up a rapid survey to assess the extent and geographical distribution of the outbreak\(^4\), which is also monitored at the level of the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R)\(^5\).

2. ECDC provided a Risk Assessment\(^6\) that the Health Security Committee\(^7\) discussed for the first time on 27 April 2022. ECDC called on EU/EEA countries to establish surveillance at national level, including appropriate testing, and quickly report cases to the European Surveillance System\(^8\). ECDC is working with research teams and Member States to plan aetiological studies for the hepatitis cases.

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\(^1\) Increase in severe acute hepatitis cases of unknown aetiology in children

\(^2\) European Clinical Research Alliance for Infectious Diseases (ECRAID) [https://www.ecraid.eu/](https://www.ecraid.eu/). Projects: ECRAID-Plan (Grant Agreement N° 825715, [https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/825715](https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/825715)), ECRAID-Base (Grant Agreement N° 965313, [https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/965313](https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/965313)), ECRAID-Prime (Grant Agreement N° 101046109, [https://www.ecraid.eu/ecraid-prime](https://www.ecraid.eu/ecraid-prime)); total EU contribution EUR 42.9 million

\(^3\) [https://www.glopid-r.org/](https://www.glopid-r.org/) is beneficiary of a total EU contribution of EUR 8.0 million in 8 Horizon 2020 projects (i.e. Grant Agreements N° 734857, 777554, 825579, 825715, 965313, 965328, 101003589, 101016167) and 2 Horizon Europe projects (i.e. Grant Agreements N° 101046118, 101057036).

\(^4\) [https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2022.27.19.2200370](https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2022.27.19.2200370)


\(^6\) In accordance with Article 6 of Decision 1082/2013/EU on serious cross-border threats to health and repealing Decision No 2119/98/EC (OJ L 293, 5.11.2013, p. 1) on epidemiological surveillance of communicable diseases and related special health issues (such as antimicrobial resistance). Hepatitis is included in the list of notifiable diseases subject to epidemiological surveillance. The proposed Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on serious cross-border threats to health and repealing Decision No 1082/2013/EU will, once adopted, strengthen preparedness and response, *inter alia* through a Union preparedness plan, a system of regular assessments of national preparedness plans and improved, continued surveillance of communicable diseases and related special health issues. On 23 June 2022, the co-legislators have reached a provisional agreement on the draft regulation.