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REAL TIME ESTIMATION OF REPRODUCTION BASED ON CASE NOTIFICATIONS

- Effective reproduction number of primary pneumonic plague

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Abstract: To estimate the time-dependent transmission potential of plague (PPP), we analyzed historical records from six outbreaks. Based on investigation information (source of infection information) of three outbreaks, we estimated the probability density function of the serial interval with a Gamma distribution and maximum likelihood estimations. Furthermore, we used a likelihood estimate of effective reproduction numbers at time t , R_t , incorporating the remaining three outbreaks by assuming independence within unknown

According to our estimates, the R_t of PPP during the initial phases (roughly in the order of 1.3 (95% confidence interval (CI): 0.0-4.3) : 4.6) in Rangoon and 6.5 (0.0-16.0) in Ecuador. The expected values slightly exceed unity, even in latter stages. While declining trends in Oakland and Ecuador, no such trend was observed in Rangoon. The three outbreaks investigated could have been accompanied by stochasticity. The statistical usefulness of the transformation procedure, number of recorded cases available, was demonstrated, and the extent of bioterrorism using *Yersinia pestis* were discussed.

Key words: [Primary pneumonic plague](#), [Yersinia pestis](#), [Reproduction number](#), [Maximum likelihood estimation](#)

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