

PACIFIC PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

REGIONAL LABNET / EPINET MEETING

Nadi, Fiji, 20-22 July 2015

Objectives:

1. To provide an update on the implementation of the LQMS (Laboratory Quality Management System) and the SHIP (Strengthening Health Interventions in the Pacific) training programs.
2. To encourage critical reflection and come up with suggestions on how to strengthen public health emergency preparedness within the PPHSN, including taking a coordinated approach to addressing IHR meeting recommendations for identified core capacities to be strengthened in the next two years.
3. To discuss and outline a set of regional performance indicators for PPHSN services

Recommendations:

Members agreed on the following:

PPHSN

1. Strong support for PPHSN and appreciation for what it has achieved for coordination and strengthening of surveillance. Recognition that the PPHSN Coordinating Body is not a governing body.

PPHSN Governance

2. To ensure country ownership and advocacy of PPHSN, direct links between PPHSN and the Heads of Health are recommended to be re-established as a consequence of the recently changed regional health architecture.

Theme 1: Capacity Building

3. Continued **national and regional** support and advocacy for Strengthening Health Interventions in the Pacific program (SHIP) including the Data for Decision Making (DDM) and Operational Research (OR) courses.
4. Continued **national and regional** support and advocacy for LQMS training and implementation organized through LabNet and LabNet Technical Working Group (TWG).
5. **National** members advocate to ministries to create epitech, senior epitech and epidemiologist positions, to develop career paths in public health units, and to increase the sustainability of training programs.
6. **National and regional** members advocate to ministries for laboratory training and support to LQMS. Training providers are encouraged to consider a two year enrolment program, better allowing labs to plan for staff training in advance, and to access donor funds to support training. Application eligibility criteria, for example stand-down time in-between training, can also be reconsidered to encourage on-going training.
7. **National and regional** members provide support for activities enhancing event-based surveillance.
8. **National and regional** members advocate for the use of filter papers for specimen collection to expedite shipment to referral labs.
9. **National** members plan for referral tests during time of outbreaks. **Regional** members continue to support the costs of testing.

Theme 2: Preparedness

10. **National** members, with **regional** partner support, to harmonise national surveillance teams if required, and create partnerships in advance of outbreaks.
11. **Regional and national** coordinated preparedness planning for infectious and communicable diseases, including command and control functions.
12. **National** members, with support of **regional** members, to ensure established legal authority of the national preparedness plan/structure, or ensure the structure follows current legislation.

Theme 3: PPHSN Performance Indicators

13. Development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for PPHSN services, with clearly delineated roles for oversight at **national and regional** level.
14. **National** members, with the support of **regional** members, to strengthen surveillance of hospital-acquired infections via PICNet and engaging doctors in the EpiNet team.
15. **National** members, with the support of **regional** members, strengthen AMR surveillance through local laboratory reporting and piloting surveillance of returning off-island health care referrals.
16. The Focal Point to form two TWGs. **National and regional** members to support the work of the TWGs once formed:
 - Improvement of surveillance
 - Planning of PPHSN performance indicators