



RDSS MONTHLY – MARCH 2008

Monthly Summary Data from the Palau Reportable Disease Surveillance System

March was a quiet month for RDSS and infectious disease reporting. The number of Dengue Fever cases came down from the February peak, and Gastroenteritis cases also decreased. The lab is still waiting for Dengue test kits, so all probable cases are being followed up by CDU and DEH (based on clinical symptoms).

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NEWS and EVENTS

Mass Flu Prevention Campaign

Thanks to the recent donation of FluMist and Influenza vaccines, 4,078 people were vaccinated during a one week period in March. In total, 2,826 people received FluMist, and an additional 1,232 people received the flu vaccine.

This Mass Campaign demonstrated the importance of program collaboration within the Ministry of Health. Emergency Health program collected data and organized logistics, in addition to many other important responsibilities. The community advocacy program did a great job of releasing information to the media, ensuring a good turnout to the various sites and vaccine distribution locations.

A special thank you to the Public Health Nursing staff that formed a diligent and hardworking foundation to initiate and complete the busy week – their hard work demonstrated how nurses can form the backbone of any response, including mass prophylaxis or vaccinations campaigns. Data on health care worker coverage will be provided next month.

Palau Health Communities Initiative

With the support from the Director of Public Health and the U.S. CDC, the Division of Environmental Health's Palau Health Communities Initiative (PHCI) will commence their community activities with their partner, Koror State Government's Sanitation Department, within the coming months.

There will be a mosquito surveillance training workshop and community inspections in order to conduct valuable cross-training. This initiative will enable sanitarians to collect information that highlights environmental conditions that are considered a major problem area, especially as they relate to burden of disease.

Project Implementation Training

Although the pilot training project will be based on weed control (not too relevant with reportable disease surveillance!), Division of Environmental Health staff will learn how to plan, implement and monitor species eradication projects in Palau. Hopefully material learned from this course can be applied to other invasive species management projects in Palau, especially in the context of re-emerging health threats like mosquitoes and increasing rodent populations. Participants will work closely with the Bureau of Agriculture, Office of Environmental Response and Coordination, and PALARIS to hopefully improve response collaboration between each of these agencies.

Dengue Rapid Test Kits

We are still waiting for PanBio Dengue Fever test kits to be delivered to the Laboratory. If you see a patient that has Dengue-like symptoms, please notify the Communicable Disease Unit. This will ensure that proper follow up and education is conducted in the absence of lab confirmation.

March Tip: If you are interviewing a patient with a suspected infectious disease, be sure to ask about **date of onset, **travel history** and **complete the encounter form** or **CMR!****

SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY

As of March 31st, 2008

The data only reflects verified RDSS cases and is for internal information only. Note: Last months data for the "Last Year to Date" column was entered incorrectly and instead reflected yearly totals instead of total cases to date. We apologize for any confusion this might have caused.

Rash and/or Fever Illnesses

DISEASE NAME	MAR	This Year to date	Last Year to date
Acute Fever + Rash	0	0	5
Dengue Fever	12	48	0
Leptospirosis	0	0	1
Measles	0	0	0
Scrub Typhus	0	0	0
Typhoid Fever	0	0	0
Chickenpox	0	31	34

Enteric Illness

DISEASE NAME	MAR	This Year to date	Last Year to date
Bloody Diarrhea	2	2	0
Cholera	0	0	0
Diarrhea & Gastroenteritis	23	127	117
Fish Poisoning	0	0	0
Hepatitis A	0	0	0

STI's / Bloodborne Diseases

DISEASE NAME	MAR	This Year to date	Last Year to date
AIDS	0	0	0
Chlamydia STD	0	7	25
Gonorrhea STD	1	4	3
Hepatitis B	0	7	17
Hepatitis C	0	5	6
HIV infection	0	0	0
Syphilis	0	4	2

Respiratory Illness

DISEASE NAME	MAR	This Year to date	Last Year to date
Influenza-Like Illness	0	0	1
Pertussis	0	0	0
SARS	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	0	1	0
Acute lower respiratory infection	0	0	1

Other

There were no cases of conjunctivitis, Hansen's disease, acute flaccid paralysis or filariasis reported during the month of March.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

Here are some interesting outbreaks and epidemiology investigations from around the world (courtesy of ProMed).

Sri Lanka: Chikungunya

Archive #: 20080330.1185

A new crisis has erupted in the northern war zone with a virtual epidemic of dengue and chikungunya viral fever among troops due to heavy rains and resultant floods, officials said.

Provincial Health Director Dr. W. Atapattu said the health crisis had arisen one month ago [end of February 2008] and the victims were being treated at the Anuradhapura, Padaviya and Sampathnuwara hospitals. Dr. Atapattu also said health education and viral flu prevention activities were conducted in the affected areas and mosquito nets being widely distributed.

Other steps are also being taken to check and destroy mosquito breeding sites. An official said the dengue or chikungunya mosquitoes were breeding in various places including discarded cases of shells used in the war.

Colorado: Salmonellosis

Archive #: 20080331.1192

State health officials say the salmonellosis strain that has contaminated Alamosa's municipal water supply and sickened nearly 300 people is the same strain found locally in birds, deer and other warm-blooded animals. Officials are investigating whether bird or animal droppings might have contaminated the water.

The southern Colorado city is flushing its water system with chlorine. People won't be able to drink the water until high concentrations of the disinfecting chemical washes out of the water system. The 1st salmonella victim began showing symptoms 7 Mar 2008, and state health officials became aware of the outbreak about a week later.

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