



RDSS MONTHLY – APRIL 2008

Monthly Summary Data from the Palau Reportable Disease Surveillance System

RDSS received a much needed boost this month thanks to efforts from the HIV/STD program. Although there are still many issues with data collection, case reporting, and surveillance, positive changes are slowly being made. The lab is still unable to do gen-probe testing for Chlamydia, so STD numbers may appear lower than they actually are. Thank you to the HIV/STD program, CDU, DEH, Kolbas and Medical Records for all of their assistance these past few weeks

Kristen Burrows
Epidemiologist, Ministry of Health

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NEWS and EVENTS

HIV/STI Quality Assurance

Three meetings took place during the last week of April 2008 for the purpose of quality assurance on case reporting regarding HIV and other STIs. Initiated by Johana Ngiruchelbad, the HIV/AIDS & STIs Program Administrator, the group consisted of several healthcare workers whose work directly affected cases being reported into the RDSS.

Cases reviewed ranged from the months of January 2008 through April 2008 and included Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, as well as HIV. The QA on case reporting proved to be a successful project as it ultimately improved case reporting on virtually every level leading up to RDSS. The HIV/AIDS & STIs Program thanks everyone's involvement in the meetings.

DEH Food Microbiology

Weekly proficiency testing started toward the end of March and run all the way through April. Testing was performed through isolation of *Staphylococcus aureus* and *E.coli* for 3 types of food samples including chocolate, fried chicken and spam sushi. Testing methods included gram staining, catalase, slide coagulase and DNase which were all presumptively positive for both *Staph aureus* and *E.coli*.

Due to some minor remodeling of the food microbiology laboratory, we will cease any actual food testing until further notice.

AUSREADY

AusReady aims to strengthen capacity for the prevention and preparedness of emerging infectious diseases in the Asia-Pacific region. As such, this organization is creating a database of regional advisors that would be willing to respond to EID's, including infectious diseases, animal health & veterinary services, health systems, social sciences, capacity development, environment & natural resources, program management, and information systems.

If you are interested in becoming an advisor, please visit the AusReady website at: www.ausready.org.au.

If you have any other questions, please contact Kristen or Losii so they can provide you with the introductory letter or brochure on this initiative.

OUTBREAKS

Please be on alert for the following and report to RDSS through the Encounter forms:

- ◆ Leptospirosis cases (New: 2 confirmed, 1 suspected case) - RDSS
- ◆ Dengue fever cases (continues) – RDSS

If you encounter the following, please contact EpiNet, or Kristen at 488-2172.

- ◆ Staph aureus blisters on infants (not in RDSS, but part of IPCC surveillance)
- ◆ Hand/food/mouth disease – please report to EpiNet immediately (see international update)

SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY

As of April 30th, 2008

The data only reflects verified RDSS cases and is for internal information only.

Rash and/or Fever Illnesses

DISEASE NAME	APR	Last Year to date
Acute Fever + Rash	0	11
Dengue Fever	6	0
Leptospirosis	1	1
Measles	0	0
Scrub Typhus	0	0
Typhoid Fever	0	0
Chickenpox	0	66

Enteric Illness

DISEASE NAME	APR	Last Year to date
Bloody Diarrhea	0	0
Cholera	0	0
Diarrhea & Gastroenteritis	8	138
Fish Poisoning	0	0
Hepatitis A	0	0

STI's / Bloodborne Diseases

DISEASE NAME	APR	Last Year to date
AIDS	0	0
Chlamydia STD	0	51
Gonorrhea STD	4	7
Hepatitis B	5	30
Hepatitis C	0	6
HIV infection*	1	0
Syphilis	1	4

*There are 3 additional reactive cases that are currently awaiting off-island test results.

Respiratory Illness

DISEASE NAME	APR	Last Year to date
Influenza-Like Illness	0	6
Pertussis	0	0
SARS	0	0
Tuberculosis	0	0
Acute lower respiratory infection	0	1

Other

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

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

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

CHINA: HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

Archive #: 20080514.1622

Beijing's health authority on Wednesday [14 May 2008] confirmed the first child death of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) in the capital. Deng Xiaohong, spokeswoman of the Beijing Health Bureau, said the child, a 13 month old boy from northern Changping District, had died on the way to a hospital last Sunday [11 May 2008]. She said the child had tested positive for enterovirus 71 (EV71), a virus that causes the majority of HFMD deaths in China.

Beijing counting of HFMD infection ran up to 3606 as of 12 May 2008, up from 1492 cases reported on May 4. The health bureau did not update the figure by Wednesday morning. Deng said that Beijing's Chaoyang District has so far the city's largest number of infections, followed by southern Fengtai and northern Changping districts. The bureau's figures showed that as of Wednesday, a total of 70 children remained in Beijing's hospitals for the epidemic treatment. Among them, 55 were locals and 15 were from elsewhere.

Indonesia: Suspected Human Avian Influenza

Archive #:20080514.1623

2 teenagers from the same family have died within 10 days because of suspected bird flu in Jakarta, prompting health officials to take blood test of the other members of the family, local press said on Wednesday [14 May 2008]. A 16 year old girl died 4 days after being admitted to the Persahabatan Hospital in the Indonesian capital on May 8 with laboratory test later confirming she had the avian flu virus. Ten days before her death, her 15 year old brother died after a brief treatment at another hospital with symptoms similar to bird flu. The family lives in a densely populated neighborhood where a nearby house raises chickens.

CONTACTS

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