



RDSS MONTHLY – FEBRUARY 2009

Monthly Summary Data from the Palau Reportable Disease Surveillance System

The month of February RDSS and EpiNet have seen a slight increase of the number of gastroenteritis cases. This is just a friendly reminder of **Hand washing**: Frequent and thorough hand washing is the most important thing you can do to prevent infections. You should always wash your hands after using the bathroom, changing a diaper, after you touch money, and before you prepare food. Using hand sanitizer is an appropriate alternative only if you can see that there is no dirt actually stuck to your hands. Kids should also be encouraged to wash their hands as often as possible. Thank You!

Losii Samsel
Epidemiology Specialist

NEWS and EVENTS

WHO Global Salmonella Surveillance Network (GSS) Sub-Regional Training Course for the Northern Pacific Island Countries and Territories February 23 - 27, 2009, GUAM

The GSS program is run jointly by PPHSN, SPC, PIHOA, WHO, and CDC and is designed to improve surveillance of foodborne illness globally by improving lab skills for identification of foodborne pathogens (in both food and clinical samples) and better integration of lab results into surveillance and investigation techniques. The course in Guam was held from the 23 to 27 February, 2009 and included combined sessions for epidemiologists and laboratory technicians as well as separate sessions for each of these groups to focus on specific skills with practical training exercises. March Kloulubak from BNH Laboratory, and three DEH food lab staff (Alexander Sumor, Rosalita Tadao, Carmin Pipit) attended the workshop along with Losii Samsel.



This course was coordinated by SPC along with the major coordinators PIHOA, WHO and CDC. Other key epidemiological and microbiology laboratory organizations from the region represented at the training including OzFood Net and New Zealand Food Authority. Participation in the course will allow Palau to take part in a global network of countries working to improve food surveillance and provide access to ongoing QA programs and expertise from a variety of international sources.

SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY As of March 13, 2009

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

Rash and/or Fever Illnesses

DISEASE NAME	Feb	This Year to date	Last Year to date
Acute Fever + Rash	0	0	0
Dengue Fever	1	2	46
Leptospirosis	0	1	0
Measles	0	0	0
Scrub Typhus	0	0	0
Typhoid Fever	0	0	0
Chickenpox	2	15	33

Enteric Illness

DISEASE NAME	Feb	This Year to date	Last Year to date
Bloody Diarrhea	0	0	2
Cholera	0	0	0
Diarrhea & Gastroenteritis	67	111	125
Fish Poisoning	0	0	0
Hepatitis A	0	0	0

STI's / Bloodborne Diseases

DISEASE NAME	Confirmed Feb Cases	Suspected Nov Cases
AIDS	0	0
Chlamydia STD	20	0
Gonorrhoea STD	0	0
Hepatitis B	6	0
Hepatitis C	0	0
HIV infection	0	3
Syphilis	5	1

Respiratory Illness

There were no reports of influenza-like illness in February. Overall reports of respiratory illnesses remain low.

DISEASE NAME	Feb	This Year to date	Last Year to date
Influenza-Like Illness	0	0	0
Pertussis	0	0	0
SARS	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	1	3	0
Acute lower respiratory infection	0	0	0

Other

There were 5 cases of Conjunctivitis and no cases of Acute Flaccid Paralysis, Filariasis or Hansen 's Disease in February 2009.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

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

LABORATORY SURVEILLANCE OF DENGUE FEVER ON WALLIS AND FUTUNA

Situation as at 08 March 2009 (Clément Couteau and JF Yvon)

Reported cases

Number of patients tested since 1 January 2009: **70**
 Number of cases reported during this period: **12**, including:

- confirmed cases (positive Ag NS1): 6 including 2 cases of DEN4 and 2 currently being typed;
- probable cases (significant levels of IgM): 4;
- suspected cases (awaiting lab confirmation): 2.

Weekly report of dengue cases in Wallis and Futuna in 2009

Semaine 1 : 0
 Semaine 2 : 0
 Semaine 3 : 1

Semaine 7 : 1
 Semaine 8 : 2
 Semaine 9 : 3
 Semaine 10 : 0

All the cases in Weeks 3 to 7 appeared after the patients had come back from a visit to New Caledonia. A total of 4 of the 5 cases in Weeks 8 and 9 were due to local transmission of the dengue fever virus.

Geographic distribution

Currently, only the island of Wallis is affected by the dengue fever virus. Out of the total of 12 cases, 8 were located in the district of Hihifo (northern part of the island), 3 in the district of Hahake (centre) and 1 in the district of Mua (south).

Remarks

The appearance of the first endemic cases, in spite of the vector control measures taken and public prevention messages used, leads to concerns that an outbreak will emerge over the coming weeks. This situation justifies a very high level of vigilance and strengthened prevention and control measures.

Summary of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza as of March 11th 2009 (Courtesy of WHO)

Country	2009		Total (since 2003)	
	cases	deaths	cases	deaths
Azerbaijan	0	0	8	5
Bangladesh	0	0	1	0
Cambodia	0	0	8	7
China	7	4	38	25
Djibouti	0	0	1	0
Egypt	7	0	58	23
Indonesia	0	0	141	115
Iraq	0	0	3	2
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0	0	2	2
Myanmar	0	0	1	0
Nigeria	0	0	1	1
Pakistan	0	0	3	1
Thailand	0	0	25	17
Turkey	0	0	12	4
Viet Nam	2	2	109	54
Total	16	6	411	256

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