



RDSS MONTHLY – DECEMBER 2008

Monthly Summary Data from the Palau Reportable Disease Surveillance System

Happy New Year and welcome to the December 2008 edition of the RDSS newsletter. December was a quiet month for both RDSS and EpiNet. The team would like to take this opportunity and thank everyone for their cooperation in the past year and would like to encourage all providers to complete an encounter form for any of the 29 reportable diseases in Palau.

Losi Samsel
Epidemiology Specialist

SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY As of January 14, 2009

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

DISEASE NAME	Dec 08 Cases	2007 Total	2008 Total
Acute Fever + Rash	0	14	0
Acute Flaccid Paralysis	0	0	0
Acute lower respiratory infection	0	2	0
AIDS	0	0	0
Bloody Diarrhea	0	11	2
Chlamydia STD	6	137	88
Cholera	0	0	0
Conjunctivitis	0	17	11
Dengue Fever	8	86	204
Diarrhea & Gastroenteritis	47	365	236
Filariasis (lymphatic)	0	0	0
Fish Poisoning	0	0	0
Gonorrhea (Gonococcal) STD	0	15	16
Hansen's Disease	1	3	6
Hepatitis A	0	0	0
Hepatitis B	1	68	48
Hepatitis C	0	16	11
HIV infection	0	0	0
Influenza-Like Illness	0	14	7
Leptospirosis	1	3	10
Measles	0	0	0
Meningitis-Like Illness	0	0	0
Pertussis	0	0	0
SARS	0	0	0
Scrub Typhus	0	0	0
Syphilis	0	9	20
Tuberculosis	0	5	18
Typhoid Fever	0	0	0
Varicella (chickenpox)	12	107	126

RDSS REPORTING ISSUES

As many of you know, there is a consistent mismatch between the cases the physicians actually see, and what is reported to RDSS.

This is due to a number of factors, including:

- Providers not completing the encounter form or filling out the CMR portion
- Gap in reportable disease reporting from Community Health dispensaries (gap between dispensaries and hospital RDSS and EpiNet)
- Personnel – few staff are available to verify cases and review charts; when trained staff are away (i.e. Lab or Medical records), data is not entered

Given these challenges, we will once again attempt to alleviate some of these issues over the coming months in 2009.



INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

Summary of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza as of December 28th

(Courtesy of WHO)

Country	2008		Total (since 2003)	
	cases	deaths	cases	Deaths
Azerbaijan	0	0	8	5
Bangladesh	1	0	1	0
Cambodia	1	0	8	7
China	4	4	31	21
Djibouti	0	0	1	0
Egypt	8	4	51	23
Indonesia	22	18	139	113
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	6	5	107	52
Total	42	31	393	248

Note: New cases appeared in Bangladesh (area previously unaffected).

Indonesia (Sri Lanka): CHIKUNGUNYA

Archive #: 20090112.0125

The number of chikungunya patients reported from Moneragala is 1300 since the latest outbreak was reported at the end of December 2008.

The number of patients reported from Embilipitiya in the Ratnapura district is 1106 while another 200 patients have been reported from Polonnaruwa and the outbreak is now dwindling, deputy epidemiologist, Dr Paba Palihawadana said.

Healthcare and Nutrition Ministry sources said between 300 to 400 patients were reported per day during the 1st few days of the outbreak. About 3000 Chikungunya patients have been discovered from affected areas.

Provincial health director Dr Kapila Kannangara said arrangements have been made to destroy all mosquito breeding centres. A card has been issued to all households to conduct weekly monitoring, which will be carried out by public health inspectors.

Indonesia (WEST NUSA TENGGARA): SUSPECTED ANTHRAX, BOVINE

Archive #: 20090112.0125

Anthrax alert halts Sumbawa cattle trading in 2 districts

Sumbawa regency administration in West Nusa Tenggara (NB) has stopped the movement of all cattle in and out of 2 districts, Labangka and Moyohulu, after some livestock showed possible signs of anthrax contamination.

Cases of anthrax in cows were documented in those districts in 2008. It is unclear whether the current suspects cases may be confirmed. "Recently we found several signs of anthrax in cows in the districts. We decided to stop cattle traffic as a preventive measure," Sumbawa Regent Jamaluddin Malik said on Tuesday [13 Jan 2009]. Jamaluddin said the recent indications cropped up during the rainy season; the 2008 cases occurred at the same time last year [2007]. "We are going to halt the traffic for 2 to 3 months. We'll be monitoring developments," he said.

Sumbawa is one of Indonesia's primary cattle production areas, delivering at least 900 cows and 3000 calves to other regions in the country, including Jakarta, South Kalimantan, South Sulawesi, and West Sumatra. According to 2007 provincial data, there were 102 000 cows and 64 000 buffalo in NB.

When it comes to eating right and exercising, there is no "I'll start tomorrow." Tomorrow is disease.
~V.L. Allineare

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