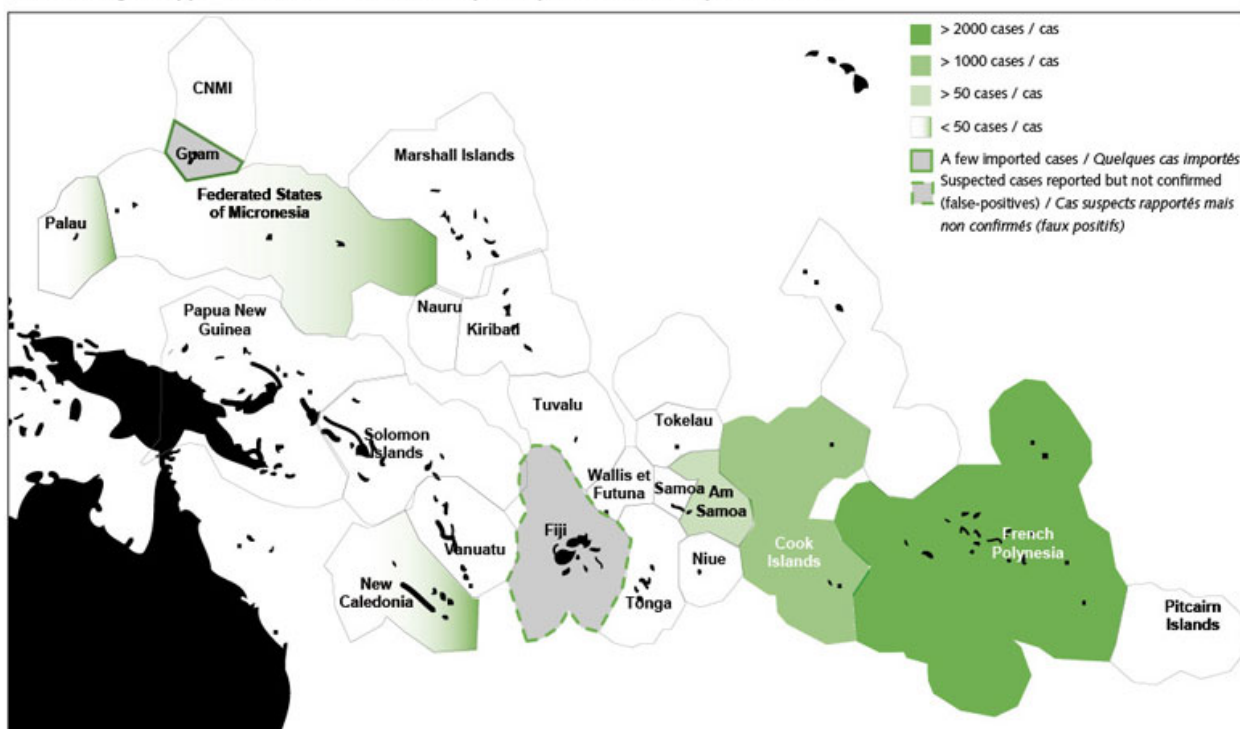


Summary of Pacific Island countries and territories dengue information for 2006 and 2007

Situation as at 27 September 2007

Dengue cases reported in the Pacific Islands from January 2006 to September 2007 /
Cas de dengue rapportés dans les Iles du Pacifique de janvier 2006 à septembre 2007



The information is presented by country in alphabetical order. It is based on information posted on PacNet, news items retrieved from the Internet, and surveillance reports received from Pacific Island countries and territories.

American Samoa

According to a news item released on 23 July 2007, 63 cases of dengue fever were confirmed in American Samoa in 2007, of which 23 were admitted to hospital for treatment. Another report on 5 September mentioned one death. No serotype has been reported.

Source: News from Radio New Zealand International retrieved from Pacific Islands Report website: <http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport/>

Cook Islands

An outbreak of dengue fever started in May 2006 in Cook Islands, and 1424 cases had been reported by the end of June 2007, with no deaths. Most of the cases were reported on Rarotonga: 1323 cases, including 139 admissions. Two strains of the dengue virus, serotypes 1 and 2, were detected in the specimens sent to the WHO dengue reference laboratory in Australia for confirmation in 2006, but only serotype 1 was detected in the specimens transferred in 2007. It seems that this outbreak was imported from French Polynesia. The first two cases, which were reported in May and June 2006, were tourists coming from Tahiti. The next three cases, reported in July 2006, came from the area where the first case stayed in Rarotonga.

Source: Several updates from Cook Islands Department of Public Health posted on PacNet in 2006 and 2007

Federated States of Micronesia – Yap State

Six cases meeting PPHSN's dengue fever clinical case definition presented to Yap outpatient clinics during the first week of September, of which four tested positive for dengue using Pentax rapid IgM tests. The cases were confirmed on 27 September 2007. Six of seven samples sent to John A. Burns School of Medicine in Hawaii were positive for DEN-2. Of the 6 confirmed cases, two were hemorrhagic and one of the hemorrhagic cases was fatal.

An important caveat: during Yap's recent Zika outbreak, it was found that Zika IgM elicits a positive result on rapid IgM dengue tests. This will affect the specificity of the rapid IgM tests for dengue in Yap because much of the community was exposed to the Zika virus in April, May and June. Therefore, confirmation is especially important.

Source: Messages from Yap EpiNet Team posted on PacNet on 7 and 28 September 2007

Fiji Islands

The Fiji Centre for Communicable Disease Control at Mataika House in Suva reported 25 cases of dengue fever, with onset between August and November 2006. The cases were confirmed IgM positive using dengue-specific IgM assay on single serologic specimens. Between January and March 2007, Mataika confirmed an additional 14 cases of IgM-positive dengue by ELISA. However, these results could not be confirmed at the Queensland Health Scientific Services (QHSS) laboratory in Australia (Level 3 laboratory).

Source: Message from Fiji Ministry of Health posted on PacNet on 4 December 2006 and message from QHSS posted on PacNet on 5 April 2007.

French Polynesia

Since early 2006, there has been a resurgence in the number of DEN-1 cases in French Polynesia. A total of 2477 positive cases had been recorded as at 19 August 2007, with 229 cases (including 26 with severe forms) requiring hospitalisation. In January 2007, one DEN-2 case was imported from the Philippines, but response activities were carried out and surveillance was strengthened, and no further DEN-2 virus was detected. See article in this issue for further information on DEN-1 cases recorded in 2007.

Guam

In 2006, three cases of dengue fever imported from the Philippines were diagnosed on Guam and one imported case was recorded in August 2007 (still identified as from the Philippines).

Source: Guam epidemiology newsletters produced by Office of Epidemiology and Research, Department of Public Health and Social Services, Government of Guam, available online at PPHSN website under 'Routine surveillance': http://www.spc.int/phs/PPHSN/Surveillance/Routine_reports.htm

New Caledonia

In 2006, nine cases of dengue fever were confirmed in New Caledonia: one case imported from Indonesia (DEN-1), one case imported from La Réunion, one case imported from India (DEN-3), two cases imported from Tahiti, a local cluster imported from Tahiti (three cases) and one case locally acquired. From January to 13 August 2007, New Caledonia recorded 24 confirmed cases of DEN-1 (11 imported from French Polynesia and one imported from Cook Islands), seven probable cases, five possible cases and one clinical case. Up to now, local transmission has been contained by efficient perifocal control measures (see articles in this issue).

Palau

The Bureau of Public Health, Ministry of Health, reported 28 cases of dengue fever in 2006. From 2 May to 7 September 2007, 39 laboratory-confirmed cases were notified, with an additional 19 probable cases that met clinical definitions of classic dengue fever. Three of the 39 confirmed cases were dengue hemorrhagic fever and 21 of the 58 cases were hospitalised. The initial few cases were sent to Hawaii for typing, and some samples came back positive for DEN-2 and others for DEN-4. In early June, acute and convalescent samples were tested for dengue fever and Zika

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virus, and one dengue fever case came back positive for Zika. Additional blood serum was sent for flavivirus confirmation and Palau is waiting for these additional results. None of the recent cases has been sent for typing.

Source: Updates from Palau Bureau of Public Health, Ministry of Health, posted on PacNet in 2006 and 2007

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