Dengue-Like Illness in Republic of the Marshall Islands, May 21 – August 23, 2019

Report Date: August 23, 2019

Outbreak Overview

First cases: Index case identified in Ebeye, no travel history. Had negative rapid test result. Next suspect case in Ebeye identified on June 24 with + NS1 test. There was a rapid increase in epidemic from that point. First case in Majuro, a traveler from Ebeye, currently residing in Jennok, detected on August 15 with multiple additional cases among non-travelers identified the following week (27 cases in Majuro, including 8 NS1+ and 2 with travel history from Ebeye). 95 patients hospitalized, one dengue hemorrhagic fever patient evacuated out-of-country and no deaths to date.

Response: EpNet team in Ebeye and the RMI national Epinet teams were both activated on July 18. Three response goals currently: 1) slow spread in Ebeye and Majuro; 2) Prevent spread to outer islands; 3) assure excellent clinical care- maintain 0 deaths.

Case Definitions (based on PPHSN):
- Suspected case: Acute fever > 2 days with rash or two or more of the following: arthralgia and nausea; aches and pains; rash; low white blood cell count; tourniquet test positive; warning signs (abdominal pain or tenderness; persistent vomiting; mucosal bleeding; liver enlargement >2 cm; fluid accumulation; lethargy, restlessness; increase in hematocrit with decrease in platelets).
- Confirmed case: Suspected case with lab confirmation (+Rapid test for NS1 or IgM) or +PCR test

Surveillance Contact:
- Francyne Wase-Jacklick, Deputy Secretary, wasejacklick@gmail.com
- Edlen Anzures- Health Informatics Director, eanzures@gmail.com
- Mckaiher Takiala- Data Officer

Response Measures:
- Dengue State of Emergency Declaration (by President Heine, Aug 6)
- Surveillance system in place
- Increased EpNet response meeting frequency to every day (4pm) starting Aug 23
- Cleanup campaign in place in Ebeye (including spraying & larvicide application)
- Outreach to case households in Majuro with search for associated cases and vector control (including spraying). General cleanup campaign also initiated.
- Multiple Dengue prevention and control presentations given in Ebeye and Majuro
- Clinical protocols disseminated and reviewed with medical & nursing staff in Ebeye & Majuro
- Travel restrictions from Majuro to Ebeye to outer islands put in place, Aug 23
- TA and dengue-related materials solicited from WHO, PIHOA, CDC

To do items:
- Update response plan to fit with recent developments
- Re-inventory dengue related supplies
- Review testing protocol to preserve dengue test supplies
- Additional surge planning for Majuro, and contingency planning for outer islands
- Additional surveillance & clinical management training for outer island health assistants

Suspect Cases by Age Group & Gender

Suspect Cases by Date of Onset - Ebeye & Majuro

EpiNet Outbreak Team Members:
- Ebeye: Dr Thein/Rivera, Allen Capelle, Dr. Jauquin Nasa, Rose Bobo, Mela Ratu
- Majuro: Dr. Helentina Garstang, Secretary Jack Niedenthal, Deputy Secretary Mallyn Konelios-Lang, Dr Tom Jack, Francyne Wase-Jacklick, Edlen Anzures, Paul Lalita, Linda Chutaro, Philmar Mendoza, Dr Robert Maddison
- External Partners: RMIEPA, Director Moriana Phillip MaiGov- Russell Langrine
- PIHOA: Dr Mark Durand

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