Dengue-Like Illness in Republic of the Marshall Islands, Sept 1 – Sept 7, 2019

Report Date: Sept 8, 2019

Outbreak Overview

**Cases:** To date there have been 344 suspect cases of which 132 have been lab confirmed. Outbreak started in Ebeye with one possible dengue case in May and first detected in Majuro in early August. Daily case counts are declining in Ebeye, still rising in Majuro and no cases yet in outer atolls. Symptom and age profile of cases is typical for dengue fever. One severe dengue patient evacuated out-of-country. First death recorded this week (in Majuro). Two cases was reported this week in Rongrong, one of the previously unaffected lagoon islands in Majuro Atoll. A cluster of 101 acutely ill students residing in the Jalaul Atoll High School dorms was investigated; no dengue cases were identified in what appears to be an outbreak of influenza-like illness.

**Organization of Response:** Epinet team in Ebeye and the RMI national Epinet teams were both activated on July 16, with daily meetings currently. Presidential Declaration of Health Emergency and activation of multi-ministry and NGO National Emergency Operations Center on August 6 with weekly meetings. RMI Dengue Response Plan finalized Aug 6. Weekly conference calls with technical assistance partners also being held.

**Case Definitions (based on PPHSN):**
- Suspected case: Acute fever > 2 days with two or more of the following: anorexia 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; leukopenia, restlessness; increase in hematocrit with decrease in platelets).
- Confirmed case: Suspected case with lab confirmation (+Rapid test (for NS1 or IgM) or +PCR test)

**Response Summary**

**Current Response Goals:**
1) Slow spread in Ebeye and Majuro; & prevent spread to outer atolls
2) Assure excellent clinical care to minimize deaths.

**Highlights:**
- Surveillance system with daily updates in place for Ebeye, and Majuro. Daily Outer Atoll surveillance started but only 24% of these reports received this week.

**Vector activities:**
- Vigorous community engagement, public info & breeding site elimination campaign launched with help from partners- WUTMI, Kalgov, Malgov (but still not yet in most outer Atolls), 69% of schools and 71% of churches in Majuro have had vector control treatment completed.
- Ebeye: Larvicide & household spraying complete for entire Ebeye community (screening of water catchment tanks not yet done).
- Majuro: Trash and large item pickup completed in Ebeye and in about ½ of Majuro (from Rita-Rairok villages). Four Illegal dumps in Majuro identified (but not yet remediated). Covering of catchment tanks initiated (but only 10 of 3500 complete to date).

**Clinical capacity:**
- Dengue clinical management seminars completed in Ebeye: 100% of doctors & 100% clinical nurses and Majuro: 85% of doctors and Nurse Practitioner (NP) Interns (but still not yet in most outer Atolls), 69% of schools and 71% of churches in Majuro have had vector control treatment completed.
- Ebeye: Dengue ward set-up in Ebeye nearly ready to open. Fast track outpatient dengue clinic using NP Interns will be activated on Sept 8.
- Dengue-related medical, vector control and IC/PPE inventory and gaps assessment updated this week & plans to fill gaps will be addressed in coming week.

**Other:** Travel restrictions from Majuro and Ebeye to outer islands still in place since Aug 23

**Note:** Technical partners can get more details from the RMI Dengue Response Update 9-7-19.

Contact:
Francyne Wase-Jacklick, Deputy Secretary
Edlen J. Anzures- Data Officer

Epinet Outbreak Team Members:
- Ebeye: Dr Then/Rivera, Allen Capelle, Dr Joaquin Nasa, Rose Bobo, Mela Ratu;
- Majuro: Dr Helentina Garstang, Secretary Jack Niedenthal, Deputy Secretary Malyn Nekelos-Lang, Dr Tom Jack, Francyne Wase-Jacklick, Edlen J. Anzures, Paul Lalita, Linda Chutaro, Phlimar Mendoza, Dr Robert Maddison,
- External Partners: RMIEPA, Director Moriana Phillip MalGov- Russell Langrine, WUTMI, MIRC, IOM, WASH Cluster

PIHOA: Dr Mark Durand