Dengue-3 Outbreak in Republic of the Marshall Islands, June 25–Oct. 20, 2019

Situation Report Date: October 20, 2019

Outbreak Overview

Cases: To date there have been 772 dengue like illness of which 220 have been lab confirmed. This is outbreak week #23 in Ebeye, #11 in Majuro and #1 in Utrik. 4 confirmed cases in the Outer Islands. Symptom and age profile of cases is typical for dengue fever. One death and one severe dengue patient evacuated out-of-country to date.

Organisation 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; 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)

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.

Surveillance:
• Vigorous community engagement, ongoing with help from partners- Red Cross, WUTMI, Kalgo, Malgov. Ebeye complete for community clean-up and spraying of hospital, schools and churches. Community awareness by mass phone texts, radio, posters and public seminars.
• Vector Control: 54/54 churches completed; 22/12 schools completed in Majuro. As of Sept. 24, 59% of rainwater tanks (3500) repaired with screens.
• Health Education: 54/54 churches completed; 19/22 schools completed in Majuro.

Clinical capacity:
• Dengue 101 clinical seminars completed in Ebeye: 100% of doctors & 100% clinical nurses and Majuro: 100% of doctors, 100% NPs, 100% triage & ward nurses. Fast track outpatient dengue clinic using NPs in Majuro Hospital was stopped in Week 8 due to decreasing number of Dengue Fever seen.
• Surge Capacity Team completed and passed the CDC DF Module Post Test week of Sept 16-23.
• Ebeye & Majuro fully functional for dengue care.

Preparation for outer atolls:
• Dengue 101 training to health assistants is still on going; Community cleanup initiated in 3 outer atolls but most still pending; Shipments of dengue-related supplies to go to some atolls this week.
• A total of 6 Health Assistants for Jabor Jaluit, Kaven Maleolap, Tokewa Mili, Wormej Wotje and 2 from Majuro were trained in DF, management of DF Category A, B, and C; Surveillance forms, Active Surveillance, and OI response plan for prevention of DF with the traditional and Govt leaders, Churches, NGOs, etc..
• Travel restrictions for Ebeye & Majuro to outer atolls in place since Aug 23.

Priority activities last week:
• Dengue 101 seminars completed in Ebeye, Majuro and Utrik. Dengue 101 clinical seminars completed in Ebeye: 100% of doctors & 100% clinical nurses and Majuro: 100% of doctors, 100% NPs, 100% triage & ward nurses. Fast track outpatient dengue clinic using NPs in Majuro Hospital was stopped in Week 8 due to decreasing number of Dengue Fever seen.
• Surge Capacity Team completed and passed the CDC DF Module Post Test week of Sept 16-23.
• Ebeye & Majuro fully functional for dengue care.

Summary of Cases

| Cases (Suspect & Confirmed) by Week of Onset- Ebeye, Majuro & Utrik |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total # Dengue Like Illnesses | # Confirmed     | # Probable   | # Suspect      |
| Ebeye                          | Majuro          | Utrik         |
| 267                            | 508             | 4             |

**Geo Distribution of Suspect Cases

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