

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 122 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 were 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 Jaluit 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):

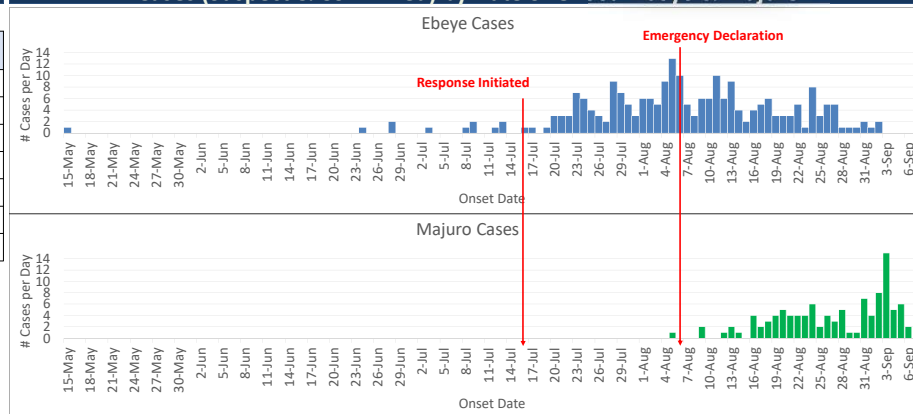
Suspected case: Acute fever > 2 days with **two or more** of the following: anorexia and nausea; aches and pains; rash; low white blood cell count; tourniquet test positive; warning signs (*abdominal pain or tenderness; persistent vomiting; mucosal bleeding; liver enlargement >2 cm; fluid accumulation; 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)

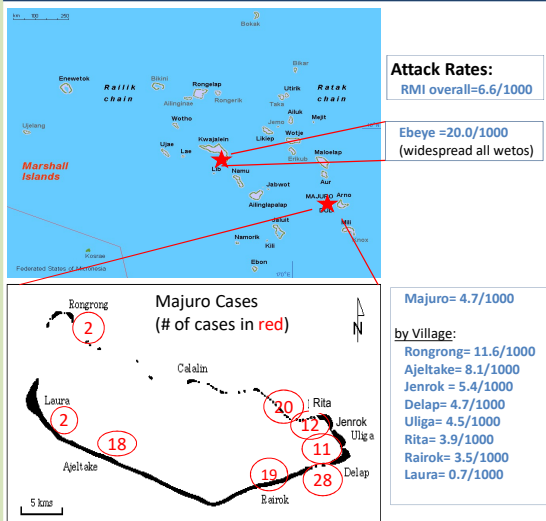
Summary of Cases

	Ebeye	Majuro	Outer Islands
# Suspected Cases	228	124	0
# New in Past 7 Days	9	54	0
# Hospitalized	108	25	0
# in Hosp Now	2	10	0
# Died	0	1	0
# NS1 or IgM+ (# Tested)	85 (132)	32 (124)	0
# PCR+ (# Tested)	15 (17)	5 (11)	0

Cases (Suspect & Confirmed) by Date of Onset- Ebeye & Majuro



Geographic Distribution of Suspect Cases



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 1/2 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, 10% ward nurses. Clinical guidelines adopted, posted and monitored. 3 outer atolls with orientation of health assistants and clean-up complete; others not yet complete Lab at Ebeye & Majuro fully functional for dengue care.
- Dengue ward set-up in Majuro 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:

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