Dengue 3 Outbreak, Palau, December 2018 – June 2019
Report Date: June 18, 2019

Outbreak Overview

On Friday, December 7, 2018, the Palau Ministry of Health alerted the public of an outbreak of dengue fever following the first ever laboratory confirmation of two cases with dengue serotype 3. This poses a significant concern for public health as the whole population is potentially vulnerable to infection.

In response to the outbreak, the Ministry of Health activated its emergency response team on December 7, 2018. The team has been tasked with raising community awareness of the outbreak and dengue prevention measures, conducting disease surveillance and reporting, strengthening mosquito control measures, and ensuring adequate resources are available to combat the outbreak. Between June 10 – June 16, 2019, there were 15 new cases reported. This brings the total from December 1, 2018 to June 16, 2019 to 250 cases.

There have been no reported deaths attributed to dengue infection during this outbreak.

Demographics

The majority of cases during this outbreak have been Palauan.

Symptom Profile of Cases

The areas that are most affected include the most populated state of Koror and nearby states (Ailuk and Aimeliik), however, there have been cases reported from 10 out of 16 states. Increased community efforts for vector control are needed to curb the spread of the virus especially since summer vacation has begun for young residents (10 – 19 years old) who represent the greatest proportion of dengue cases during this outbreak.

The dengue outbreak response team continues its efforts to increase community awareness on the dengue outbreak and prevention measures through:

- Weekly radio talk shows at the national radio station, dissemination of print material about dengue prevention to the community and production of dengue prevention videos
- Dissemination of a donation of mosquito repellent wips to the greater community and athletes during the Belau Games. The repellent wips are a donation from the US Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)

The Communicable Disease Unit and the DEH Vector Control Program continue to investigate reported cases of dengue fever and implement vector control measures.

The Palau Ministry of Health's community dengue prevention 3S message:

- Search and eliminate mosquito breeding sites.
- Self-protect by wearing insect repellent and ensuring a mosquito-free environment.
- Seek early consultation if you show severe signs or symptoms of dengue.

The next report will be released on Tuesday, June 25, 2019.