Update on measles in the Pacific

WHO/UNICEF SECRETARIAT
SUPPORTING MEASLES OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN THE PACIFIC
Brief recap on measles

- Measles is a highly infectious viral illness that can affect all age groups
- Spread through aerosols and contact with infection secretions from coughing and sneezing (even infected surfaces)
- Every case of measles can infect ~12 non-immune contacts so potential for explosive outbreaks
- Measles complications include severe diarrhoea, pneumonia, middle ear infection, blindness and encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and death
- Significant outbreaks of measles in countries and areas neighbouring the Pacific (AUS, HKG, JPN, KOR, NZ, PHL) since 2017
Preventing measles

• Achieving and maintaining ≥95% coverage with two doses of a measles-containing vaccine
• Highest risk group is children <5 years
• Herd (population) immunity protects infants too young to be vaccinated and people for whom measles vaccination is medically contraindicated
• Measles containing vaccines (MCVs) are licensed for >6m of age
• MR is the vaccine typically used for large scale supplementary immunisation activities
• MR is a UNICEF emergency vaccine enabling rapid procurement
## Current outbreaks & likely evolution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Cases*</th>
<th>Deaths*</th>
<th>Genotype</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td>1174</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>D8</td>
<td>↗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>D8</td>
<td>↗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>↗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Samoa</td>
<td>2 ex-SAM</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>↔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- High likelihood that we will see new introductions through international travel
- Response aim is to prevent new outbreaks in PICs

*All data are provisional and subject to change*
Epidemic curve – Tonga

Measles cases by island in Tonga, as at 19/11/2019
(n= 310)

Date of Onset

Rugby team returning from NZ

Index Case

Vava’u
Current outbreaks & likely evolution

• 114 new cases recorded in Samoa in the last 24 hours (Gov. press release 19/11/2019)
• 70 new cases notified in Tonga the last week (Gov. Sitrep 20/11/2019)
• Ascending trend of new cases in the 3 affected countries
• Case counts rapidly changing in Samoa (++) and Tonga (+)
• In Samoa, almost 5 new cases presenting each hour in the last few days
Countries’ responses to date

• Preparedness activities & response activities
  — Various supplementary immunisation activities (SIAs) in Cook Is, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

• Zero dose at 6 m (e.g. Fiji, Samoa, Tonga); other PICs have introduced zero dose for infants travelling to outbreak areas

• Lowering age of MCV1 (Cook Islands with catch up)

• Mass vaccination of high risk age groups (Kiribati, Solomon Islands, planned for Vanuatu)

• Whole population coverage (Niue, Tokelau)

• Vaccination of HCWs, port authorities, outbound travellers, educators (some or all in different countries)

• Reaching out to diaspora to get vaccinated before travel to the Pacific
Fiji vaccination priority groups

• Current stocks are being reserved for:
  — Residents of Serua/Namosi
  — Children from 6m - 3 y
  — People travelling overseas with proof of imminent travel (ticket)
Countries’ responses to date (cont.)

- Measles task forces established in most PICs to coordinate implementation of measles action plans
- Public communications stepped up
- HCW training of clinical triage/measles diagnosis, sample collection, infection prevention and control, immediate notification to public health
- Post-exposure vaccination of identified contacts
- Social distancing measures (e.g. cancelling mass gatherings, games, closing of schools...)
- Control measures at international points of entry
Support provided by WHO/UNICEF

• Ongoing since 2018 as a result of the measles outbreak in the Philippines & following the death of two babies in Samoa
• Intensified since onset of measles outbreak in New Zealand
• Joint WHO/UNICEF RDs’ letter to PIC Ministers of Health, Mar 2019
• Discussed at Pacific HoH (Apr), PHMM (Aug) and regularly via PacNET and agency media releases
• Pacific measles advisories on the WHO website
• WHO has activated internal emergency SOPs, IMS/HEOC to facilitate coordination and agency-wide resources
Support provided by WHO/UNICEF

• Measles expert technical support
• Deployment of human resources to Samoa and Tonga to support:
  — Surveillance, epidemiology, risk management
  — Risk communication
  — Vaccinology
• Clinical case management
• Procurement of bundled vaccines and Vit A
• Procurement of PPE, tents, other supplies for emergency response
• Activation of GOARN (Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network) to support HR pipeline
Measles-containing vaccines (MCV)

- Routine MCV stocks delivered to 8 countries
- Emergency stocks delivered to 4 countries
- Orders awaiting for:
  - 5 countries
  - Replenishment of buffer
- Anticipated orders from 2 countries
## Measles Vaccine Stocks

### MCV Country Stock Update 20 Nov 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>MCV sent since 01st Oct (doses)</th>
<th>Routine stock incl buffer (VII)</th>
<th>Emergency Supply</th>
<th>Stock on hand at country level as at 20 Nov (doses)</th>
<th>Orders in the pipeline (doses)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td>105,500</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>61,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>135,000</td>
<td>135,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>14,500</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>17,660</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Niue</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12,500</td>
<td>21,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokelau</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,540</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SubTotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>290,050</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
<td><strong>96,700</strong></td>
<td><strong>278,760</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buffer</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,650</td>
<td>221,240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Totals           | 290,050                          | 0                               | 0                | 102,350                                            | 500,000                       |
Way forward

• Sitrep will be shared via email twice weekly (Monday and Thursday)

• WHO/UNICEF weekly coordination meeting
  — **Wednesday at 09:30am** — please let us know if you will join in person or by Zoom, by emailing [Measles2019@who.int](mailto:Measles2019@who.int)
Support from other partners/bilateral requests

• We’d like to hear from you!