Update on the Dengue situation in the Western Pacific Region

Northern Hemisphere

Cambodia
As of epidemiological week 22, 2021, a total of 685 dengue cases, including one death, have been reported in Cambodia for 2021. This cumulative number of cases represents approximately a five-fold decrease as compared to the number of cases reported during the same period in 2020 (n=2,305). The number of cases reported weekly remains within the normal range of cases reported from 2015 to 2020, excluding 2019 (Figure 1). The reported number of dengue cases is lower in all provinces compared to trends observed in 2020.

![Figure 1: Dengue cases reported weekly in 2021 vs 2020 Mean and Mean+2SD during 2015-2020, *excluding 2019](source)
*Source: Ministry of Health, Cambodia*

China (no update)
In April 2021, four dengue cases and no deaths were reported in China. The number of cases reported in April 2021 is lower in comparison to 16 cases reported in March 2020 and other recent years. It follows an expected seasonal trend (Figure 2).

![Figure 2: Dengue cases reported monthly in 2013-2021](source)
*Source: National Health Commission, China*
Lao People’s Democratic Republic
During epidemiological week 22 of 2021, 28 dengue cases and no deaths were reported in Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Figure 3). The number of cases reported as of epidemiological week 22 2021 is 316; this is almost 4.4 times lower compared to the same period in 2020 when 1,388 cases were reported. The trend is within seasonally expected levels.

Malaysia
During epidemiological week 23, 2021, a total of 559 dengue cases with two deaths were reported. As of 12 June 2021, the cumulative number of reported cases is 12,188. This is a significant decrease compared to 48,584 cases reported during the same period in 2020. As of epidemiological week 23, a total of eight deaths due to dengue have been reported in 2021, compared to 84 deaths during the same period in 2020.

Figure 3: Dengue cases reported weekly in 2015-2021
Source: National Centre for Laboratory and Epidemiology, Ministry of Health, Lao PDR

Figure 4: Dengue cases reported weekly in 2020 and 2021
Source: Department of Health, Malaysia
Philippines (no update)
For Morbidity Week 15, from 11 April to 17 April 2021, a total of one hundred twenty-two (122) dengue cases with no reported mortalities. This is 76% lower compared to the same period in 2020 (n=516). From 1 January to 17 April 2021, there has been a total of 21,478 dengue cases with 80 deaths (CFR 0.4%) reported, this is 56% lower compared to the 49,135 cases reported in the same period in 2020.

![Graph showing dengue cases in Philippines](image1.png)

Figure 5: Dengue cases reported weekly in 2021
Source: Department of Health, the Philippines

Singapore
In epidemiological week 22 of 2021, 118 dengue cases were reported in Singapore and a total of 2,875 cases have been reported since epidemiological week 1 of 2021 (Figure 6). Weekly trends are within expected seasonal levels.

![Graph showing dengue cases in Singapore](image2.png)

Figure 6: Dengue cases reported weekly in 2015-2021
Source: Communicable Diseases Division, Ministry of Health, Singapore
Viet Nam (no update)
During week 21 of 2021, there were 1,153 cases and no deaths reported from 37 out of 63 provinces. The number of cases decreased by 16% compared to the previous week (1,373 cases, no deaths). As of 30 May 2021, a total of 28,077 cases of dengue, including five deaths, have been reported in Viet Nam. Compared to the same period in 2020 (29,482 cases including three deaths), the cumulative number of cases decreased by 4.8%, with two more deaths reported.

Southern Hemisphere
Australia
As of 16 June 2021, two cumulative cases of dengue have been reported in Australia to-date (Figure 8). In contrast, there were 220 dengue cases reported in Australia in January to June 2020 indicating a marked reduction in the number of cases. The significant drop in dengue cases for 2021 in Australia as compared to previous years during the same time period may be attributed to COVID-19 restrictions in travel. Prior to COVID-19, Australia had seen increasing notifications in overseas-acquired cases from returning travellers to dengue endemic areas.
Pacific Islands Countries

Cook Islands (no update)

Between 1 January and 25 May 2021, a total of 200 dengue cases with no deaths were reported in the Cook Islands where a dengue type-2 (DENV-2) outbreak has been ongoing since February 2021 (Figure 9). Among the reported cases, there are 153 probable cases who are positive for the NS1 antigen (NS1 Ag+) and 47 cases confirmed to have DENV-2 infection based on PCR testing.

French Polynesia

During epidemiological weeks 19 and 20 of 2021, no cases were detected out of 46 who were tested for dengue-specific IgM (Figure 10). In 2021, the proportion of dengue like illness (DLI) cases among consultations at sentinel sites has remained below 2%.
New Caledonia
During epidemiological weeks 1 to 22 of 2021, a total of 111 dengue cases were reported in New Caledonia, including 90 confirmed cases, 20 probable cases, and one suspected case (Figure 11). This is an increase compared to the same period in 2020 when a total of 41 cases were reported. DENV-2 was detected in 83 out of the 90 confirmed cases as of 14 June 2021.

![Figure 11: Dengue cases reported by week in 2021](source: Network of sentinel physicians, New Caledonia)

Wallis and Futuna (No update)
During epidemiological weeks 8 to 13 of 2021, 26 confirmed cases of dengue were reported in Wallis and Futuna (Figure 12). All are local cases with 23 cases reported in Futuna and three cases reported in Wallis. In 2020, there were 124 cases (confirmed and probable).

![Figure 12: Dengue cases reported by week in 2021](source: Health Agency, Wallis and Futuna)
Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) – Dengue-like illness (DLI) Surveillance

In the Pacific Island Countries and Areas, during epidemiological week 22 of 2021, there was an increase in DLI cases reported in Kiribati and New Caledonia. Meanwhile, the number of DLI cases reported in the Cook Islands and Fiji has continued to decrease (Figure 13). Other Pacific Island Countries and Areas with available surveillance data are reporting no or very low numbers of DLI cases.

* Caution should be taken in interpreting these data as there may be changes in the number of sentinel sites reporting to the Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System.

Figure 13. Reported cases of dengue-like illness in Pacific Islands Countries and Areas
Source: PacNet Bulletin