Update on the Dengue situation in the Western Pacific Region

Northern Hemisphere

Cambodia (no update)
As of epidemiological week 36, 2021, a total of 1,174 dengue cases, including three deaths, have been reported in Cambodia for 2021. The number of cases reported weekly remains lower than the normal range of cases reported from 2015 to 2020 (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 from 2021 vs 2020 Mean and Mean+2SD during 2015-2020, *excluding 2019 in Cambodia](source: Ministry of Health, Cambodia)

China
In August 2021, three dengue cases and no deaths were reported in China. The trend in 2021 is below usual seasonal trend, as compared to previous years (Figure 2).

![Figure 2: Dengue cases reported monthly from 2013-2021 in China](source: National Health Commission, China)
**Lao People’s Democratic Republic**
During epidemiological week 38 of 2021, 48 dengue cases and no deaths were reported in Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Figure 3). The cumulative number of cases reported as of epidemiological week 38 2021 is 1,065; this seven times lower compared to the same period in 2020 when 7,478 cases were reported. The trend is within seasonally expected levels.

![Figure 3: Dengue cases reported weekly from 2015-2021 in Lao PRD](source)

**Malaysia**
During epidemiological week 38, 2021, a total of 435 dengue cases and one death was reported. As of 25 September 2021, the cumulative number of reported cases is 19,423. This is a significant decrease of 74.4% compared to 75,804 cases reported during the same period in 2020. As of epidemiological week 38, a total of 13 deaths due to dengue have been reported in 2021, compared to 124 deaths during the same period in 2020.

![Figure 4: Dengue cases reported weekly from 2020 and 2021 in Malaysia](source)
Singapore
In epidemiological week 37 of 2021, 75 dengue cases were reported in Singapore and a total of 4,169 cases have been reported since epidemiological week 1 of 2021 (Figure 6). Weekly trends are within expected seasonal levels.

Viet Nam (no update)
During week 36 of 2021, there were 721 cases and no deaths reported from 35 out of 63 provinces. The number of cases decreased by 6.1% compared to the previous week (768 cases including no deaths). As of 12 September 2021, a total of 48,256 cases of dengue, including 18 deaths, have been reported in Viet Nam. Compared to the same period in 2020 (70,501 cases including 10 deaths), the cumulative number of cases decreased by 31.6%, with eight more deaths reported.
Southern Hemisphere

Australia

As of 12 September 2021, two cumulative cases of dengue have been reported in Australia to-date (Figure 8). In contrast, there were 221 dengue cases reported in Australia in January to September 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 related travel restrictions. Prior to COVID-19, Australia had seen increasing notifications in overseas-acquired cases from returning travellers to dengue endemic areas.

Figure 8: Laboratory-confirmed dengue cases reported monthly from 2015-2021 in Australia

Source: Department of Health, Australia

Pacific Islands Countries

French Polynesia

During epidemiological weeks 35 and 36 of 2021, out of 11 suspected dengue cases tested for dengue-specific IgM, no samples tested positive. In 2021, the proportion of dengue-like illness (DLI) cases among consultations at sentinel sites (Figure 9) started to increase between weeks 31 and 34, along with a peak in COVID-19 cases.

Figure 9: Proportion of DLI cases among consultations at sentinel sites by week from 2020-2021 in French Polynesia

Source: Centre for Occupational Health and Public Safety, French Polynesia
**New Caledonia (no update)**

During epidemiological weeks 1 to 33 of 2021, a total of 115 dengue cases were reported in New Caledonia, including 92 confirmed cases, 22 probable cases, and one suspected case (Figure 10). This is an increase compared to the same period in 2020 when a total of 50 total dengue cases were reported. DENV-2 was detected in 85 out of the 92 confirmed cases as of 23 August 2021.

![Figure 10: Dengue cases reported by week from 2021 in New Caledonia](source: Network of sentinel physicians, New Caledonia)

**Wallis and Futuna (no update)**

During epidemiological weeks 36 to 37 of 2021, no confirmed cases of dengue were reported in Wallis and Futuna (Figure 11). As of epidemiological week 37, 2021, there have been 68 cases reported. Among them, 63 cases were reported in Futuna and five cases reported in Wallis. In 2020, there were a cumulative of 124 cases confirmed; DENV-2 is in circulation.

![Figure 11: Dengue cases reported by week from 2021 in Wallis and Futuna](source: Health Agency, Wallis and Futuna)
Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) – Dengue-like illness (DLI) Surveillance
During epidemiological week 38 of 2021, Pacific Island Countries and Areas with available surveillance data are reporting no or very low numbers of DLI cases. Vanuatu, however, is currently experiencing a DENV-2 outbreak.
* 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 12.** Reported cases of dengue-like illness in Pacific Islands Countries and Areas  
*Source:* PacNet Bulletin