

Caribbean Public Health Agency

Monthly Syndromic Surveillance Summary

February 19, 2017 (EW 8, 2017) to March 18, 2017 (EW 11, 2017)
Report #3 of 12

This report summarises the results of syndromic surveillance data received during the months of February and March 2017 for the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) Member States [CMS]. Gastroenteritis was the most flagged syndrome during this period. In response, CMS are encouraged to send samples to the CARPHA laboratory so that the aetiological agents for these cases can be determined.

There has been increased interest in Yellow Fever due to the occurrence of confirmed cases in Brazil. More information can be found at the following link http://www2.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=readall&cid=2194&Itemid=40784&lang=en. CARPHA has since issued a Yellow Fever Update and will continue to keep CMS abreast of the situation as information becomes available.

1. *Fever and respiratory (Acute Respiratory Infection [ARI])*

A total of 8,212 cases were reported (refer to table 1). The number of cases increased from 8,504 reported during Epidemiologic Week (EW) 3, 2017 to EW 7, 2017. Of the cases reported, 44.2% were in the <5 years age group and 55.8% were in the ≥5 years age group. An unusual increase in the number of cases of ARI was reported by Bermuda, Grenada, Anguilla and Cayman Islands (refer to table 3).

2. *Gastroenteritis*

There were 4,109 cases reported (refer to table 1). Cases increased from 4,806 reported during EW 4, 2017 to EW 7, 2017. Of the cases reported, 40.4% were in the <5 years age group and 59.6% were in the ≥5 years age group. St. Eustatius, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Montserrat reported unexpected increases in the number of cases (refer to table 3).

3. *Fever with Neurological Symptoms and Fever with Haemorrhagic Symptoms*

A total of 37 cases of fever with neurological symptoms were reported during this period, with the highest number of cases (12) being reported in EW 8, 2017 (refer to table 1). There were no reported cases of fever with haemorrhagic symptoms. The

number of cases of fever with neurological symptoms reported were within the expected range for that period.

4. *Undifferentiated fever*

A total of 1,144 cases were reported, of which 52% were in the <5 years age group and 48% in the ≥5 years age group. The number of cases increased from 1,024 reported during EW 4, 2017 to EW 7, 2017. St. Maarten and Montserrat reported a slight increase above the baseline number of expected cases (refer to table 3).

Syndrome	Number of Cases per EW				
	8	9	10	11	Total
Fever and Respiratory	2222	2230	2084	1676	8212
Gastroenteritis	1225	1102	981	801	4109
Fever and neurological symptoms	12	7	10	8	37
Fever and haemorrhagic symptoms	0	0	0	0	0
Undifferentiated fever	341	291	254	258	1144

Table 1: Number of cases for each syndrome, EW 8-11, 2017

Laboratory Update

In instances where requests are made for Zika Virus testing, CMS are encouraged to send paired serum and urine samples. Urine (2 ml) shall be collected up to 14 days from the onset of symptoms. Additionally, CARPHA can perform (PCR) testing for Yellow Fever on acute serum samples from symptomatic patients within 5 days from onset of symptoms. Turnaround time for testing for Yellow Fever is 2 business days.

Furthermore, CMS are also encouraged to submit syndromic surveillance data in a timely manner. Data should be sent to CARPHA-Epidemiology@carpha.org on a weekly basis, before noon on Wednesday.

Syndrome	Number of Cases per EW				Total
	8	9	10	11	
Fever and respiratory <5	963	1028	904	735	3630
Fever and respiratory >5	1259	1202	1180	941	4582
Gastroenteritis <5	505	433	407	314	1659
Gastroenteritis >5	720	669	574	487	2450
Undifferentiated fever <5	183	140	137	135	595
Undifferentiated fever >5	158	151	117	123	549
Fever and haemorrhagic symptoms	0	0	0	0	0
Fever and neurological symptoms	12	7	10	8	37

Table 2: Number of reported cases for each syndrome, EW 8-11, 2017

Syndrome	Country	Epi Week	Notes
Fever and respiratory <5	Bermuda, Grenada	8	To date no samples have been received.
	Anguilla	9	
Fever and respiratory >5	Cayman Islands	8	To date no samples have been received.
Gastroenteritis <5	Montserrat, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	8	3 samples were received on March 1, 2017, one of which was GE. Awaiting result of the Norovirus test.
	Dominica, Montserrat	9	
	Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	10	
	St. Eustatius, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	11	
Gastroenteritis >5	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	8	To date no samples have been received.
	Antigua and Barbuda	9	
Undifferentiated fever <5	St. Maarten	8	To date no samples have been received.
	St. Maarten	10	
	Montserrat	11	
Undifferentiated fever >5	Montserrat	11	To date no samples have been received.
Fever and haemorrhagic symptoms	NIL	N/A	To date no samples have been received.
Fever and neurological symptoms	NIL	N/A	To date no samples have been received.

Table 3: Flags noted for EW 8-11, 2017 (Flags are identified when the observed number of cases statistically exceeds the number of expected cases for the syndrome under investigation during a specific time frame)

