



## Paraguay's EPI Successfully Completes Training on fIPV Administration

*Mirian Medina, Zully Suárez, Leticia Núñez and Sonia Arza F., Paraguay's Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI)*

Paraguay's EPI successfully completed a series of trainings on fractional IPV (fIPV) in December 2017. There were 19 trainings at the national level and 250 at the sub-national level, consolidating the maintenance of the achieved goals, challenges faced during the measles and rubella post-elimination era and the global polio elimination strategy.

With the premise that *"no country is exempt from the entry of diseases imported from other latitudes, but we can prevent their spread in our territory,"* the strategic axes served were: high homogeneous vaccination coverage, maintaining high surveillance indicators for preventable diseases and activating an eloquent, effective and efficient rapid response team, for prompt intervention through the interruption of any chain of transmission.

The capacity installed at the operational level to administer intradermal vaccine doses was evaluated in the field and also developed the training on fIPV application or that of another vaccine, where necessary.

The entire process was financed by funds from the country itself as a sign of empowerment and sustainability. In the same way, primary immunization registries and vaccination notebooks for boys and girls were adapted, prepared and consolidated.

The fIPV guidelines were also incorporated into the National Vaccination Standards in its third edition, achieved in these last five years, preparing responses when there is a need, as was said by the head of the study, Prof. Dr. Sonia Arza.



fIPV training in Paraguay. Credit: Ministry of Health



fIPV training in Paraguay. Credit: Ministry of Health



fIPV training in Paraguay. Credit: Ministry of Health



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## Workshop to Evaluate Paraguay's Expanded Program on Immunization

*Fabiana Michel, Luis Vera - PAHO; Sonia Arza - Paraguay's Ministry of Health and Social Well-Being.*

<b>Location</b>	Asunción, Paraguay
<b>Dates</b>	19-22 January 2018
<b>Participants</b>	Technical teams from the EPI, epidemiological surveillance and from information subsystems from the EPI's 19 health regions, EPI national management, PAHO/WHO Representative in Paraguay and PAHO-Paraguay's immunization advisor
<b>Purpose</b>	The objectives of the meeting were to analyze the vaccination coverage reached by the health regions; analyze the surveillance indicators; strengthen participant knowledge in measles/rubella and polio surveillance in the post-elimination era, publicize the EPI Plan of Action for the first semester of 2018, among others.

The evaluation identified important advances in the EPI's performance: opportunity for vaccination and supply management were improved and quality standards were met in epidemiological surveillance indicators for vaccine-preventable diseases.

Although there were many advances, there are still some challenges that will be refuted as long as high quality management is achieved at the operational level.



Participants at Paraguay's EPI evaluation.  
Credit: PAHO/WHO.

In this way, more achievements will be added, mainly that of 95% coverage or more in all the country's municipalities, with capacity being set in the three levels of program management.



## Cold Chain Training Workshop in Repair, Electricity, Refrigeration and Handling of the Electronic Data Recorder in Peru

*Samia Samad, PAHO-Peru; Doris Rojas Peña, Ministry of Health, Peru*

<b>Location</b>	Four regions in Peru (Arequipa, Lima, La Libertad and Junín)
<b>Dates</b>	October, November and December 2017
<b>Participants</b>	175 technicians and nurses responsible for the cold chain at all levels of immunization management
<b>Purpose</b>	Ensure proper functioning of the cold chain equipment and complements, in order to ensure adequate conservation with the optimum temperature to transport and store the vaccines administered to the population at the national level

Growth of the country's installed capacity for the cold chain has made it possible to improve vaccine conservation at all levels. This investment made by the country must be supported with effective equipment management through specialized and corrective maintenance by cold chain technicians in refrigeration and electricity, which must be prepared to put the equipment into cold chain operation in the shortest time possible.

To this end, PAHO's office in Peru coordinated four macro-regional workshops to reinforce the technical skills of cold chain personnel in the areas of electricity, refrigeration and management of the data recorder, together with the Executive Directorate of Immunization/General Directorate of Strategic Public Health/Ministry of Health.

The 40-hour classroom workshops were carried out through the National Industrial Work Training Service (SENATI), an institution accredited in the country, which provided professional training and training by giving titles on behalf of Peru to the 175 workshop participants.

The minimum final grade for each participant was 13 points for a curriculum with topics about circuits, dashboards, maintenance of the fan motor, compressor motor, contactor, charger



Cold chain training in Peru. Credit: PAHO/WHO.



Cold chain training in Peru. Credit: PAHO/WHO.



Cold chain training in Peru. Credit: PAHO/WHO.



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alarm circuit, electricity, high and low pressure circuit leak detection, fault detection solenoids, refrigerant gas charges, data recorder within the electrical system, management, programming, recording, reporting, reading analysis and breaks.

Given that 97% of the participants had received their certificate of approval with grades of 14.5, results will be excellent at the end of the course, exceeding expectations from the organizers and raising the knowledge level on the subject.

PAHO's support for this training made it possible to ensure the preventive and corrective maintenance of the cold chain equipment for the Ministry of Health and for the country, ensuring that the nurses responsible for the cold chain know the proper handling of the data recorder, evidenced as such in the monthly reports made at all levels of immunization management.



Cold chain training in Peru. Credit: PAHO/WHO.



Cold chain training in Peru. Credit: PAHO/WHO.





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## Regional New Vaccines Surveillance Workshop

*Jennifer Sanwogou, Octavia Silva, PAHO-Washington, DC*

<b>Location</b>	Lima, Peru
<b>Dates</b>	6-8 December 2017
<b>Participants</b>	65 participants from ten countries in the Region of the Americas attended a workshop in Peru on Regional New Vaccine Surveillance. The participants included the National Responsible for Epidemiology for New Vaccines Surveillance, the person at the national level responsible for laboratory for bacterial diseases and the PAHO immunization focal points for Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela.
<b>Purpose</b>	The objectives of this meeting were to discuss the regional advances and challenges within the sentinel hospital epidemiological surveillance of bacterial pneumonia, bacterial meningitis and rotavirus, carry out data quality controls and discuss the next steps for the Global New Vaccine Surveillance Network.

The two-day meeting was split into three main topics: general presentations from PAHO and sentinel hospitals about new vaccine surveillance in the Region, presentations and discussions on the new web-based system for vaccine surveillance and a review of data quality in the Region, as well as some practical training for the hospitals to investigate and describe their own data quality issues.



Participants from the Regional New Vaccines Surveillance Meeting, Peru, December 2017. Credit: PAHO/WHO.

Starting in January 2018, sentinel surveillance data will only be received through the VINUVA cases tool. The PAHO team will be available to facilitate the use of this tool. Data in the Excel tool will no longer be accepted as the tool generates many problems.

Main recommendations from the meeting included:

- It is important that data analyses be done at the local level.
- Laboratory quality control results are now available through the Public Health England website ([www.ukneqasmicro.org.uk](http://www.ukneqasmicro.org.uk)).
- It is important to remember that sentinel surveillance is part of a joint effort of the clinical, epidemiological and laboratory staff, coordinated with the immunization teams, which at the regional level becomes evident given that the program is part of the Regional EPI. This highlights the regional belief that the function of immunization programs is not only to vaccinate, but also to develop the immunization policies of their territories and to provide the evidence that is required in public health.
- PAHO/WHO needs to further investigate the need for offline access to the web-based system.



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## **Special Issue of the *Pan American Journal of Public Health* Expands on the Journey of Immunization in the Americas and Celebrates the 40th Anniversary of the EPI in the Region**

*Octavia Silva, Martha Velandia, PAHO-Washington, DC*

This special supplement of PAHO's *Pan American Journal of Public Health* explores the past, present and future of immunization in the Region of the Americas through a variety of articles, detailing the colorful trajectories that have paved the way towards eliminating vaccine-preventable diseases like polio, rubella, congenital rubella syndrome and measles, but also exploring more recent immunization developments in the Region, like the Vaccination Week in the Americas campaign and the introduction of new vaccines like the HPV vaccine to the Region's immunization programs. The supplement also discusses the future of immunization in the Region and the challenges to be overcome.

URL: [www.paho.org/journal/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=231:recently-published-articles-pai-december-2017&Itemid=861](http://www.paho.org/journal/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=231:recently-published-articles-pai-december-2017&Itemid=861)



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## Development of Visual Aid on Multi-dose Vial Policy

*Elizabeth Thrush, Eduardo Rivero, Nora Lucia Rodriguez, Ana Elena Chevez*

In light of the limited global supply of the inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV), the PAHO Immunization Unit wanted to find ways to help countries strengthen compliance with the Multi-dose Open Vial Policy of the World Health Organization (WHO). For this reason, a large magnet was designed that can be placed on the refrigerators of the vaccination centers.

The material highlights the recommended time a multi-dose vial should be used, according to the type of vaccine:

- Liquid vaccines up to 28 days after opening the vial: IPV, bOPV, DPT, TT, DT, Td, hepatitis B, influenza, varicella (verify presentation/provider) and liquid forms of the Hib vaccine.
- Lyophilized vaccines up to 6 hours after they are reconstituted: BCG, MR, MMR, yellow fever, varicella (verify presentation/provider) and lyophilized forms of Hib vaccine.

During the weekend of preparation for an electricity outage, emergency or another event that could affect the cold chain storage, you should:

- Adequately prepare cold-packs and put them in thermoses;
- Pack and store the vaccines in thermoses;
- Put a thermometer in the thermoses;
- Place thermoses in the refrigerator.

The magnet designs are available in English, Spanish and French, and can be found on PAHO's webpage: [www.paho.org/immunization](http://www.paho.org/immunization).

Additionally, if anyone is interested in adapting these materials for their own country/Region, please feel free to contact Ana Elena Chevez, Regional Advisor on Polio ([chevezana@paho.org](mailto:chevezana@paho.org)), Nora Lucia Rodriguez, Cold Chain Specialist, ([rodrigno@paho.org](mailto:rodrigno@paho.org)) or Elizabeth Thrush, Immunization Specialist ([thrushe@paho.org](mailto:thrushe@paho.org)).