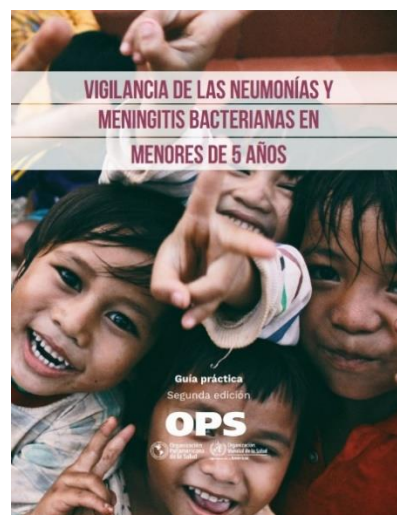## PAHO Updates Guide on the Surveillance of Bacterial Pneumonia and Meningitis among Children Aged under 5 Years

Lúcia Helena de Oliveira, Gloria Rey Benito, Cuauhtémoc Ruiz Matus, PAHO-Washington, DC

This manual has become an outstanding reference for health professionals in the Region of the Americas in charge of these surveillance activities. This guide includes descriptions of the diseases, main etiological agents, available vaccines, surveillance and laboratory procedures to identify the bacteria, and data analysis in order to produce pertinent information.

This second edition of the original "Surveillance of Bacterial Pneumonia and Meningitis in Children Aged under 5 Years" presents new concepts and updates procedures with the purpose of reflecting the introduction of molecular biology tests and new vaccines available. The guide is currently only available in Spanish, but there are plans to translate in the future.

https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/51883

Fourth Regional Meeting on the Quality and Use of Vaccination and Surveillance Data

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Location	Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
Dates	25-27 February 2020
Participants	Eighty-nine participants representing twenty-six countries, including Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Uruguay, and Venezuela.
Purpose	The objective of the meeting was to review the advances and challenges in the use and quality of immunization information systems data, considering information from vaccination systems and the epidemiological surveillance of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs).

The fourth regional meeting to review vaccination and surveillance data use and quality in the Region of the Americas was held on 25-27 February 2020 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Global and regional projects for information systems were also presented and discussed, as well as next steps.

The first half of the meeting focused on immunization data quality and use. Countries and partners presented their experiences overcoming challenges with recording and reporting high quality data and discussed potential interventions to improve quality issues. Next, the focus turned to using immunization data at all levels for decision-making and the importance of using data to strengthen immunization programs. Participants worked together to establish strategies for improving the use of vaccination data to address relevant challenges.

Ministry of Health at launch of the Fourth Regional Meeting on the Quality and Use of Vaccination and Surveillance Data in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, February 2020. Credit: PAHO/WHO.

During the second part of the meeting, an update on the progress with surveillance in the Global Information Systems WIISE project was given. Additionally, the status of the VPD Regional Surveillance Information System was explained to inform participants of future plans. By working in groups, it was possible to identify challenges presented by information systems in the epidemiological surveillance of countries and how they affect the data quality.

Fourth Regional Meeting on the Quality and Use of Vaccination and Surveillance Data. Credit: PAHO/WHO.

The preliminary conclusion of the meeting is that the Region must continue generating high quality data on vaccination and surveillance in order to continue monitoring the progress of achievements related to disease elimination objectives proposed by the Global Vaccine Action Plan and the Regional Immunization Action Plan, as well as measuring the progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. An important next step following this meeting will be to continue working with countries to develop a guide on improving data quality for surveillance systems.

Fourth Regional Meeting on the Quality and Use of Vaccination and Surveillance Data held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, February 2020. Credit: PAHO/WHO.