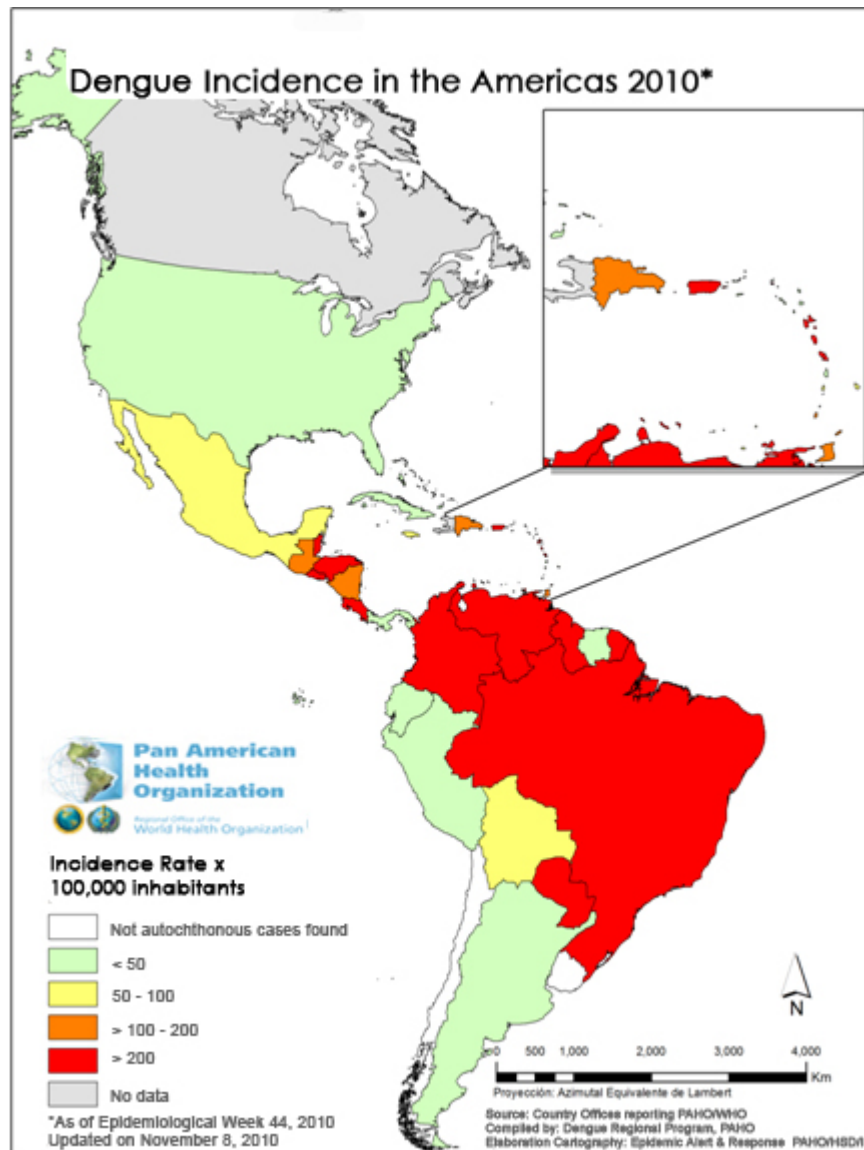




Epidemiological Alert: Update on Dengue Situation in the Americas

(15 November 2010)

The information in this update has been obtained from data provided by the ministries of health of PAHO Member States, either through reports sent to the Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization PAHO/WHO or from updates on their respective websites.



**Table 1. Dengue and severe dengue cases, and Deaths
Region of the Americas, as of Epidemiological Week (EW) 44, 2010**

Americas Sub-region	Dengue*	Incidence Rate	Severe Dengue**	Deaths	Lethality Rate
North America, Central America & México	194,576	132.4	5,679	139	2.45 %
Andean	257,322	251.2	17,997	182	1.01 %
Southern Cone	957,019	394.7	9,725	382	3.93 %
Hispanic Caribbean	28,698	121.1	1,005	79	7.86 %
Non-Hispanic Caribbean	99,284	1,250.0	1,049	25	2.38 %
TOTAL	1,536,899	293.6	35.455	807	2.28 %

*Sum of DF + DHF, DSS and/or dengue severe

**Includes DHF, DSS and/or Severe Dengue

Central America and Mexico

GUATEMALA

Number of Cases: As of EW 41, 2010, a total of 16,058 dengue fever cases have been registered, of which 3.78% were confirmed cases.

Severity: There were 202 confirmed cases of severe dengue and 40 deaths, with a case fatality rate of 19.8%.

Serotypes in Circulation: DEN-1, 2, 3 and 4.

Trend: During the past weeks the cases have been decreased at the national level, being located in the safety zone of the endemic channel.

EL SALVADOR

Number of Cases: As of EW 43, 2010, there have been 21,332 dengue fever cases, of which 8,633 were confirmed cases.

Severity: A total of 176 cases of severe dengue cases were laboratory confirmed. Two deaths have been recorded.

Serotypes in Circulation: DEN-1, 2.

Trend: At this moment it is in the safety zone of the endemic channel.

COSTA RICA

Number of Cases: As of EW 42, 2010, there have been 28,144 cases of dengue.

Severity: A total of 18 severe dengue cases have been confirmed. No deaths were reported.

Serotypes in Circulation: DEN-1, 2 and 3.

Trend: Up to date a reduction of cases becomes evident in the last weeks at the national level; however, it is still above what is expected in comparison with the cases of the previous year.

Andean Sub-Region

VENEZUELA

Number of Cases: As of EW 40, 2010, there have been reported a total of 99,178 cases of dengue, in which it represents 3.5 more than the historical average (28.614 annual cases).

Severity: There have been 8,916 cases of severe dengue. No fatalities were officially reported.

Serotypes in Circulation: DEN-1, 2, 3 and 4.

Trend: Decrease in the cases, but it is still very high to the historical average. During EW 40, 2,390 clinical cases were reported and 164 cases of severe dengue, in which the more affected age groups were children under 14 years.

Measures Taken: The epidemiological surveillance has been strengthened. In addition, actions in risk communication and vector control were taken.

COLOMBIA

Number of Cases: As of EW 43, 2010, the National Surveillance System (SIVIGILA) received a notification of a total of 144,264 probable cases of dengue, of which 68,999 have been cases confirmed.

Severity: 9,076 cases of severe dengue, 179 deaths with a case fatality rate of 1.97%.

Serotypes in Circulation: DEN-1, 2, 3 and 4.

Trend: At the national level the cases have been decreased, but it is still high of the expected cases for the same period.

Hispanic Caribbean

PUERTO RICO

Number of Cases: As of EW 41, 2010 there have been reported 17,798 cases of dengue, of which 8,637 have been laboratory confirmed.

Severity: There have been 29 deaths confirmed.

Serotypes in Circulation: DEN-1, 2, 4.

Trend: Decrease in the cases, but it is still very high to the historical average.

Measures Taken: It being implemented a plan of sustainable improvement of Vector Control Program with the support of PAHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention` (CDC), as well as training to health workers.

CONSIDERATIONS:

The Pan-American Health Organization, through the Regional Program of Dengue, put available to the physicians and health workers of the Region of the Americas the manual: "*Dengue: Guides of care for patients in the Region of the Americas*", by clicking the following link <http://www.ops.org.bo/textocompleto/ndeng31482.pdf> (In Spanish).

This arises from the urgent need to incorporate and adapt to the region the advances in the treatment of dengue and taking into account the high priority that represents the proper management of the patients in order to decrease the deaths from dengue.

The current guidelines are the product of the work of experts of the International Technical Group of Dengue (GTI-dengue), met in April 2010 in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. The group of experts carried out an adaptation and adjustment to the WHO dengue guidelines for the American hemisphere, taking advantage of the accumulation of experience in the dengue treatment in the Region of the Americas.

These guides are designed to be applied in primary health care and it avoids finding support in difficult application technology in places with limited resources. It reviews the indispensable aspects to take into account in every phase of the disease, including the management of serious forms in the hospital level of care.

Our challenge is to disseminate widely and accompany the training processes and advisory services in order to achieve the annexation of the physicians to the guidelines, to reduce the deaths from dengue.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DENGUE PREVENTION AND CONTROL:

During the current year, in several countries in the region has registered a total number of cases of which exceeded the historical data record on dengue. Therefore, it emphasizes the importance of continuing interventions aimed to the elimination of potential and habitual breeding sites of *Aedes aegypti*.

The purpose of this alert is to call upon the countries throughout the Region to undertake sustainability plans for its activities under the Integrated Management Strategies for the Dengue Prevention and Control (EGI-Dengue), involving other government and / or non-governmental actors and mainly to the community to maintain:

- Organize and coordinate of environmental reorganization actions, to eliminate the habitual and potential breeding sites (very known by all) of the vector.
- Clinical, laboratory, epidemiological, and entomological surveillance of the disease and the vector, communicating on a timely basis any increase of cases and in the indices of the vector in order to try to respond in an effective and early way.
- Response capability of the health system to respond to a possible increase of serious forms of severe dengue, especially in those countries and territories where there are detected by the laboratories the introduction of new serotypes of the disease.
- The personnel training process of all the health system and especially in the levels of primary care, which it is essential to avoid deaths.
- Adapted operation of the equipment of pesticide fumigation and reserves.
- The actions of monitoring (quality control), of the work field of the workers, both during focal treatment and in the treatment adulticide (fumigation).
- As the measures coincide with the actions for the prevention and control in space and time (adulticide and larval control by trained personnel, remedial actions and the promotion of community action), its impact will be greater and lesser time.
- The strategy of social communication for behavioral changes, which they must be well aimed at the destruction of the principal and most productive breeding sites of the vector.