

UPDATE: Dengue Fever Outbreak In Yap State, Fsm

This is an update of the Yap State Dengue Outbreak Situation. Based on the Department of Health services situational report, the accumulated total of the number of dengue cases who meet the clinical case definition from September 1st, 2011 to January 30, 2012 is 1,108. The cases identified in Yap proper totals to 892, 80 cases in Ulithi, 159 cases in Fais, 2 cases in Euripik, 2 in Woleai and 9 in Satawal. Between the last situational report on January 17, 2012 to January 30, 2012, a period of 2 weeks, 35 new cases were identified with 9 of the new cases reported from Satawal. It is currently unclear as to how the transmission of the virus got to Satawal, but based on a radio assessment by one of our physicians based in the outer islands, the symptoms displayed by the patients meets the clinical case definition of Dengue Fever.

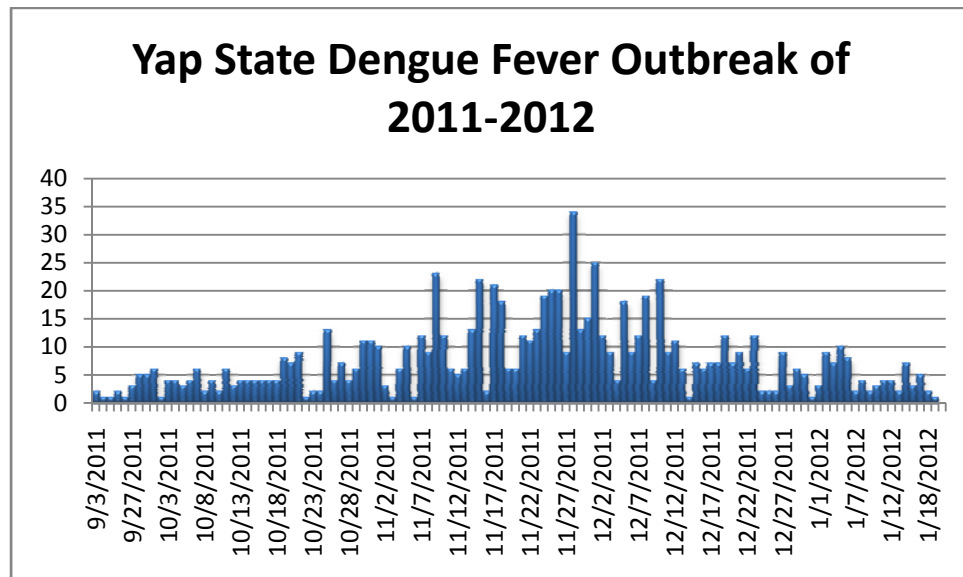
For Yap Proper, Tomil has the most number of patients who came down with the Dengue Virus with Rull, Weloy and Gagil following behind Tomil. Rumung has the least number of cases. The age groups that continues to be the most infected are the 10 to 14 years old followed by 15 to 19 years old and 5 to 9 years old as the third highest.

The case definition for Dengue Fever is:

- ✚ A resident or visitor in Yap State Since September 1st 2011 with a history of documented fever plus two (2) of the following: Nausea or headache or arthralgia/myalgia or rash.

As of the January 30th report, there is no dengue fever patients in the ward.

As the YapEPINET Team continue to monitor the dengue fever situation in Yap State, the number of cases reached its peak during the last week of November 2011 and the numbers start to decline right after the peak. As of this situational Report, there continue to be a steady decrease of the number of cases however, the decline is characterized by several small peaks.



(Data is derived from the YapEpinet database, compiled by Cindy Yow-Yap epiNET Team Data Clerk, Supervised by Maria Marfel-Yap EpiNET Laboratory Specialist. Yap EpiNET Chairman-Dr. Martin Bel, Department of Health Services Yap State FSM, 2012 Feb 2)

As of today, the restriction on traveling to the outer islands beyond Fais is still recommended. This restriction is a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of the dengue virus to the Neighboring Islands. We kindly ask for everyone's patience as we continue to monitor the dengue fever situation.

The Yap Hospital Laboratory continue to remind everyone that all suspect dengue fever patients must come back to the hospital lab or CHC for the second blood drawing 14 days or at any day after the 14th day for the second blood drawing. All suspect dengue fever patients must have 2 blood samples in order for the laboratory to do a complete analysis of the patient's blood samples. It is very important that if your blood was drawn to check for the dengue virus, you must return back for the second blood drawing on the 14th day after your first blood drawing or at any time after the 14th day. The second blood drawn from suspect dengue fever patients is required in order to confirm that you do have the virus and the description of the virus. This information will be stored in the patients chart so that in the event that if a patient contract the dengue virus or infection again, the doctor can automatically know if you have contracted the virus in the past or not. This information is very important because subsequent infection can cause severe or even fatal illnesses. A patient who have contracted the virus more than once, increase the severity of the dengue virus symptoms. Therefore, the Department of Health Services is kindly asking everyone who has had their blood drawn once to check for the dengue virus to please return on the 14th day for the second blood drawing. If you missed the 14th day, you can come any day after the 14th day.

The Department of Health Services Continue to encourage the people to continue with their cleanup activities. Cleaning around the homes to eliminate the mosquito breeding sites is still the best dengue prevention measure. Proactive measures is still encouraged by urging everyone to continue to use mosquito repellants and wear long sleeve clothes to prevent mosquitoes from biting your body. Try to stay home as much as you can, but if you must go, please make sure you wear your mosquito repellant.

If you'd like more information about this topic, please call 350-2114 and ask to speak to Ms. Cindy Yow.