



# Elimination of Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome

## –FIELD GUIDE

Rubella causes serious congenital malformations in children. The fetus of a pregnant woman who contracts the disease may have severe defects with devastating consequences. Fortunately, rubella can be prevented through vaccination and surveillance and control measures. Together with health workers, family and community play a critical role in preventing rubella and its consequences.

With a firm commitment to supporting the countries of the Region in their efforts to eliminate this disease, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has produced *Elimination of Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome: Field Guide*.

This guide offers local health workers, physicians, nurses, and other members of the health team pertinent, practical information to facilitate early detection of congenital rubella syndrome, and thereby contribute to the surveillance and control of rubella and congenital rubella syndrome. It stresses the clinical and epidemiological aspects of the disease, which will help health workers to better evaluate and appropriately manage suspected cases.

Information from relevant technical documents, textbooks, and other publications has been used in the preparation of this document, as have the recommendations of PAHO's Technical Advisory Group on Vaccine-preventable Diseases. A list of these documents is included in the guide.

This publication—one of a series of immunization guides that also address polio, measles, neonatal tetanus, yellow fever, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, and hepatitis B—is an essential tool for local and regional health workers, health promoters, physicians, nurses, and students in the field

### This publication includes sections on:

- Epidemiology
- Clinical Aspects
- Case Definitions
- Laboratory Services
- Vaccination
- Public Health Strategies for Control of Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome
- Epidemiological Surveillance
- Case Investigation and Control of Outbreaks
- Information System and Data Analysis
- Program Indicators
- Certification of the Elimination of Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome

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