Boletín diario
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Organización Panamericana de la Salud
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Representación Ecuador
"Siempre alertas para responder a tiempo"

INFORME RESUMEN DE AMENAZAS A LA SALUD PÚBLICA INTERNACIONAL

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HANTAVIRUS, INCREMENTO DE CASOS - CHILE

Después de cuatro años en que el hanta parecía controlado, debido al bajo número de casos, hoy la situación vuelve a cobrar relevancia. A la fecha, van 49 personas contagiadas con la enfermedad, "cifra superior a lo esperado para este período", según el informe epidemiológico del Ministerio de Salud. Diecisiete de ellos fallecieron.

Ante el hecho, las autoridades emitieron un alerta a la red asistencial: "En los próximos meses se inicia el incremento estacional, esperado para esta enfermedad. Por este motivo, los equipos de salud deben estar atentos para la pesquisa precoz", señala el documento.

La jefa de vigilancia epidemiológica del Minsal, Maritza García, explicó que si bien las cifras aún son menores a las registradas en un año epidémico (en 2001 hubo 81 casos), la letalidad es alta y representa un 35% de los contagios.

Este incremento obedece a un aumento de la población de roedores que transmiten esta enfermedad (el ratón colilargo). "Si es un año más lluvioso, si florece más la quila o si hay más disponibilidad de grano, que es de lo que se alimenta este roedor, eso hace que se reproduzca más", indica la experta.

Las regiones donde se han presentado más casos son: Biobío (14) y Maule (9). Al respecto, la epidemióloga de la Seremi de Salud del Biobío, Cecilia Soto, dijo que un 93% de los contagiados son hombres. "Las condiciones ambientales resultan por lejos un factor importante. Hemos tenido fallecimientos por personas que salen a hacer actividades de riesgo, como recoger leña".

Fuente: Promed

ACROSS ASIA, DENGUE FEVER CASES REACH RECORD HIGHS

Dengue fever, sometimes called breakbone fever, has long been endemic in Asia, especially in the tropical areas. Transmitted by the striped Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus mosquitoes, it affects hundreds of thousands of people in the region each year, both in rural and urban areas. This year, the number of infections is reaching highs across the continent. Thailand's dengue cases are the highest in five years, with 57,000 infections between January and August — nearly double the figure from the same period last year. The Philippines has already recorded the most cases in its history, with more than 62,000 infections reported in the first eight months of this year — a nearly 90% increase from the same period last year — and 465 people killed. In Vietnam, more than 42,000 cases were recorded before September, 60% of which were in the rainy months of July and August. There were 31,500 reported cases in Malaysia, 24,000 in Sri Lanka and 80,000 in Indonesia in the first eight months of this year.

Dengue, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), is the most rapidly spreading mosquito-borne viral disease in the world. It infects between 50 million and 100 million people annually, with 500,000 cases of the more severe infection known as dengue hemorrhagic fever. It causes 22,000 deaths every year, mainly among children and young adults. More than 2.5 billion people, or two-fifths of the world's population, live in the dengue-endemic countries, including those in Africa, the eastern Mediterranean and the Americas. The Caribbean countries are battling a wave of dengue epidemics this year. As of early September, more than 80,000 cases have been reported, overwhelming the region's hospitals and medical care.

In Asia, the disease is getting worse. "Dengue cases have increased dramatically in recent decades, especially in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific," says Dr. Terhi Heinasmaki, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' Asia-Pacific health coordinator. The number of cases in the WHO's Southeast Asia region surged nearly 70% from 152,448 in 2004 to 257,882 in 2009. In the international health body's Western Pacific region, there were 242,424 cases in 2009, up 50% from 160,823 in 2004. Experts say that increased travel has helped mosquitoes spread dengue — and its four different strains of virus — further afield to infect greater numbers of people. Some also blame climate change, arguing that warmer temperatures have increased the number of potential breeding areas for mosquitoes. Despite being a historically tropical disease, dengue is now emerging in Himalayan countries such as Nepal and Bhutan. As the rainy season in some areas becomes longer, the longer is the period the Aedes mosquitoes — which flourish in the wet months — can thrive and multiply. "Climate change is not the only explanation for the increase of dengue, but it can contribute," Heinasmaki says.

Fuente: Medisys