



INFORME RESUMEN DE AMENAZAS A LA SALUD PÚBLICA INTERNACIONAL

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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC REPORTS SEVENTH CHOLERA CASE

SANTO DOMINGO, Nov. 28 (Xinhua) -- The health minister of the Dominican Republic announced the country's seventh case of cholera here on Sunday.

Bautista Rojas Gomez, who was once a doctor, said that a five-year-old girl caught the disease in Santo Domingo province and that she was the cousin of the sixth case, whose infection was announced on Saturday.

The minister said that Dominican doctors would stage a second intervention in "Little Haiti," a Santo Domingo slum that hosts thousands of Haitians.

"We issued them a warning to raise hygiene standards when preparing food and it was ignored," Rojas said.

So far, all the cases reported were of people living in Rio Ozama, where people are living in extreme poverty and without appropriate sanitation.

Rojas Tuesday said that the Republic will distribute 5 million flyers, posters and support materials in order to prevent the spread of cholera.

He said that some 100,000 volunteers would seek to reach 2 million homes during the day of action. Transport companies and universities will also take part in the action.

Fuente: HealthMap

WHOOPING COUGH OUTBREAK WORST IN 50 YEARS

The number of cases of whooping cough continues to grow. Federal officials say is the worst outbreak of the disease in 50 years. Texas ranks second in the number of cases reported nationally.

The Centers for Disease Control have published their latest report in November showing 21,133 cases of pertussis/whooping cough for 2010. Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, is a highly contagious illness. It has symptoms similar to the common cold, but a persistent cough lasting for weeks is an indicator of the illness.

Whooping cough is epidemic in California, where there have been 6,795 cases reported, the most since 1958. Texas is second with 2,229. Following in order are Ohio with 1,461; Michigan with 1,165; Minnesota with 698; and Pennsylvania with 677 cases this year. These six states represent 62 percent of all the cases reported nationally.

While pertussis can affect people of any age and in fact, national rates have been rising in adults, it is the infants who adults pass this on to who bear the burden.

The CDC points out that infants and children under 12 months of age are most at risk from serious complications due to catching whooping cough. More than half in that age group will need to be hospitalized. Twenty percent will have pneumonia. One in 100 may die.

In Oklahoma 66 cases have been reported. Laurence Burnsed, the state Health Department's communicable disease division director, said the department was keeping an eye on bordering states like Texas. Ten children have died in California already, and at least 213 children under six months of age have been hospitalized. Whooping cough was a leading cause of illness and death in children in the first half of the 20th century.

Fuente: Medisys