



**PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**



*Special Program for Vaccines and Immunization  
Expanded Program on Immunization  
Measles Surveillance in the Americas*

*Weekly Bulletin for the week  
ending 15 August 1998*

Vol. 4 No. 32

**ALERT: MEASLES OUTBREAK IN ARGENTINA AND BOLIVIA**

*Confirmed measles cases, 1998*

**Argentina -**

The measles epidemic in Argentina started in August 1997 (wk. 30) in Buenos Aires. A total of 136 cases were confirmed in 1997, and 1,960 cases in 1998 (as of wk. 32), according to country reports transmitted to PAHO/Washington, D.C., verbal information points to more than 3,000 cases. The provinces most affected have been Buenos Aires, Misiones, Rio Negro, and Jujuy, in addition, cases have been reported in the last 10 weeks in Salta, Mendoza, Santa Fe, Tucumán, and Santiago del Estero. Available data on the city of Buenos Aires indicates that 66% of the cases in the 1-4 age group occurred in unvaccinated children. Eleven deaths in children have been reported, six of them under one year of age. The follow-up measles campaign started on 18 May 1998, reaching 87% of children 2-5 years of age. Vaccination coverage of children 1 year old was 39%. Some 325,872 children aged 2-5 are pending vaccination, in addition to 418,855 children 1 year of age.



**Bolivia -**

The measles epidemic in Bolivia started on 20 May 1998 in the district of Yacuiba, located on the border with Argentina. As of week 32, 173 suspected cases have been notified, of which 111 have been confirmed. The affected municipalities are Yacuiba in the Department of Tarija, Cercado y Warnes in Santa Cruz, Achacachi in La Paz (bordering on Peru), El Alto in La Paz, and Cercado in Cochabamba. No deaths from measles have been reported. Currently, vaccination is being carried out in the districts with cases. The implementation of the National Follow-up campaign against measles is pending.

In both countries, the age groups more affected were the children less than 1 and 1 to 4 years old.

Table No. 1  
Classification of Suspected Measles Cases  
for the period: 98/01 - 98/32

| Region | Country | Suspected Cases Reported | Under Investigation | Discarded |        |               | Confirmed |       |       | Confirmed Cases 1997 |        |   |
|--------|---------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------|--------|---------------|-----------|-------|-------|----------------------|--------|---|
|        |         |                          |                     | Rubella   | Dengue | Other/Unknown | Clinic.   | Lab.  | Total | Week 32              | Total  |   |
| AND    | BOL     | 150                      | 20                  | 3         | 0      | 44            | 0         | 83    | 83    | 1                    | 7      |   |
|        | COL     | 242                      | 46                  | 6         | 12     | 171           | 5         | 2     | 7     | 52                   | 43     |   |
|        | ECU     | 160                      | 7                   | 23        | 0      | 130           | 0         | 0     | 0     | 0                    | 0      |   |
|        | PER     | 91                       | 20                  | 1         | 0      | 70            | 0         | 0     | 0     | 40                   | 94     |   |
|        | VEN     | 496                      | 14                  | 113       | 19     | 347           | 3         | 0     | 3     | 21                   | 27     |   |
| BRA    | BRA     | 6,372                    | 3,827               | ...       | ...    | 1,452         | 61        | 1,032 | 1,093 | 2,835                | 51,097 |   |
|        | COR     | 46                       | 27                  | ...       | ...    | 19            | 0         | 0     | 0     | 0                    | 27     |   |
|        | ELS     | 125                      | 12                  | 10        | 2      | 101           | 0         | 0     | 0     | 0                    | 0      |   |
|        | GUT     | 62                       | 1                   | 10        | 0      | 50            | 1         | 0     | 1     | 6                    | 8      |   |
|        | HON     | 116                      | 2                   | 29        | 13     | 72            | 0         | 0     | 0     | 5                    | 5      |   |
| CAR    | NIC     | 641                      | 0                   | 113       | 1      | 527           | 0         | 0     | 0     | 0                    | 0      |   |
|        | PAN     | 33                       | 6                   | 0         | 6      | 21            | 0         | 0     | 0     | 0                    | 0      |   |
|        | CAR     | 333                      | 8                   | 81        | 19     | 224           | 0         | 1     | 1     | 2                    | 2      |   |
|        | LAC     | CUB                      | 225                 | 65        | ...    | ...           | 160       | 0     | 0     | 0                    | 0      | 0 |
|        | DOR     | 66                       | 2                   | 0         | 4      | 60            | 0         | 0     | 0     | 1                    | 1      |   |
| MEX    | FGU     | ...                      | ...                 | ...       | ...    | ...           | ...       | ...   | ...   | 0                    | 0      |   |
|        | GUA     | 4                        | 0                   | ...       | ...    | 3             | 0         | 1     | 1     | 72                   | 116    |   |
|        | HAI     | ...                      | ...                 | ...       | ...    | ...           | ...       | ...   | ...   | 0                    | 0      |   |
|        | MAR     | ...                      | ...                 | ...       | ...    | ...           | ...       | ...   | ...   | 0                    | 0      |   |
|        | PUR     | 0                        | 0                   | ...       | ...    | 0             | 0         | 0     | 0     | 0                    | 0      |   |
| NOA    | MEX     | 124                      | 42                  | 52        | 0      | 30            | 0         | 0     | 0     | 14                   | 28     |   |
|        | CAN     | 8                        | 1                   | ...       | ...    | ...           | ...       | 7     | 7     | 570                  | 570    |   |
| SOC    | USA     | 47                       | ...                 | ...       | ...    | ...           | ...       | 47    | 47    | 97                   | 138    |   |
|        | ARG     | ...                      | ...                 | ...       | ...    | ...           | ...       | ...   | 1,960 | 13                   | 125    |   |
|        | CHI     | 158                      | 88                  | 2         | 0      | 68            | 0         | 0     | 0     | 8                    | 58     |   |
|        | PAR     | 47                       | 28                  | 2         | 0      | 15            | 0         | 2     | 2     | 33                   | 198    |   |
|        | URU     | 1                        | 0                   | 0         | 0      | 1             | 0         | 0     | 0     | 2                    | 2      |   |
| TOTAL  |         | 9,547                    | 4,216               | 445       | 76     | 3,565         | 70        | 1,175 | 3,205 | 3,772                | 52,546 |   |

... No report received

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Table No. 2

Measles Suspect Cases Under Investigation for the period: 98/01 - 98/32

| Re-<br>gion | Coun-<br>try | Pending<br>cases<br>from<br>1997 | Cumu-<br>lative<br>1998 | Week of Rash Onset |     |      |       |       |       |       |     |     |     |     |     |
|-------------|--------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|             |              |                                  |                         | 1-4                | 5-8 | 9-12 | 13-16 | 17-20 | 21-24 | 25-28 | 29  | 30  | 31  | 32  |     |
| AND         | BOL          | 0                                | 20                      | 0                  | 0   | 0    | 0     | 2     | 0     | 0     | 3   | 1   | 5   | 7   | 2   |
|             | COL          | 0                                | 46                      | 4                  | 4   | 2    | 5     | 10    | 10    | 6     | 2   | 3   | 0   | 0   |     |
|             | ECU          | 0                                | 7                       | 1                  | 3   | 2    | 0     | 0     | 1     | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |     |
|             | PER          | 0                                | 20                      | 5                  | 0   | 3    | 0     | 1     | 5     | 6     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |     |
|             | VEN          | 0                                | 14                      | 0                  | 1   | 0    | 1     | 0     | 6     | 1     | 1   | 1   | 3   | 0   |     |
| BRA         | BRA          | 20,339                           | 3,827                   | ...                | ... | ...  | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ... | ... | ... | ... |     |
| CAP         | COR          | 1                                | 27                      | ...                | ... | ...  | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ... | ... | ... | ... |     |
|             | ELS          | 0                                | 12                      | 0                  | 2   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 10    | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |     |
|             | GUT          | 0                                | 1                       | 0                  | 0   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |     |
|             | HON          | 0                                | 2                       | 0                  | 0   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 2     | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |     |
| CAR         | NIC          | 0                                | 0                       | 0                  | 0   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |     |
|             | PAN          | 0                                | 6                       | 0                  | 1   | 1    | 1     | 3     | 0     | 0     | 0   | 0   | ... | ... |     |
|             | CAR          | 0                                | 8                       | 1                  | 1   | 0    | 0     | 1     | 0     | 1     | 0   | 1   | 3   | ... |     |
|             | LAC          | CUB                              | 0                       | 65                 | ... | ...  | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
|             |              | DOR                              | 0                       | 2                  | 4   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
|             | FGU          | 0                                | ...                     | ...                | ... | ...  | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ... | ... | ... | ... |     |
|             | GUA          | 0                                | 0                       | ...                | ... | ...  | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ... | ... | ... | ... |     |
|             | HAI          | 0                                | ...                     | ...                | ... | ...  | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ... | ... | ... | ... |     |
|             | MAR          | 0                                | ...                     | ...                | ... | ...  | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ... | ... | ... | ... |     |
|             | PUR          | 0                                | 0                       | ...                | ... | ...  | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ... | ... | ... | ... |     |
| MEX         | MEX          | 0                                | 42                      | 3                  | 3   | 8    | 12    | 8     | 2     | 4     | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   |     |
|             | CAN          | 0                                | 1                       | ...                | ... | ...  | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ... | ... | ... | ... |     |
| NOA         | USA          | 0                                | 0                       | ...                | ... | ...  | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ... | ... | ... | ... |     |
|             | ARG          | 0                                | ...                     | ...                | ... | ...  | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ... | ... | ... | ... |     |
| SOC         | CHI          | 0                                | 88                      | 11                 | 14  | 13   | 13    | 13    | 13    | 11    | 0   | 0   | ... | ... |     |
|             | PAR          | 0                                | 28                      | 0                  | 0   | 0    | 1     | 7     | 8     | 8     | 2   | 1   | 1   | 0   |     |
|             | URU          | 0                                | 0                       | 0                  | 0   | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |     |
|             | TOTAL        |                                  | 20,340                  | 4,216              | 29  | 29   | 29    | 33    | 45    | 57    | 41  | 7   | 12  | 14  | 2   |

... No report received through the Measles Elimination Surveillance System

Table No. 3

Measles Surveillance Indicators for the period: 98/01 - 98/32

| Region | Country | % Sites Reporting<br>Weekly | % Cases Investigated<br>≤48 Hours | % Cases W/Complete<br>Inves. Form | % Cases W/<br>Adequate Sample | % Lab. Results<br>≤7 Days |     |
|--------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----|
| AND    | BOL     | 83                          | 99                                | 51                                | 83                            | 60                        |     |
|        | COL     | 92                          | 69                                | 31                                | 73                            | 67                        |     |
|        | ECU     | ...                         | 92                                | 46                                | 95                            | 87                        |     |
|        | PER     | ...                         | 97                                | 10                                | 24                            | 8                         |     |
|        | VEN     | 85                          | 90                                | 51                                | 93                            | 71                        |     |
| BRA    | BRA     | ...                         | ...                               | ...                               | ...                           | ...                       |     |
|        | CAP     | COR                         | ...                               | ...                               | ...                           | ...                       | ... |
|        |         | ELS                         | ...                               | 97                                | 38                            | 96                        | 86  |
|        | GUT     | ...                         | 95                                | 32                                | 98                            | 68                        |     |
|        | HON     | 83                          | 97                                | 81                                | 99                            | 45                        |     |
|        | NIC     | 98                          | 99                                | 76                                | 100                           | 84                        |     |
|        | PAN     | ...                         | 100                               | 36                                | 91                            | 30                        |     |
|        | CAR     | CAR                         | 99                                | 96                                | 36                            | 95                        | 98  |
|        |         | LAC                         | CUB                               | 97                                | ...                           | ...                       | ... |
|        | DOR     | 55                          | 90                                | 90                                | 100                           | 0                         |     |
| FGU    | ...     | ...                         | ...                               | ...                               | ...                           | ...                       |     |
| GUA    | ...     | ...                         | ...                               | ...                               | ...                           | ...                       |     |
| HAI    | ...     | ...                         | ...                               | ...                               | ...                           | ...                       |     |
| MAR    | ...     | ...                         | ...                               | ...                               | ...                           | ...                       |     |
| PUR    | ...     | ...                         | ...                               | ...                               | ...                           | ...                       |     |
| MEX    | MEX     | 93                          | 99                                | 44                                | 78                            | 62                        |     |
|        | CAN     | ...                         | ...                               | ...                               | ...                           | ...                       |     |
| NOA    | USA     | ...                         | ...                               | ...                               | ...                           | ...                       |     |
|        | ARG     | 99                          | ...                               | ...                               | ...                           | ...                       |     |
| SOC    | CHI     | 100                         | 95                                | 59                                | 78                            | 13                        |     |
|        | PAR     | ...                         | 98                                | 55                                | 94                            | 14                        |     |
|        | URU     | ...                         | 100                               | 100                               | 100                           | 0                         |     |
|        | TOTAL   |                             | 92                                | 93                                | 52                            | 89                        | 74  |

... No report received