

Preparations for the Next Pandemic (or Epidemic or Outbreak)

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*Serving
21 Member Countries
in the English and Dutch
Speaking Caribbean*

(CAREC)
PAHO/WHO



Objectives

- ✦ Understand lessons learnt from 2009/2010 H1N1 pandemic
- ✦ Apply those principles to other emergencies (cholera)
- ✦ Understand details of 2 cholera assessments among CAREC member countries in October and December 2010

4 Areas for Preparedness

1. (Emergency) plan in place
2. Surveillance and response
3. Laboratory needs
4. Communication with public

1. (Emergency) Plan



- ✦ Has a plan been created to respond to the emergency?
 - pandemic? cholera? general emergencies?
- ✦ Plan should coordinate efforts among public/private sectors as well as entities that may be impacted by a pandemic
 - Food supply, water, electricity, telephone

1. (Emergency) Plan



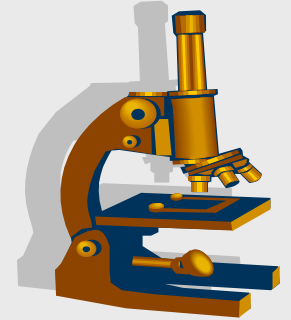
- ✦ When applicable, vaccination strategy should be included
- ✦ Test plan yearly to ensure key connections and responses are in place

2. Surveillance and Response



- ✦ Is current level of surveillance adequate to detect and appropriately monitor cases of (disease X)?
- ✦ Case definition(s) available?
- ✦ Treatment and control recommendations available?
- ✦ Surge capacity concerns taken into account?

3. Laboratory Needs



- ✦ Is the public health lab ready to staff up in an emergency (plans for adding extra staff, shifts, etc.)?
- ✦ Adequate supply of lab supplies available?
 - Specimen collection kits
 - Test reagents
 - Transport media
- ✦ Plans in place to outsource to another lab if necessary?

4. Communication



- ✦ Need to communicate updates on the investigation with the public on a regular basis (daily? weekly?)
- ✦ Communicate recommendations to the public when necessary
- ✦ Sharing of information between lab & epi, public & private sectors, within country and to CAREC, CDC, etc. when appropriate

Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) PAHO/WHO



Cholera Preparedness Assessment



- ✦ Friday, 22 October 2010
 - Details of the outbreak in Haiti first released by PAHO
 - Emergency meeting of the CAREC Technical Team
 - Alert issued to each of the 21 (at that time) member countries with guidance information
 - Reference information about cholera
 - Case investigation form
 - PAHO press release about the outbreak

Cholera Preparedness Assessment



- ✦ Monday, 25 October 2010
 - Guidance information emailed to countries about specimen testing and transport
 - 5 CAREC staff mobilized and contacted each of the CAREC member countries and asked:
 - Was the CAREC alert received?
 - Has an emergency operations committee meeting been held since 22 Oct regarding cholera?
 - Are adequate lab supplies available?
 - Are oral rehydration salts available?
 - Do you have a response plan for cholera emergencies?

Cholera Preparedness Assessment



- ✦ All 21 countries contacted within 48 hours
- ✦ CAREC alert was received by 21 (100%)

<u>Question</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Other</u>
CAREC alert received	100%	-	
EOC meeting held	52%	24%	24% planned
Lab supplies available	43%	57%	
ORS available	48%		52% unknown
Response plan	34%	33%	33% unknown

Assessment Part 2

December 2010



✦ 3 December 2010

- Following confirmation of cholera cases in the Dominican Republic and Florida, countries were contacted again for more details about preparedness
 - Emergency response plan in place?
 - Health practitioners familiar with management techniques for cholera?
 - Availability of lab supplies?

Assessment Part 2

December 2010



- ✦ Availability of supplies?
 - Caryl Blair media
 - ORS
 - IV fluids
 - Antibiotics
- Location identified for treatment of cholera patients?
- Communication and health promotion with the public initiated?
- Gastroenteritis surveillance strengthened?

Assessment part 2:Results

December 2010, continued

<u>Question</u>	<u>Yes</u> <u>(%)</u>	<u>No</u> <u>(%)</u>	<u>Other</u>
EOC meeting held	91	–	9% unknown
Cholera plan in place	41	23	32% in progress 4% unknown
Emergency plan that can be adapted	100	–	<i>Includes all that did not have a cholera plan</i>
Health practitioners familiar with cholera treatment	95	–	<i>5% unknown 27% had trainings</i>
Cary Blair media available	27	27 10% n/a	36% order in progress

Assessment part 2:Results

December 2010, continued

<u>Question</u>	<u>Yes</u> <u>(%)</u>	<u>No</u> <u>(%)</u>	<u>Other</u>
Adequate stock of ORS	86	–	14% ordering
Adequate stock of IV fluids	82	5	13% unknown
Adequate stock of antibiotics	68	–	18% unknown
Location identified to treat cholera patients	82	5	13% unknown
Health promotion activities initiated	82	9	9% unknown
Gastro. surveillance enhanced	82	13	5% unknown

Assessment Part 2, Results

December 2010, continued



- ✦ Help requested with:
 - Transport media (7 countries)
 - Antibiotics (3)
 - ORS (3)
 - Other supplies (1)
- ✦ Coordinated shipment of media to countries and phone consultations regarding shipment

Conclusions

- ✦ Preparedness is essential for a good response to an outbreak, pandemic, or epidemic
 - Hopefully BEFORE the crisis hits
 - Including response plans in place & tested
 - Laboratory training essential
- ✦ Communication among various sectors is key for a high level of response

Thank you!



Any questions?