



Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

Vol. 2, No. 26—6 October 2004

Jungle Yellow Fever (JYF) in the State of Monagas, Venezuela

On 5 October 2004, the Ministry of Health and Social Development (MSDS) of Venezuela reported to PAHO three new cases of Jungle Yellow Fever, with two deaths. These were confirmed by laboratory by isolating the yellow fever virus from one febrile case. All three cases were identified between Epidemiological Weeks (EWs) 30 and 34 in the northeastern State of Monagas in the municipalities of Bolivar (with two cases) and Maturín (with one). This region is predominantly wooded and also includes some cocoa plantations. For this year, the total number of reported cases in Venezuela so far is five, with the three cases in Monagas added to the two cases previously reported in the State of Mérida. The MSDS immediately intensified vaccination efforts in this area, which was already being vaccinated due to epizootics having been identified over the past few weeks. For the period between 1998 and 2004, vaccine coverage for Bolivar is 65% and for Maturín is 50.3%. Between 2002 and 2004, Venezuela has vaccinated approximately 1.9 million people in areas considered to be enzootic. The country's goal for 2006 is to have vaccinated seven million people residing in high-risk cities and towns.

Source: Report to PAHO from the Ministry of Health and Social Development (*Ministerio de Salud y Desarrollo Social* / MSDS) of Venezuela.