



(CAREC)
PAHO/WHO

Progress with recommendations of the 2009 National Epidemiologists and Laboratory Directors Meeting

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

International Health Regulations:

- All independent countries and five territories completed evaluations and draft plans of action
- Countries in process of attaining core capacities
- PWR offices requested to distribute evaluation reports
- Generally IHR focal points supported by teams
- Assessment of PHEICs - training at this meeting & documents available on WHO website

Influenza Surveillance:

- Routine influenza surveillance implemented, but specimen collection remains a challenge
- Lab capacity strengthening in sentinel countries
- Specimens from all countries can reach CAREC lab within 48 hours (most within 24 hours)
- IFA & rapid tests reviewed with sentinel countries and testing strategy agreed
- Performance indicators for timeliness and completeness developed
- Cruise ship guidelines distributed

Influenza Surveillance:

- 27 persons trained in IATA regulations and received certificates for the period 2011-2013
- Instructions for on-line training for certification and re-certification disseminated
- Training in epidemiological analysis of laboratory data conducted for sentinel countries

Sub-regional Communicable Disease Surveillance :

- Survey of laboratory capacity in countries
- Discussions on laboratory network taking place at various levels
- Improvement observed in collaboration between laboratory and epidemiology units in many countries
- Funds accessed for strengthening laboratory capacity in diarrhoeal and respiratory illnesses

Sub-regional Communicable Disease Surveillance :

- Collaboration between clinical, food and veterinary laboratories strengthening under food borne disease programme
- Regional and national trainings conducted in outbreak investigation, epidemiology and data analysis
- CAREC packaging training materials for wider use

Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance:

- Assessment of capacity was part of the general laboratory capacity survey
- In process of developing sub-regional plan in alignment with the PAHO regional plan

HIV Case-based Surveillance:

- HIV Surveillance Technical Working Group agreed methodology for gathering MARPs data - final document being prepared for dissemination
- Assessment and/or training for HIV case-based surveillance conducted in ten countries
- Lessons learnt disseminated at this meeting and will continue in different fora

HIV Case-based Surveillance:

- Joint planning meeting held with all partners and framework and plan of action for implementation of HIV case-based surveillance developed
- Framework includes tools/templates for :
 - Assessment
 - Operation manual
 - Action plan

Operationalizing the Laboratory Network for HIV:

- The role of the CAREC laboratory in an HIV laboratory network is being determined
- Transfer of technology for HIV testing occurred
- All countries either have capacity for, or access to, viral load and CD4 testing
- Barbados and OECS countries will share experience with a lab network at this meeting

Health Information Systems:

- PAHO group in process of developing framework for development of HIS systems in the Caribbean
- PAHO to send draft mortality publications to CAREC to ensure all available data included
- Regional trainings conducted in data analysis (not stata due to cost of software)
- CAREC packaging training materials for wider use

Implication of HIV Drug Resistance Strategy: Implications for integration into the broader HIV surveillance system

- 15 countries have draft plans for HIV drug resistance prevention, monitoring & surveillance
- Prevention component includes reporting on quality of care and early warning indicators
- Countries at various stages of implementation

TB & TB/HIV Surveillance

- CAREC facilitates TB testing through reference laboratory in US
- New technology (Xpert machine not requiring BSL3) being acquired for CAREC
- TB and TB/HIV updated guidelines presented, discussed and disseminated at CHART meeting
- In-country training on guidelines being done by CHART
- Some countries adapting the guidelines

Non-communicable Disease Surveillance

- Following last training and discussion, amendments made to NCD minimum dataset
- Revised NCD minimum dataset distributed
- Countries began reporting on the NCD minimum dataset in May 2010
- 13 countries reported to date

Thank you

Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) PAHO/WHO

