



St. Lucia Launches a Vaccination Coverage Survey for the MMR2 Vaccine, October 2015

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St. Lucia recently started a vaccination coverage survey for the second dose of the measles-mumps-rubella-containing vaccine (MMR2), with the purpose of estimating the actual coverage among children aged 5-11 years old (grades K to 5). Low MMR2 coverage was of concern to the Ministry of Health of St. Lucia, but there are reasons to believe that the actual coverage is higher than reported. To elucidate this situation, the country decided to implement the survey and requested support from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Sample selection was done using a list of schools as the sampling frame. To this end, 2-3 students per grade were randomly selected, resulting in a total of 832 children aged 5-11 years old. In addition, 83 school principals were also randomly selected, to assess their knowledge, attitudes and behaviors towards vaccination services.

Survey implementation is being conducted by trained registered nurses not working in immunization. Written informed consent was sought and after the interview, parents/guardians are being informed on whether their children are up-to-date with their immunizations and advised to visit a health facility, in case vaccination is needed. Photos of the health passports are being taken in the field, to assess MMR2 coverage and timeliness.

Supervisors, public health nurses from a region different from their own will monitor the quality of data collection. These supervisors will also collect vaccination information from health facilities for children without health passports at home and for those that, following data processing, were identified as being vaccinated with MMR2 earlier than the recommended age.

Survey results will be available at the end of this year. These results will help tailor strategies to increase MMR2 coverage and/or better document vaccination with MMR2; strengthen collaboration between the Expanded Program on Immunization, the private health sector and the schools; and may facilitate recommendations to improve the data quality of health passports and/or records in health facilities.



Field work for MMR2 vaccination coverage research in St. Lucia, October 2015.



PAHO Immunization GIN Articles



(GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION NEWSLETTER)

Chile Launches National Vaccination Campaign Against Measles and Rubella

Desiree Pastor, PAHO-Washington, DC; Roberto del Aguila, PAHO-Chile

Chile's National Vaccination Campaign (NVC) was planned in accordance with the accumulation of susceptible populations after the last national campaign, which was carried out in 2010. In 2015, there are a total of 225,000 susceptible children aged 1-5 years old, a number equivalent to the size of a cohort of newborns. The national goal for this NVC is of 1,240,584 children aged 1-5 years old in the 15 regions of the country.

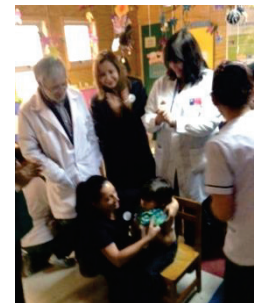
The national vaccination campaign was launched in Santiago on 6 October 2015. The President of Chile, Dr. Michelle Bachelet; the Minister of Health, Dr. Carmen Castillo and high-level political and technical authorities from the Ministries of Health and Education were in attendance. Also in attendance were Dr. Paloma Cuchi, PAHO/WHO's representative in Chile; Dr. Roberto del Aguila, PAHO-Chile's immunization focal point and Dr. Desiree Pastor, PAHO/WHO regional advisor on immunization.



President of Chile, Dr. Michelle Bachelet, initiating the launch of the National Vaccination Campaign against measles and rubella, October 2015.

President Bachelet's speech reflected on the high degree of political commitment in measles and rubella elimination at the regional, country, and global level. She acknowledged the risk of measles and rubella virus importations, given the recent outbreak of 9 imported measles cases in the country and encouraged parents to receive the booster dose indiscriminately throughout the campaign.

Dr. Fernando Muñoz, chief of the National Immunization Program (NIP), along with his technical NIP team and the Ministry's social media team, had been planning this campaign since June 2015 and have ensured the planning and realization phases in order to achieve the goal by 30 November 2015.



Child being vaccinated as part of the National Vaccination Campaign in Chile, October 2015.

To this end, a ministerial resolution was made with a compulsory mandate for vaccination as a public health measure, in order to avoid the reestablishment of the endemic circulation of measles and rubella in Chile.



Training Workshop on the implementation of web-based Vaccine Supply and Stock Management (wVSSM) in Jamaica

Dr. Simon Spence, Director of Family Health Services at the Ministry of Health – Jamaica

Location	Kingston, Jamaica
Dates	October 1 to October 9, 2015
Participants	Ministry of Health, Jamaica; National Health Fund Pharmaceutical Division, Jamaica (Central Vaccine Store) 5 Parish Health Departments: Kingston and St. Andrew, St. Catherine, Manchester, St. Ann and St. James; Ministry of Public Health, Guyana; Ministry of Health, Bermuda
Purpose	The web-based Vaccine Supplies and Stock Management (wVSSM) software developed by WHO was selected as the national tool for the management and control of inventories for vaccines, syringes and other supplies in Jamaica. The purpose of the workshop was to train users at the top 3 levels of the supply chain in Jamaica, and expose administrators in Guyana and Bermuda, to the use and implementation of the wVSSM application. Five parish health departments (supply chain level 3) were selected for the pilot program with a view to fully roll out in all parishes within 12 months.

The workshop was executed over seven days with a total of 30 participants. Four representatives from the central planning unit in the Ministry of Health and five from the central vaccine storage facility (National Health Fund Pharmaceutical Division) were trained as administrators in the first three days, with representatives from Guyana and Bermuda joining on day 3.

Representatives from the five selected parishes participated in the latter four days. Opening stock and recipient data were entered into the live system. Skills in basic software functions such as arrival and dispatch management, stock reporting and adjustments, and user management were taught using the demo version of the software. Participants were given liberal access to the demo site throughout the workshop for individualized exploration and group exercises.

Current local cold chain and stock management practices were openly discussed so that existing processes could be integrated into standard operating procedures going forward. Participants gave a favorable evaluation of the utility of wVSSM in supporting cold chain and stock management operations and made suggestions for future versions of the software.

Overall, the participants fully embraced the software tool and demonstrated to the facilitators that they had acquired the knowledge and skills for full implementation.