



Meeting of the Regional Measles and Rubella Laboratory Network

Gloria Rey-Benito

Location	Quito, Ecuador
Dates	9-10 February 2016
Participants	The meeting was attended by 25 participants representing National Measles and Rubella Laboratories from 12 countries (Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Peru), as well as representatives from regional and sub-regional measles and rubella laboratories (Brazil, Canada, Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The objectives of the meeting were to: • review the progress, achievements and challenges of the Regional Measles and Rubella Laboratory Network; • monitor the performance of the Laboratory Network and the implementation of recommendations; • conduct interactive presentations on measles and rubella cases and on the status of Zika virus circulation in the Region of the Americas.
Purpose	

Although there are some issues that should be improved in order to have a better and more timely response in the context of low incidence and new events of impact in public health, the Regional Laboratory Network is generally doing well and supporting the elimination of rubella and the verification of the elimination of measles. The Region's measles and rubella laboratories are invited to implement the main recommendations related to quality assurance/quality control, laboratory confirmation and the enhancement of molecular surveillance.



*Participants at the Meeting of the Regional Measles and Rubella Laboratory Network in Quito, Ecuador from 9-10 February 2016.
Photo credit: Geovanna Villacis, PAHO-Ecuador.*