



IDSR Weekly Epidemiology and Surveillance Bulletin

25th March – 31st March 2024, Epi-week 13, 2024

Introduction:

We are pleased to share our weekly epidemiological bulletin. This bulletin serves to inform all stakeholders at district, regional, national and international levels on disease trends, public health surveillance and interventions undertaken in detecting, preventing and responding to public health threats in The Gambia on a weekly basis.

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-Table of Contents -

1. National Responses, Highlights, and Weekly IDSR Summary
2. Reporting Coverage
3. Priority Diseases, Conditions and Events
4. VPD Surveillance
5. COVID-19 Update
6. Other Diseases/Events of Public Health Importance
7. Summary table of all suspected cases reported by region
8. Recommendations and public health measures

- 1 -

National Responses, Highlights, and Weekly IDSR Summary

National Responses

1. The national response to COVID-19 is continuing at a routine service level; see the latest COVID-19 SitRep available for additional details

Highlights

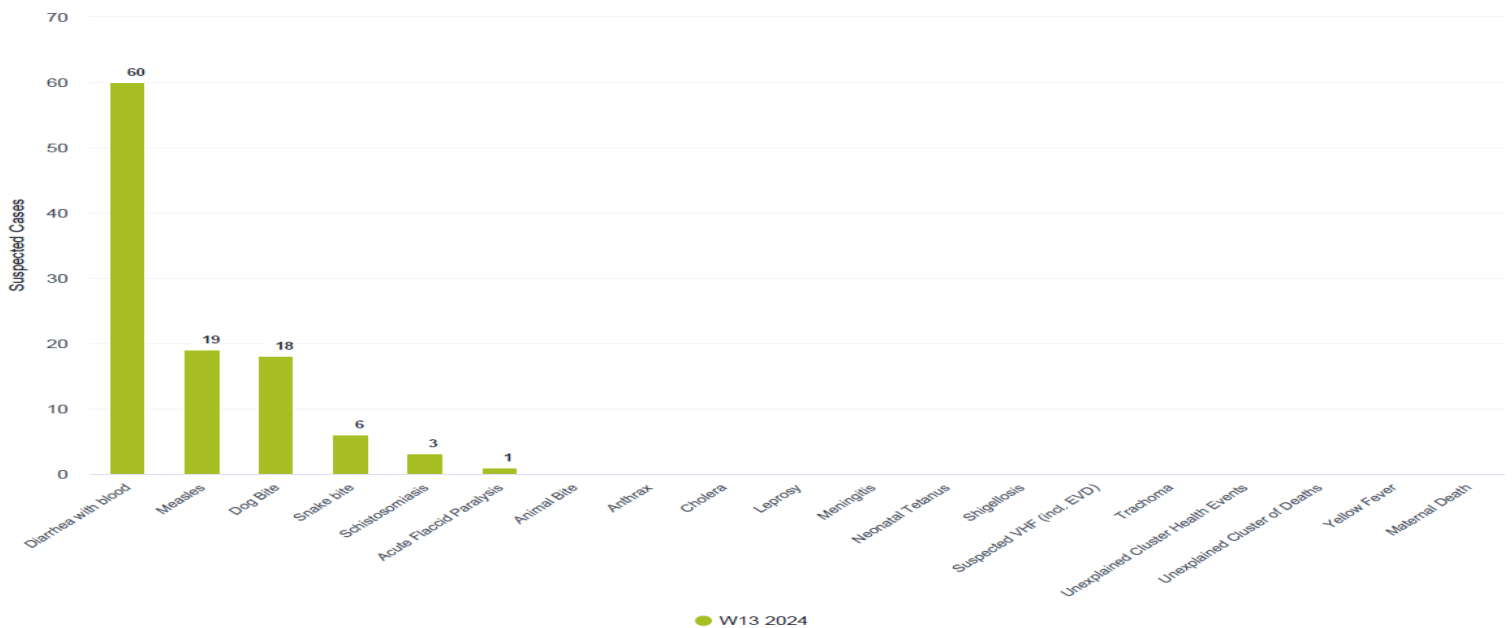


Figure1: Cases reported into the national DHIS2, Week 13,2024

- In Epi week- 13, 60 cases of diarrhea with blood, 18 Dog Bite, 3 schistosomiasis, 6 snake bite, 1 suspected Acute Flaccid Paralysis and 19 suspected Measles cases were reported into the national DHIS2 platform
- Out of the 19 suspected measles cases, 9 of them were from Central River Region and 7 were reported from Upper River Region
- The number of dog bite seen is alarming especially in Western one and North Bank West health regions
- One suspected Acute Flaccid Paralysis was reported from North Bank West Region
- National timeliness and completeness for the weekly reporting were both **100%** for all the regions
- The NPHL have **tested eleven (11) stool samples** from diarrhea with blood cases from CRR through the Sample **Referral Network (SRN)** in 2024. **Two (2)** of the samples **tested positive for Shigella Flexineri** and **1 for Shiga toxin E. coli**. These findings are worrying and more of this test need to be conducted to support further action

- 2-

Reporting Coverage and Performance Ranking

Timeliness and completeness

Table1. District Weekly IDSR Reporting Coverage, The Gambia, Epi – week13, 2024

Regions	Number of reports expected	Number of complete reports received	Number of reports received on time	Timeliness (%)	Completeness (%)
Central River	11	11	11	100	100
Lower River	6	6	6	100	100
North Bank East	4	4	4	100	100
North Bank West	3	3	3	100	100
Upper River	7	7	7	100	100
Western 1	3	3	3	100	100
Western 2	8	8	8	100	100
The Gambia	42	42	42	100	100

Legend	≥ 80% on time and complete	50% - 79% on time and complete	<50% on time and complete
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- Timeliness and completeness of District Reporting from all the districts were perfect for Epi -week13 for all the regions
- The national timeliness and completeness were both **100%**

- 3-

Priority Diseases, Conditions and Events

Diarrhea with Blood (DWB)

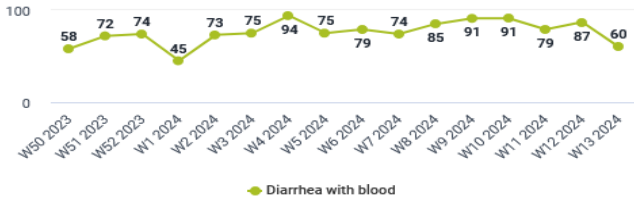


Figure2: Reported cases of DWB, The Gambia, Epi-week 13, 2024

- 60 cases of DWB were reported in Epi-week 13
- Of the 60 cases, 25% (15/60), 23.3% (14/60) and 21.6% (13/60) were from URR, WR2 and CRR respectively
- There number of cases continue to be relatively low compared to when the rains were heavy

Dog bite

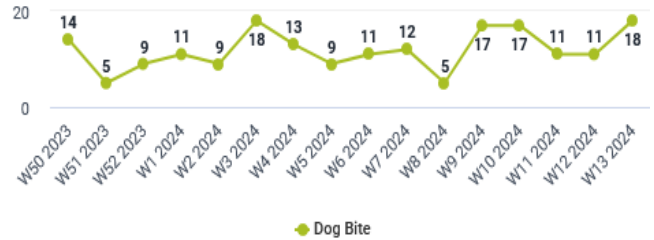


Figure3: Reported Dog bite cases, The Gambia, Epi-week 13, 2024

- 18 cases of dog bite were reported in Epi-week 13
- Of the 18 cases, 33.3% (6/18), 27.7% (5/18) and 16.6% (3/18) were from WR1, NBW and WR2 respectively
- 162 dog bite cases have been reported into the DHIS2 from Epi-week1 to date

Measles

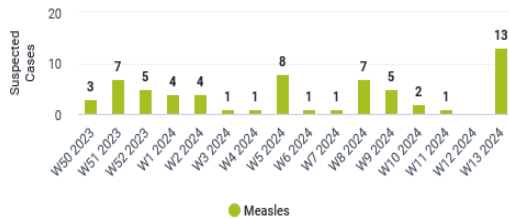


Figure4: Reported Suspected Measles cases, The Gambia, Epi-week 13, 2024

- 13 suspected cases of measles were reported in Epi week 13
- 9 of the suspected cases were from Central River Region
- This is the highest number of suspected cases of measles to be reported in a single week Epi week 1, 2024 as per the DHIS2

Acute Flaccid Paralysis

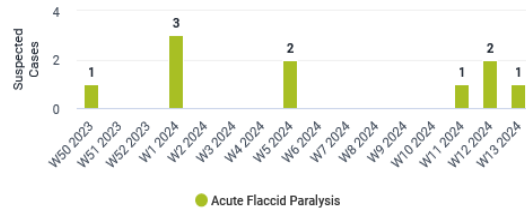


Figure5: Reported Suspected Acute Flaccid Paralysis, The Gambia, Epi-week 13, 2024

- 1 suspected case of acute flaccid paralysis was reported in Epiweek 13
- The suspected case was from NBW Region

- 4 -

VPD Surveillance

Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP)

Table 2: National and Regional Annualized Non-Polio AFP Rate as per EPI VPD surveillance database, The Gambia, Epi-week 1- 13, 2024

REGION	Under 15 Population	Total AFP Cases reported Wk 01-- Wk 10	Stool Adequacy	Stool Condition	Annualized Non-Polio AFP Rate
Western Region 1	452970	4	100	100	3.53
Central River Region	117164	0	0	0	0.00
North Bank East Region	59461	1	0	0	6.73
Upper River Region	130995	1	0	0	3.05
Lower River Region	39007	0	0	0	0.00
North Bank West Region	59721	0	0	0	0.00
Western Region 2	259814	1	100	100	1.54
The Gambia	1119132	7	100	100	2.50

- 7 cases of AFP have been reported across the country so far as per the EPI VPD surveillance data base
- 2 new cases were reported from NBE and URR. All the results received so far are negative for polio

Measles

Table 3: National and Regional Annualized Non-Measles, Non-Rubella Febrile Rash Rate as per EPI VPD surveillance database, The Gambia, Epi-week 1- 13, 2024

Reporting Region	Total Population	Epi-linked	Clinically confirmed	Indeterminate (Equivocal)	Discarded (Negative)	Pending	Lab confirmed (Measles + Rubella)	Total	Annualized Non-Measles, Non rubella Febrile Rash
CRR	280,156	0	0	0	10	0	0	10	16.7
LRR	92,405	0	0	0	6	0	0	6	33.76
NBE	142,529	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
NBW	143,152	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	3.63
URR	314,610	0	0	0	13	0	2	15	18.18
WR1	1,100,739	0	0	0	11	0	0	11	3.31
WR2	642,846	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1.62
National	2,716,437	0	0	0	45	0	2	47	6.89

- A total of 47 suspected measles cases have been recorded so far in the EPI VPD surveillance database
- One is positive for measles while another is positive for rubella
- Both positive cases are reported from Kantora District in the Upper River Region

- 5 -

COVID-19 update

REGION	NEGATIVE	POSITIVE	TOTAL TEST CONDUCTED
CRR	2	0	2
LRR	3	0	3
NBE	2	0	2
NBW	1	0	1
URR	0	0	0
WR 1	9	1	9
WR 2	1	0	1
TOTAL	19	1	20

- A total of 20 COVID-19 tests have been recorded across the country from Epi-week 1 to Epi-week 13
- Only one of the suspect turns out positive and this was from western 1 health region
- COVID-19 test continue to be very low in all the seven health regions

- 6-

Other Diseases / Events of Public Health Importance

Malaria

Table 5: Monthly Classification of Malaria cases as reported into the DHIS2, The Gambia, Jan 2024 and February 2024

	January	February	Total
Suspected Malaria cases	49597	39958	89555
Total confirmed malaria cases	4886	2459	7345
Uncomplicated Malaria cases (RDT + Lab)	4826	2441	7267
Severe Malaria cases (RDT+ Lab)	110	77	187
Malaria Deaths	6	3	9

- A total of 89,555 suspected malaria cases have been reported into the DHIS2 in January and February of 2024
- Of the total number of cases suspected, 8.2% (7345/89555) were positive for malaria (RDT + Lab)
- 187 cases of severe malaria were registered during these two months which is 2.54% of the total malaria confirmed cases
- There were a total of 9 deaths during the two months
- January registered the highest number of cases compared to February

-7- Reported cases (suspected/confirmed) and events by region as per DHIS2, week 13, 2024

Data Name	Central River	Lower River	North Bank East	North Bank West	Upper River	Western 1	Western 2	3 TOTAL
Acute Flaccid Paralysis	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Animal Bite	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anthrax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COVID-19	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Diarrhea with blood	13	5	5	4	15	4	14	60
Dog Bite	2	2	0	5	0	6	3	18
Human Rabies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leprosy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lymphatic Filariasis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maternal Death	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	9	0	1	1	7	1	0	19
Meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neonatal Tetanus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schistosomiasis	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Shigellosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snake bite	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	6
Suspected VHF (incl. EVD)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trachoma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unexplained Cluster of Health Events	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unexplained Cluster of Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

-8-

Recommendations

- The Epidemiology and Disease Control program should engage all the stakeholders in COVID-19 response to conduct and after-action review for the outbreak and declare the outbreak officially over
- Regional Health Directorates should ensure that health facilities conduct frequent testing for COVID-19 especially among patients presenting with its signs and symptoms to help establish the current burden of the disease in the country
- Awareness level on the effect of dog bite should be intensified especially mad dogs due to the possibility of rabbi's virus
- The National Public Health Laboratory should be supported and work with all stakeholders to intensify the testing of stool samples from diarrhea with blood cases to establish a more convincing pattern regarding the cause of the diarrhea with blood in the country to guide future public health interventions
- All regions are encouraged to share this bulletin with all staff under their purview using the different social media platforms at their disposal

-8-

Public Health Interventions

- The Ministry of is taking part and supporting response activities to curb the recent rise in the number of "Kush" abuse victims
- The National Public Health Laboratory is testing stool samples from cases with diarrhea with blood to establish the cause of the condition in the country

- 9- Partners



