

# WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGY BULLETIN

NATIONAL EPIDEMIOLOGY UNIT, MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS, JAMAICA

## EPI WEEK 39

### Landslides

**Overview:** Landslides are more widespread than any other geological event, and can occur anywhere in the world. They occur when large masses of soil, rocks or debris move down a slope due to a natural phenomenon or human activity. Mudslides or debris flows are also a common type of fast-moving landslide. Landslides can accompany heavy rains or follow droughts, earthquakes or volcanic eruptions. Areas most vulnerable to landslides include: steep terrain, including areas at the bottom of canyons; land previously burned by wildfires; land that has been modified due to human activity, such as deforestation or construction; channels along a stream or river; any area where surface runoff is directed or land is heavily saturated. Between 1998-2017, landslides affected an estimated 4.8 million people and cause more than 18 000 deaths. Climate change and rising temperatures are expected to trigger more landslides, especially in mountainous areas with snow and ice. As permafrost melts, rocky slopes can become more unstable resulting in a landslide.

**Impact:** Landslides can cause high mortality and injuries from rapidly flowing water and debris. The most common cause of death in a landslide is trauma or suffocation by entrapment. Broken power, water, gas or sewage pipes can also result in injury or illness in the population affected, such as water-borne diseases, electrocution or lacerations from falling debris. People affected by landslides can also have short- and long-term mental health effects due to loss of family, property, livestock or crops. Landslides can also greatly impact the health system and essential services, such as water, electricity or communication lines.

**WHO Response:** The magnitude of the physical and human costs from landslides can be reduced if adequate emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery measures are implemented in a sustainable and timely manner. WHO works with Member States to build resilient and proactive health systems that can anticipate the needs and challenges during emergencies so that they are more likely to reduce risks and respond effectively when needed. As the health cluster lead for global emergencies, WHO works with partners to respond to: ensure appropriate food supplementation; restore primary care services, like immunization, child and maternal health, and mental health; assemble mobile health teams and outreach; conduct epidemic surveillance, early warning and response; call for emergency funding to support health action.

The Philippines is typhoon- and earthquake-prone, thus, landslides can occur. LANDSLIDE is a natural phenomenon with an enormous force that can devastate lives and properties. Awareness and preparedness are the most effective prevention and mitigation measures against its impact.

**Areas where it can happen**

- Roadcuts, cliffs and excavations
- Active landslide areas
- Collapsing foundation
- Major active river channels
- Base of steep slopes

**THINGS TO DO**

**BEFORE**

- Know the landslide hazard in your area by consulting landslide hazard maps and reports.
- If your area is at risk for landslides, monitor the signs of an impending landslide, including:
  - Leaving door jambs and windows.
  - Cracks in concrete floors and walls.
  - Open spaces between walls and between stairs.
  - Cracks in roads which gradually increase in size.
  - Malalignment or sagging of buried pipes.
  - Slips on the ground or footstep.
  - Emergence of springs and seepage.
  - Leaning trees, poles, and retaining walls.
  - Humbling event which increasingly becomes louder.
- Monitor the daily weather condition. If it is raining continuously and your area is landslide-prone, evacuate as soon as possible.
- Know the location of your evacuation centers and escape routes.
- Get involved with the disaster risk management program of your Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee (BDRRMC).

**DURING**

- When indoors in a landslide area, and there is no time to evacuate, stay inside and hide under a sturdy and stable object like a table.
- When caught outdoors:
  - Stay away from the path of the landslide.
  - Go to the nearest higher ground away from the landslide.
  - Run towards the direction of the back of trees or buildings when you see approaching rock and soil debris.
- If it seems impossible to avoid the landslide, assume a fetal position and cover your head.

**AFTER**

- Stay away from the landslide area. Secondary landslides and floodings can occur.
- Know if there are casualties or people trapped near landslide areas, and report to proper authorities.
- Initiate rescue operation if capable. Assist the elderly, women and children during rescue operations.
- Listen to radio or television for the latest bulletin about the landslide.
- Inspect power and water supply lines for damages, and inform the proper authorities.
- Inspect building foundation and adjacent lots for damages, and do remedial works.
- Consult experts on landslides for additional information and advice.

**Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Mines and Geosciences Bureau**

**HANDA. LIGTAS. PANATAG.**

Office of Civil Defense Address: Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City • Hotline: +63 (2) 911-8061 to 64 • TEL/FAX: +63 (2) 915-2665 / +63 (2) 915-6947 / +63 (2) 911-1405 SMS: +63 (917) 991-5222 • Website: www.ndrmmc.gov.ph • Twitter: ndrmmc\_opoon • Facebook: ndrmmc\_opoon • EMAIL: opoon@ndrmmc.gov.ph



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SENTINEL SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

Sentinel Surveillance in Jamaica



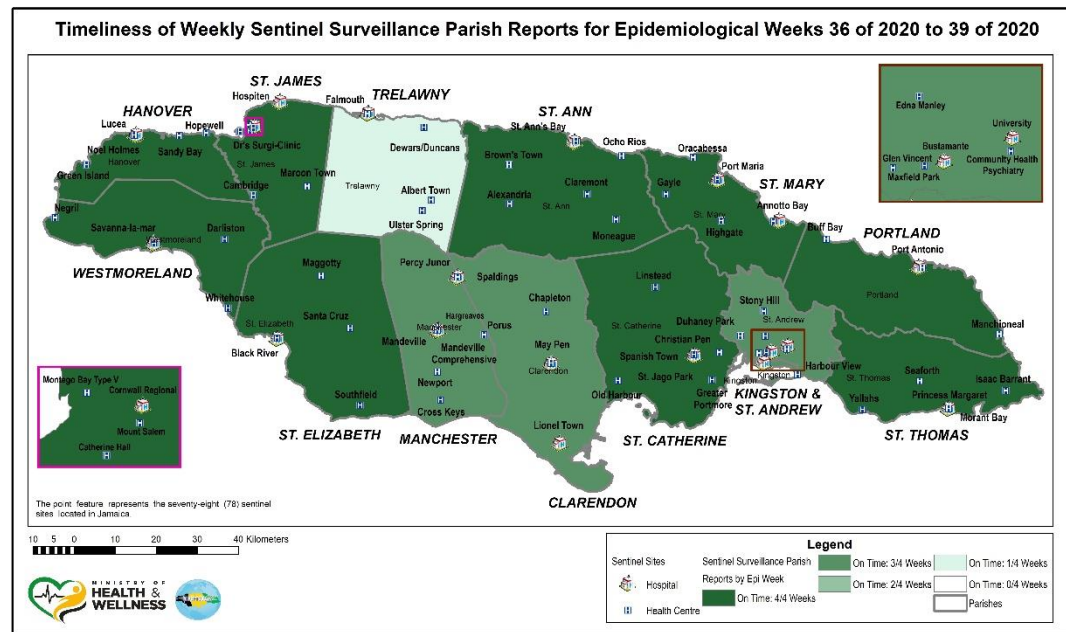
A syndromic surveillance system is good for early detection of and response to public health events.

Sentinel surveillance occurs when selected health facilities (sentinel sites) form a network that reports on certain health conditions on a regular basis, for example, weekly. Reporting is mandatory whether or not there are cases to report.

Jamaica's sentinel surveillance system concentrates on visits to sentinel sites for health events and syndromes of national importance which are reported weekly (see pages 2 -4). There are seventy-eight (78) reporting sentinel sites (hospitals and health centres) across Jamaica.

Map representing the Timeliness of Weekly Sentinel Surveillance Parish Reports for the Four Most Recent Epidemiological Weeks - 36 to 39 of 2020

Parish health departments submit reports weekly by 3 p.m. on Tuesdays. Reports submitted after 3 p.m. are considered late.



REPORTS FOR SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

FEVER

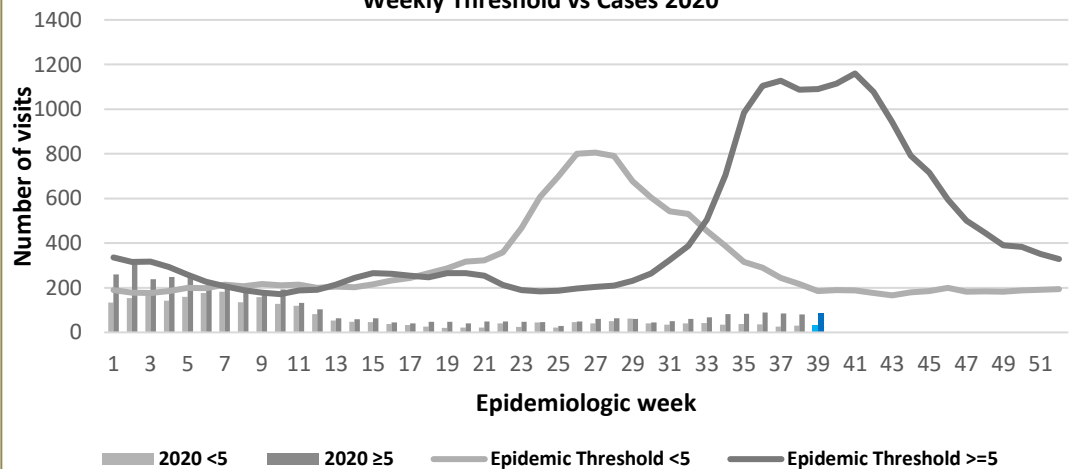
Temperature of  $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$  /  $100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$  (or recent history of fever) with or without an obvious diagnosis or focus of infection.



KEY

VARIATIONS OF BLUE SHOW CURRENT WEEK

Weekly Visits to Sentinel Sites for Undifferentiated Fever All ages: Jamaica, Weekly Threshold vs Cases 2020



2 NOTIFICATIONS- All clinical sites



INVESTIGATION REPORTS- Detailed Follow up for all Class One Events



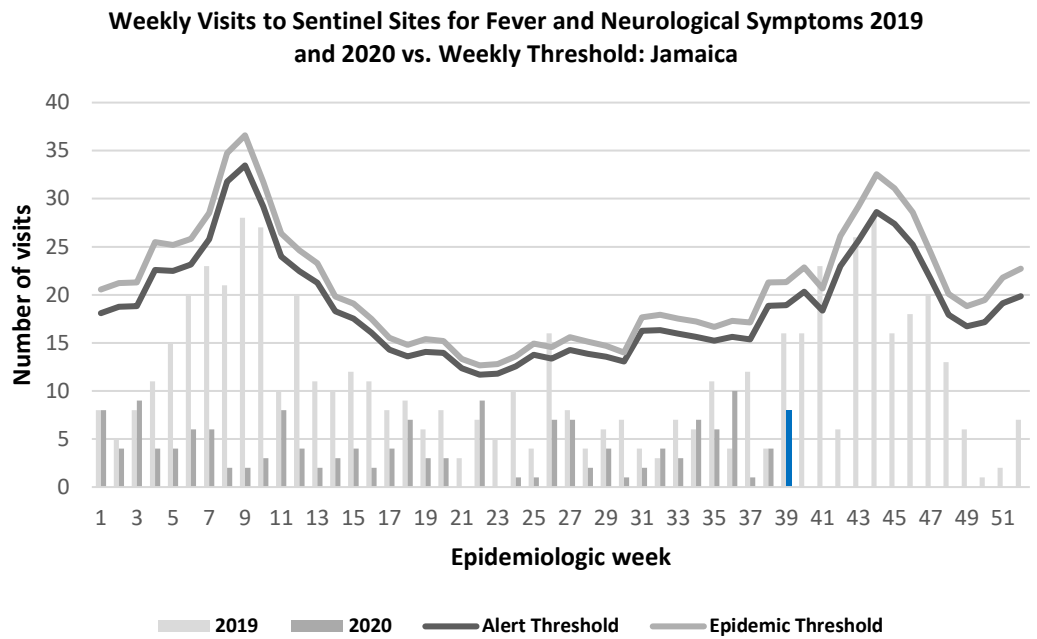
HOSPITAL ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE- 30 sites. Actively pursued



SENTINEL REPORT- 78 sites. Automatic reporting

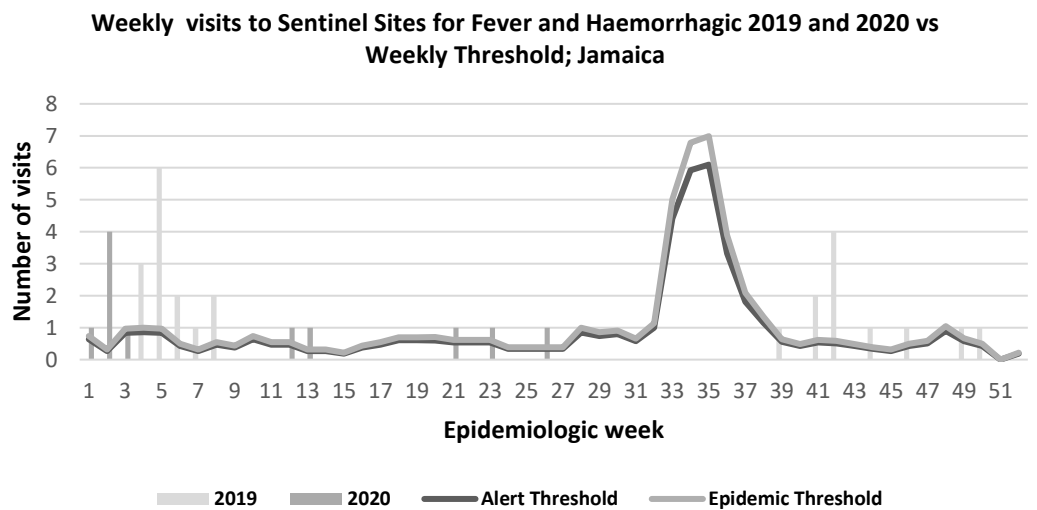
**FEVER AND NEUROLOGICAL**

Temperature of  $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$  /  $100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$  (or recent history of fever) in a previously healthy person with or without headache and vomiting. The person must also have meningeal irritation, convulsions, altered consciousness, altered sensory manifestations or paralysis (except AFP).



**FEVER AND HAEMORRHAGIC**

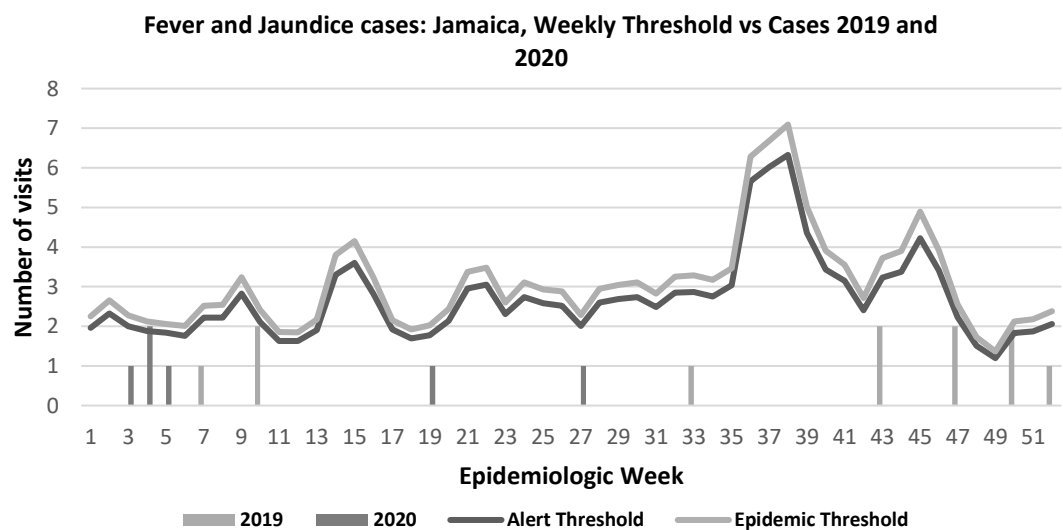
Temperature of  $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$  /  $100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$  (or recent history of fever) in a previously healthy person presenting with at least one haemorrhagic (bleeding) manifestation with or without jaundice.



**FEVER AND JAUNDICE**

Temperature of  $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$  /  $100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$  (or recent history of fever) in a previously healthy person presenting with jaundice.

The epidemic threshold is used to confirm the emergence of an epidemic in order to implement control measures. It is calculated using the mean reported cases per week plus 2 standard deviations.



**3 NOTIFICATIONS-**  
All clinical sites



**INVESTIGATION REPORTS-** Detailed Follow up for all Class One Events



**HOSPITAL ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE-** 30 sites. Actively pursued



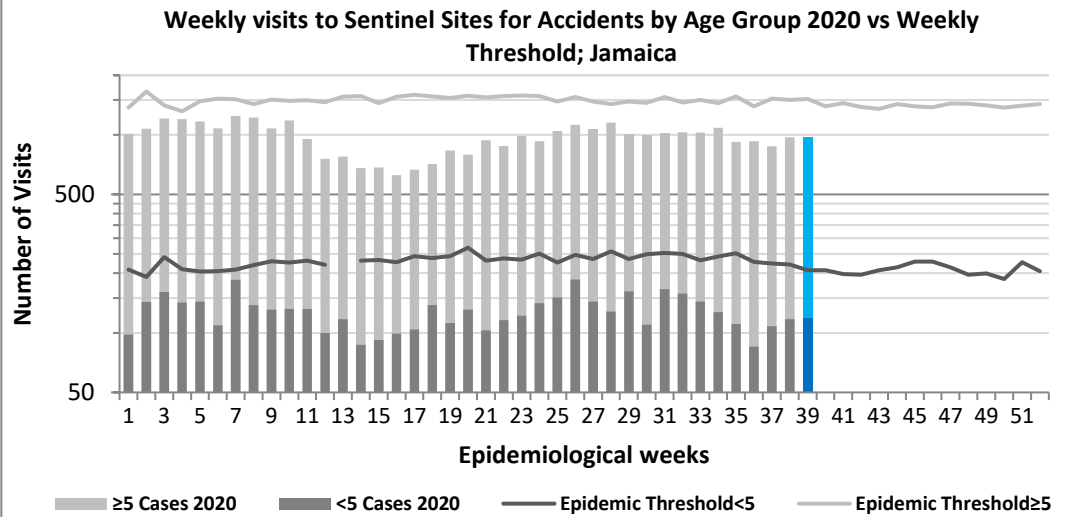
**SENTINEL REPORT-** 78 sites. Automatic reporting

**ACCIDENTS**

Any injury for which the cause is unintentional, e.g. motor vehicle, falls, burns, etc.

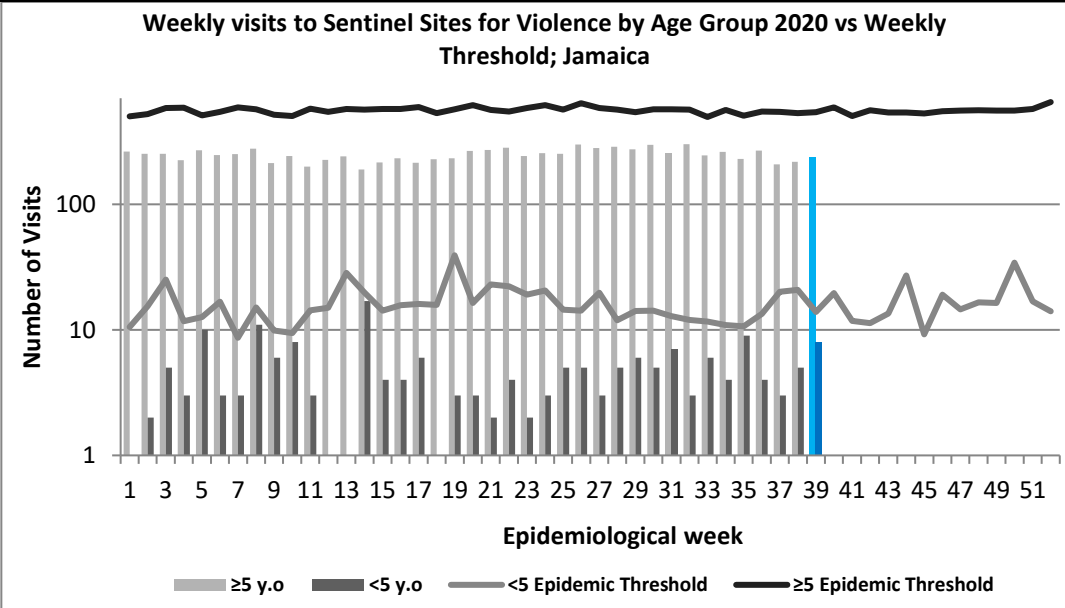
**KEY**

VARIATIONS OF BLUE SHOW CURRENT WEEK



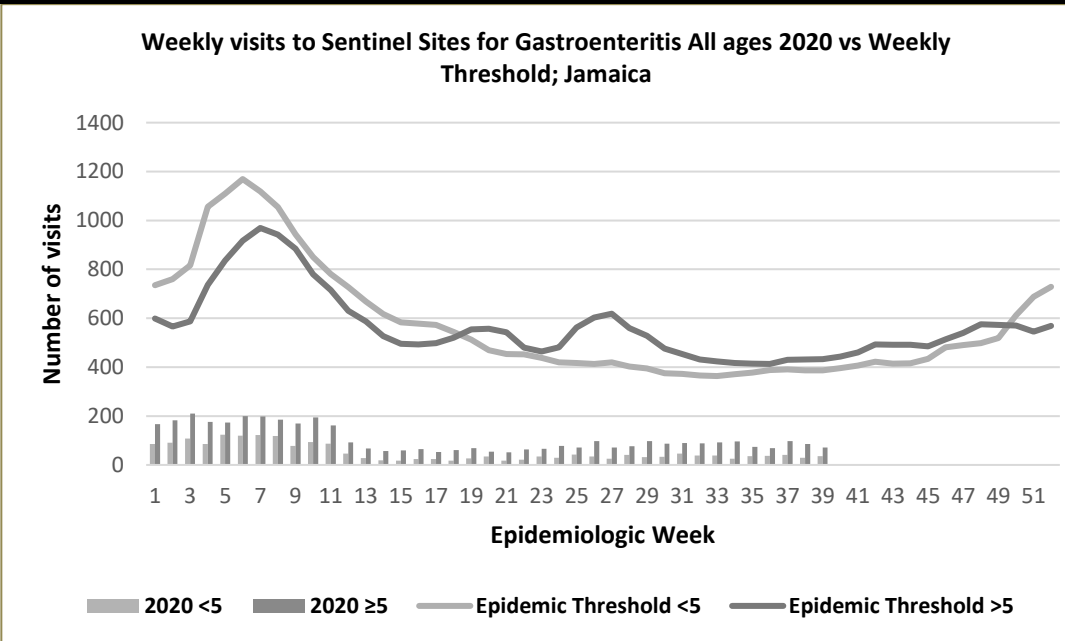
**VIOLENCE**

Any injury for which the cause is intentional, e.g. gunshot wounds, stab wounds, etc.



**GASTROENTERITIS**

Inflammation of the stomach and intestines, typically resulting from bacterial toxins or viral infection and causing vomiting and diarrhoea.



**4 NOTIFICATIONS-**  
All clinical sites




**INVESTIGATION REPORTS-** Detailed Follow up for all Class One Events




**HOSPITAL ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE-** 30 sites. Actively pursued




**SENTINEL REPORT-** 78 sites. Automatic reporting

- CLASS ONE NOTIFIABLE EVENTS		Comments			
	CLASS 1 EVENTS	Confirmed YTD			
		CURRENT YEAR 2020	PREVIOUS YEAR 2019		
NATIONAL /INTERNATIONAL INTEREST	Accidental Poisoning	18	57	AFP Field Guides from WHO indicate that for an effective surveillance system, detection rates for AFP should be 1/100,000 population under 15 years old (6 to 7) cases annually.  Pertussis-like syndrome and Tetanus are clinically confirmed classifications.	
	Cholera	0	0		
	Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever*	NA	NA		
	Hansen’s Disease (Leprosy)	0	0		
	Hepatitis B	0	11		
	Hepatitis C	0	2		
	HIV/AIDS	NA	NA		
	Malaria (Imported)	0	0		
	Meningitis (Clinically confirmed)	1	20		
EXOTIC/ UNUSUAL	Plague	0	0	* Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever data include Dengue related deaths;	
HIGH MORBIDITY/ MORTALITY	Meningococcal Meningitis	0	0	** Figures include all deaths associated with pregnancy reported for the period. * 2019 YTD figure was updated.	
	Neonatal Tetanus	0	0		
	Typhoid Fever	0	0		
	Meningitis H/Flu	0	0		
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES	AFP/Polio	0	0	*** CHIKV IgM positive cases  **** Zika PCR positive cases  <u>Erratum</u> EW 38 YTD – Accidental Poisoning -18	
	Congenital Rubella Syndrome	0	0		
	Congenital Syphilis	0	0		
	Fever and Rash	Measles	0		0
		Rubella	0		0
	Maternal Deaths**	30	51		
	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	23	161		
	Pertussis-like syndrome	0	0		
	Rheumatic Fever	0	0		
	Tetanus	0	0		
	Tuberculosis	26	44		
Yellow Fever	0	0			
	Chikungunya***	0	2		
	Zika Virus****	0	0	NA- Not Available	

 5 NOTIFICATIONS- All clinical sites

 INVESTIGATION REPORTS- Detailed Follow up for all Class One Events

 HOSPITAL ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE- 30 sites. Actively pursued

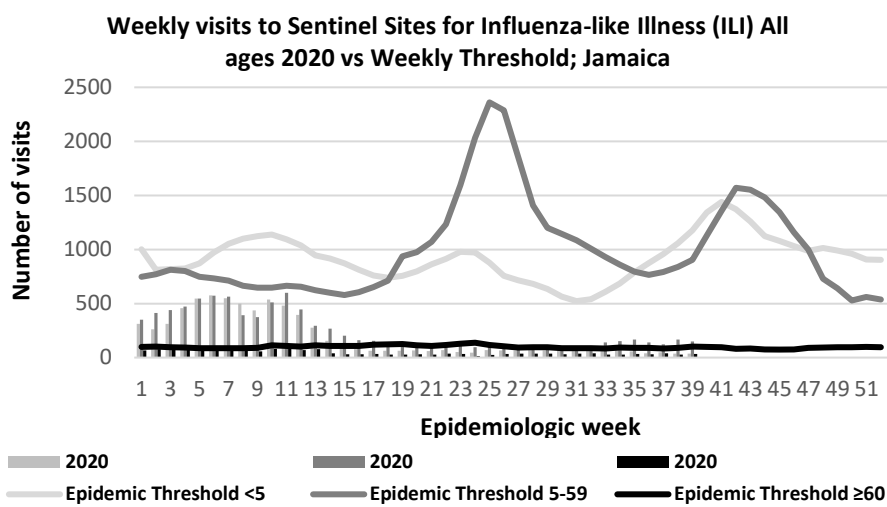
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# NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE UNIT INFLUENZA REPORT

*EW 39*

September 20, 2020 -September 26, 2020 Epidemiological Week 39

	<i>EW 39</i>	<i>YTD</i>
SARI cases	10	523
<b>Total Influenza positive Samples</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Influenza A</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>
H3N2	0	4
H1N1pdm09	0	38
Not subtyped	0	3
<b>Influenza B</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Parainfluenza</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

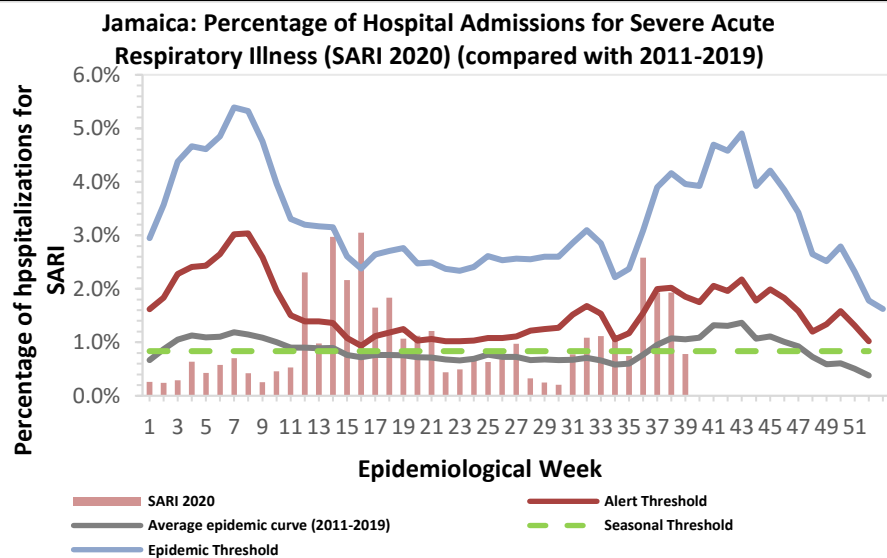


**Epi Week Summary**

During EW 39, 10 (ten) SARI admissions were reported.

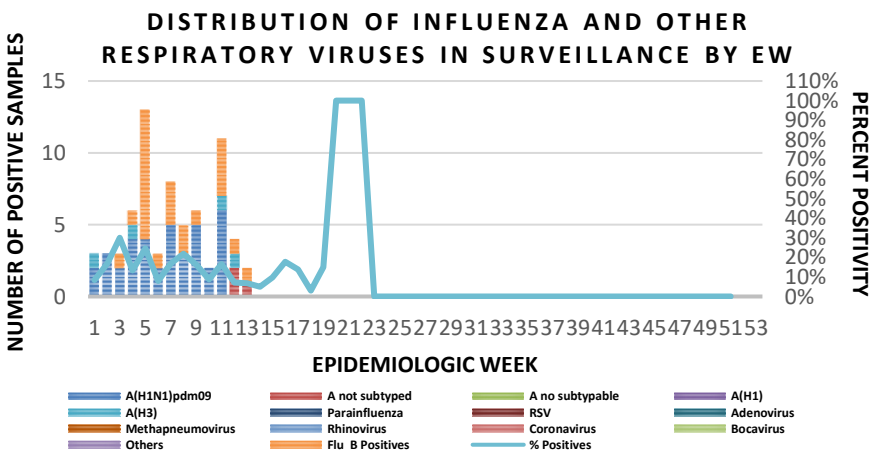
**Errata\***

EW 38 – SARI cases 31, YTD 513  
EW 37 – SARI cases 28, YTD 482



**Caribbean Update EW 39**

Caribbean: Influenza and other respiratory virus activity remained low in the subregion. In Haiti and Jamaica SARI activity continue at epidemic levels.



**6 NOTIFICATIONS-**  
All clinical sites



**INVESTIGATION REPORTS-** Detailed Follow up for all Class One Events



**HOSPITAL ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE-** 30 sites. Actively pursued



**SENTINEL REPORT-** 78 sites. Automatic reporting

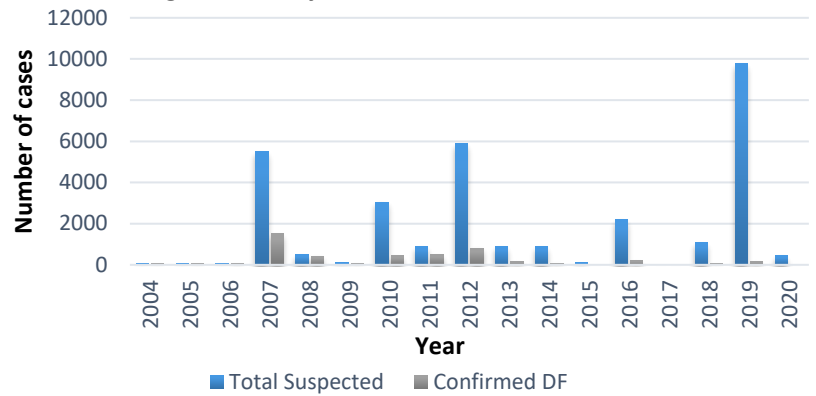
# Dengue Bulletin

September 20, 2020 – September 26, 2020 Epidemiological Week 39

Epidemiological Week 39

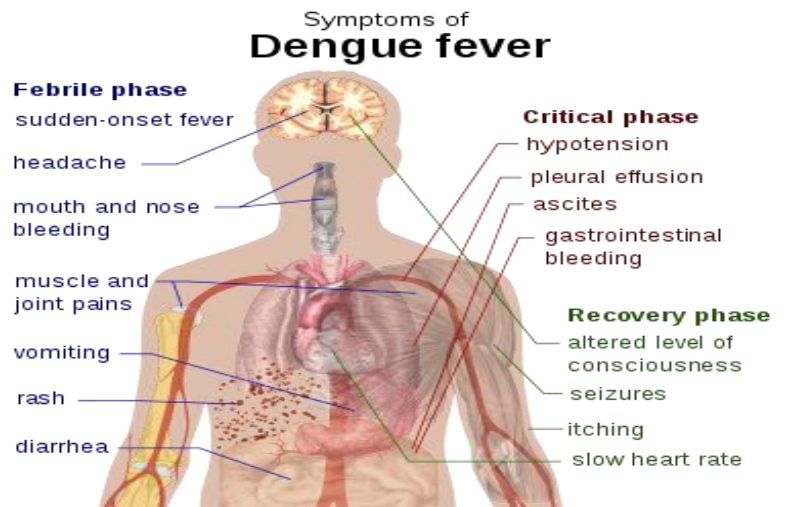


Dengue Cases by Year: 2004-2020, Jamaica



## Reported suspected and confirmed dengue with symptom onset in week 39 of 2020

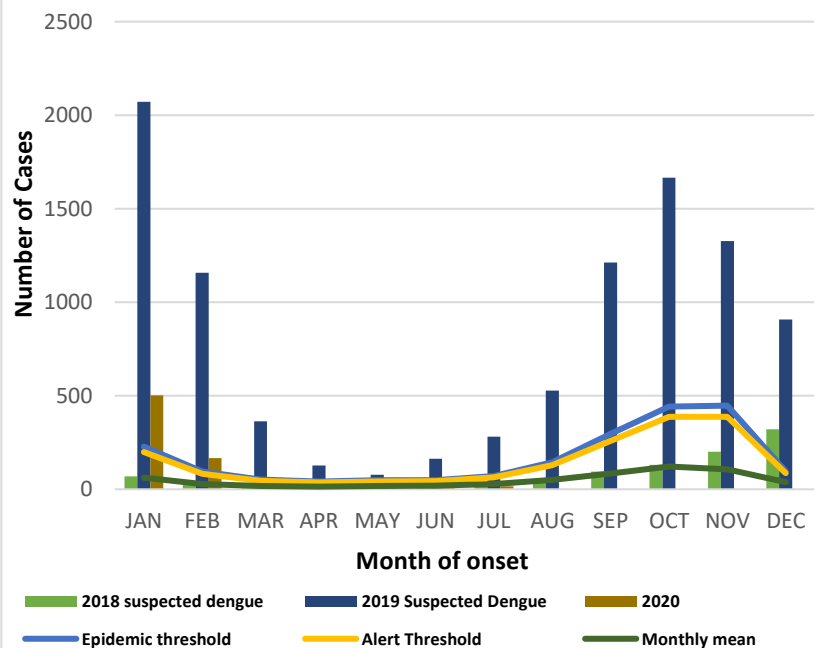
	2020	
	EW 38	YTD
Total Suspected Dengue Cases	0**	748**
Lab Confirmed Dengue cases	0**	1**
CONFIRMED Dengue Related Deaths	0**	1**



### Points to note:

- \*\* figure as at October 8 , 2020
- Only PCR positive dengue cases are reported as confirmed.
- IgM positive cases are classified as presumed dengue.

Suspected dengue cases for 2018 and 2019 versus monthly mean, alert, and epidemic thresholds



**7 NOTIFICATIONS-**  
All clinical sites



**INVESTIGATION REPORTS-** Detailed Follow up for all Class One Events



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**SENTINEL REPORT-** 78 sites. Automatic reporting

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# RESEARCH PAPER

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## ABSTRACT

**Title:** *Determinants of Health-Seeking Behaviour in Patients with Sexually Transmitted Infections*

**Authors:** *Ardene Harris<sup>1</sup>, Lovette Byfield<sup>2</sup>, Desmalee Holder-Nevins<sup>2</sup>, Camelia Thompson<sup>2</sup>*

**Institution:** *Department of Community Health and Psychiatry, University of the West Indies, Mona*

**Corresponding Author / Presenter:** *Dr. Ardene Harris at [ardene.harris@yahoo.com](mailto:ardene.harris@yahoo.com)*

**Objectives:** Persons with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) often do not seek medical care. In some countries, studies show that patients with STIs feel stigmatized. This study seeks to examine factors that influence the decision by patients with recurrent STIs to seek medical attention, and to determine the role played by stigma or the attitudes of health-care workers.

**Method:** Using a convergent parallel mixed-methods design, quantitative data were collected via a cross-sectional survey, utilizing an interviewer-administered structured questionnaire, while in-depth interviews were used to gather qualitative data. The study population consisted of 201 patients who attended public health centres served by the Kingston and St. Andrew Health Department for STI symptoms.

**Results:** Lack of time and the use of alternative medications were the two main reasons reported for delays in seeking care. Females were three times more likely than males to delay seeking care for STI symptoms (OR = 3.1, CI [1.6–6.1]). The STI patients felt stigmatized with a mean score of  $61 \pm 8.8\%$ . There was an association between STI-related stigma and a willingness to disclose one's STI status to partners ( $p < 0.001$ ). Overall, patients had positive impressions of health-care workers' attitudes towards them (mean patient satisfaction score = 82.2%).

**Conclusion:** STI patients may delay seeking care or disclosing their status to sexual partners owing to STI-related stigma. Health-care workers are viewed favourably by STI patients and can be used as agents of change, through health promotion to reduce stigma and motivate patients to seek medical attention early.

**Key Words:** Sexually transmitted infections; STI; stigma; disclosure; health-care worker



The Ministry of Health and Wellness  
24-26 Grenada Crescent  
Kingston 5, Jamaica  
Tele: (876) 633-7924  
Email: [surveillance@moh.gov.jm](mailto:surveillance@moh.gov.jm)



8 NOTIFICATIONS-  
All clinical  
sites



INVESTIGATION  
REPORTS- Detailed Follow  
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HOSPITAL  
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