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DENGUE SEASON 2018
HEOC
SITUATION REPORT #1
DECEMBER 28, 2018

HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE (MOH EOC) SITUATION REPORT # 1
Active Dengue Season
28 December 2018

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dengue surveillance for 2018 has indicated that the dengue season is more active in 2018 than in 2017.
- The National Surveillance Unit (NSU) has recorded 161% increase in the number of notifications of dengue since the start of the year compared to 2017. As at December 28, 2018 the National Surveillance Unit had in its electronic database a total of **1503** notifications for dengue. This may be compared to a total of 527 notifications for the same period (weeks 1-52) in 2017. Of the **1503** notifications for 2018 to date, **736** have been classified as suspected, presumed or confirmed. There has been **23** confirmed cases of dengue since the start of 2018. These numbers are below the epidemic threshold. The number of cases was above the monthly mean in March, May, June, July, September, and November 2018 (Figure 1). The highest number of cases for the year was recorded in November.

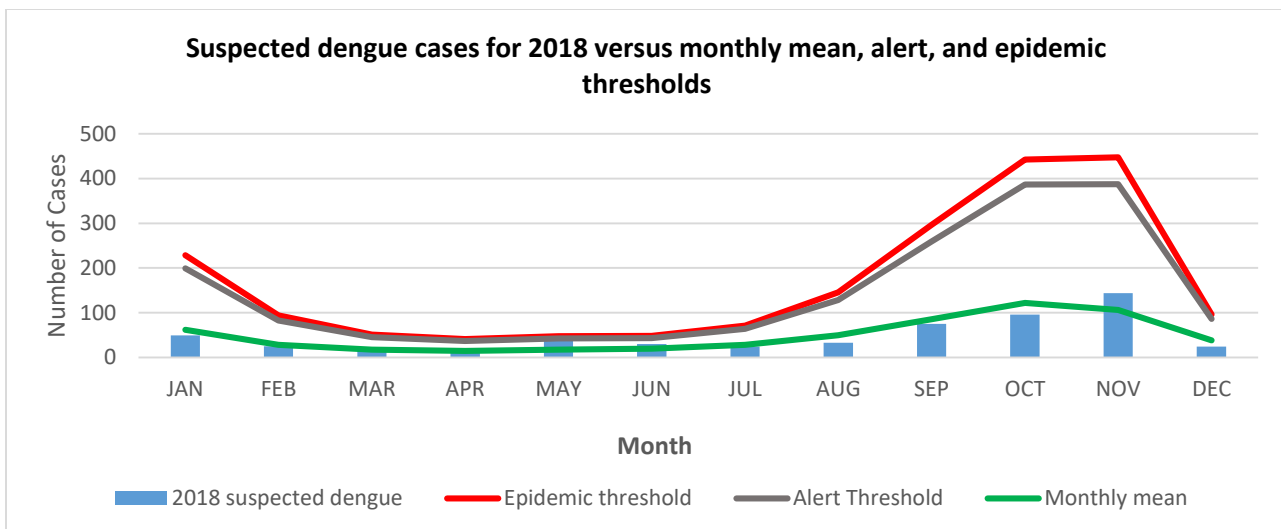


Figure 1. Number of suspected, presumed and confirmed dengue cases by month for 2018 versus monthly averages and epidemic threshold¹ for Jamaica

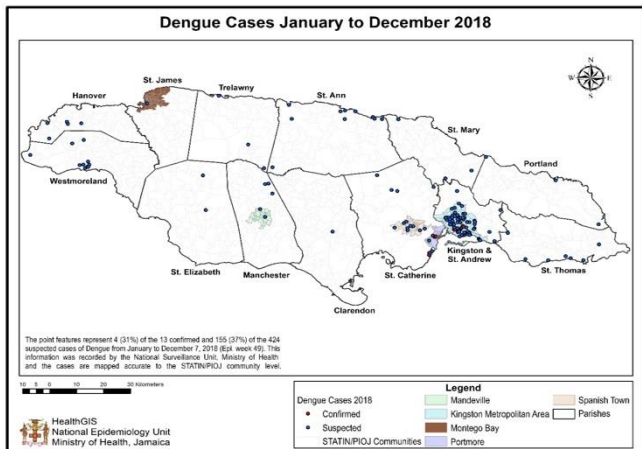


Figure 2. Map of Jamaica showing suspected and confirmed dengue cases for weeks 1-48 of 2018.
¹ Epidemic threshold calculated using monthly mean plus two standard deviations for number of cases reported in 2007 to 2017.

Cases of dengue have been reported from all parishes across the island since the start of the year (Figure 2).

- Most cases were reported from **KSA (24.1%)**, Westmoreland (12%) and St. Catherine (10%) (Figure 3). The largest number of cases from a single institution were reported from the **Bustamante Hospital for Children (n=85)** for 2018.

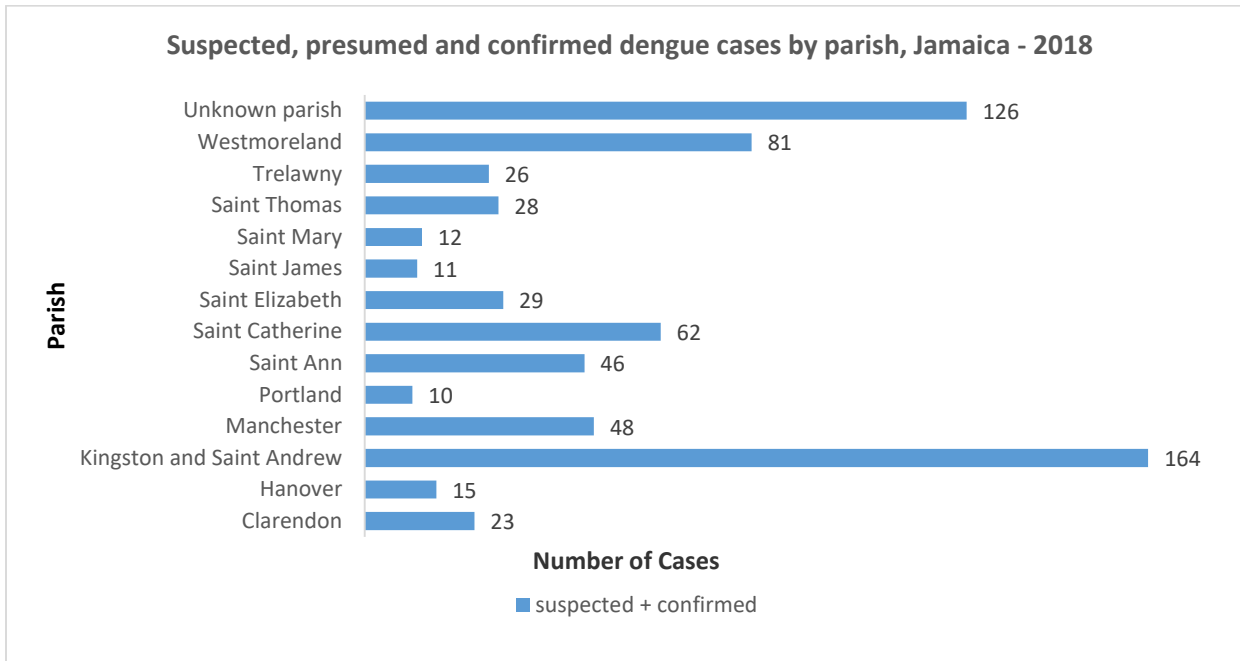


Figure 3. Number of suspected, presumed, and confirmed dengue cases by parish, Jamaica 2018.

HEALTH SITUATION

- The NSU records the number of suspected and confirmed cases of dengue to be greater for weeks 1-50 of 2018 than for the same period in 2017. Up to date December 27, 2018, **708** have been classified as suspected, presumed or confirmed. Twenty-three (23) are confirmed cases of dengue. Up to time of reporting, there have been **six suspected and two confirmed dengue related deaths**.

Table 1. Number of cases of suspected and confirmed dengue fever and dengue haemorrhagic fever/dengue shock syndrome, Weeks 1-52, Jamaica, 2016, 2017 and 2018

	Dengue		DHF/DSS		Dengue Related Deaths	
	Suspected	Confirmed	Suspected	Confirmed	Suspected	Confirmed
2016	2297	190	157	3	2	0
2017	177	0	38	0	6	0
2018	708	23	70*	3*	6	2

*Figures are as at week 48; to be updated.

- Of the 708 suspected/presumed/confirmed cases for 2018, there were more males (369; 54.2%) than females (310; 45.5%); the sex of two (2) cases was unknown. The median age of suspected/presumed/confirmed cases for 2018 was 21.5 years. The most common presenting complaints were fever (87.2%), headache (39.5%), vomiting and joint pain (24.8%) and muscle pain (19.5%).

MOH RESPONSE

- The Ministry of Health Emergency Operations Center commence partial activation at 11:22 am on December 27, 2018 due to the increase in the dengue cases across the island in order to coordinate and report on activities to respond to the increased numbers of dengue cases and to mitigate against an outbreak of dengue. The MOH had intensified its activities for dengue since July 2018. The strategies for Prevention and Control of dengue include Heightened Surveillance through the integrated

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surveillance programme (sentinel sites, laboratory, vector breeding hot spots), Risk Communication with Public Education, Enhanced Vector Control and appropriate clinical management.

- The National Public Health Laboratory alerts the National Surveillance Unit for all urgent or severe dengue samples as part of Class 1 notification system and support the NSU through referral of all samples for confirmatory testing at either CARPHA or UHWI.
- There is a formalized plan that is in place regarding dengue sensitization and community involvement. Public education activities have been ongoing. Members of the public are asked to play their part to reduce dengue fever and its complications, even as the Ministry increases its mosquito control activities and public education campaign.
 - 50,000 Flyers and 50,000 brochures were procured and are presently being disseminated to the health centers and hospitals across the island.
 - 3 Dengue advertisements are being aired daily on 7 radio stations
 - 1 television commercial is run daily on TVJ and CVM.
 - All points of entries are sensitized and educational materials distributed.
 - The PR Unit facilitated by the Medical Officers (Health) within the respective parishes will engage with the Parish Councils and the Ministry of Local Government as it relates to the removal of domestic waste/ garbage from the communities.
 - A **Dear Doctor Letter** has been prepared for dissemination to the field to sensitize physicians and parents regarding the dengue alert.
 - A **Dear Parent Letter** has also been sent to the Ministry of Education for dissemination.
 - A Press Briefing was held December 11, 2018
 - Press Release December 27, 2018.
 - The Honourable Minister of Health and other officials visited the Gregory Park Community in Portmore, St. Catherine on Friday, 28 December 2018 to view the work being done by Vector Control workers.
 - The Health Alert Card is also being utilized to inform travelers to the island of dengue fever and the actions to take in the event symptoms develop.
- Enhanced vector control activities commenced July 2018 and included site inspections, larvicidal treatment where indicated and public education sessions to include distribution of educational material on making water safe, handwashing, mosquito check list and dengue. This programme was slated to end December 2018 but will now be continued until March 2019.
- Interventions have been made to facilitate patient care
 - Hours have been extended to facilitate increased access by patients needing medical care. **(Appendix 1)**
 - To decrease overcrowding at KPH, St. Joseph's hospital and National Chest Hospital will provide space for overflow. A 20-bed ward is being refurbished at St. Joseph's Hospital to accommodate this.
 - Framework Agreements are being investigated with diagnostic and ambulance services to expedite patient management in hospitals.

- To address the overcrowding at BHC a roving nurse has been stationed together with customer service officers in the emergency department, senior managers have been rostered to give administrative coverage after 5:00 pm and on weekends, additional employment of Enroll Assistant Nurses, increased sessional staff and customer services representative.
- Monitoring visit was carried out by the Office of the Chief Nurse to Bustamante Hospital for Children on December 27, 2018 to ascertain the impact of measures employed to cope with the increased patient load and current Dengue Fever status.

NEXT STEPS

- The NSU is working on mapping areas that appear 'hyper-endemic' for dengue and continues to monitor trends in arbovirus infections in collaboration with the parish health departments and other units within the Ministry of Health.
- The PR Unit is developing an enhanced public relations programme to commence December 28, 2019 and run until January 31, 2019.
- The MOH NEOC will continue to monitor and to report on vector control activities and clinical service delivery sites.

**Extended Opening Hours for Health Centers by Region
28 December 2018**

South East Regional Health Authority

Health Center	Extended Days per Week	Opening Hours
Comprehensive	Mondays – Fridays	8:00 a.m. -8:00 p.m.
Glen Vincent	Mondays – Fridays	8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Stony Hill	Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays	8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Duhaney Park	Mondays and Wednesdays	8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
	Saturdays	8:00 a.m. -12:00 noon
Olympic Gardens	Mondays and Wednesdays	8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Western Regional Health Authority

Health Centre	Extended Days per Week	Opening Hours
Montego Bay Type V	Mondays – Thursdays	7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
	Fridays	7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
	Weekends	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 .pm.
Savanna la mar	Mondays – Thursdays	8:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
	Fridays	8:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

North East Regional Health Authority

Health Center	Extended Days per Week	Opening Hours
St. Ann's Bay	Mondays - Fridays	8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Annotto Bay	Mondays	8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Highgate	Wednesdays	8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Oracabessa	Tuesdays and Wednesdays	8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Gayle	Mondays and Wednesdays	8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Southern Regional Health Authority

Health Center	Extended Days per Week	Opening Hours
Mandeville Regional Health Center	Mondays – Thursdays	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
	Fridays	8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Spaulding	Mondays - Fridays	8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
May Pen	Mondays - Fridays	8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.