

WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGY BULLETIN

NATIONAL EPIDEMIOLOGY UNIT, MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS, JAMAICA

Weekly Spotlight

Nursing and midwifery



Nurses and midwives are central to Primary Health Care and are often the first and sometimes the only health professional that people see and the quality of their initial assessment, care and treatment is vital. They are also part of their local community –

sharing its culture, strengths and vulnerabilities – and can shape and deliver effective interventions to meet the needs of patients, families and communities.

Nurses play a critical role in health promotion, disease prevention and delivering primary and community care. They provide care in emergency settings and will be key to the achievement of universal health coverage. Achieving health for all will depend on there being sufficient numbers of well-trained and educated, regulated and well supported nurses and midwives, who receive pay and recognition commensurate with the services and quality of care that they provide.

Approximately 27 million men and women make up the global nursing and midwifery workforce. This accounts for nearly 50% of the global health workforce. There is a global shortage of health workers, in particular nurses and midwives, who represent more than 50% of the current shortage in health workers.

The largest needs-based shortages of nurses and midwives are in South East Asia and Africa. For all countries to reach Sustainable Development Goal 3 on health and well-being, WHO estimates that the world will need an additional 9 million nurses and midwives by the year 2030.

EPI WEEK 17



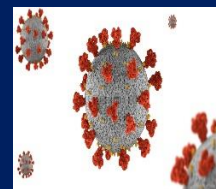
- Syndromic Surveillance
- Accidents
- Violence

Pages 2-4



Class 1 Notifiable Events

Page 5



COVID-19

Page 6



Influenza

Page 7



Dengue Fever

Page 8



Research Paper

Page 9

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.

Table showcasing the Timeliness of Weekly Sentinel Surveillance Parish Reports for the Four Most Recent Epidemiological Weeks - 14 to 17 of 2023

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

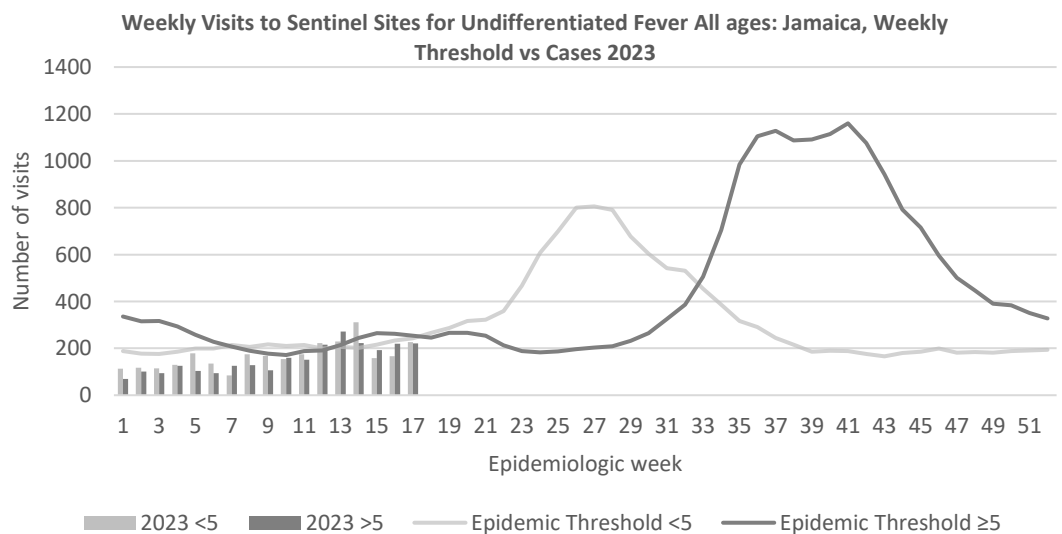
KEY:
Yellow - late submission on Tuesday
Red - late submission after Tuesday

Epi week	Kingston and Saint Andrew	Saint Thomas	Saint Catherine	Portland	Saint Mary	Saint Ann	Trelawny	Saint James	Hanover	Westmoreland	Saint Elizabeth	Manchester	Clarendon
	2023												
14	On Time	On Time	late (w)	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time
15	On Time	On Time	late (t)	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time
16	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time
17	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time	On Time

REPORTS FOR SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

UNDIFFERENTIATED FEVER

Temperature of >38°C /100.4°F (or recent history of fever) with or without an obvious diagnosis or focus of infection.



2 NOTIFICATIONS- All clinical sites



INVESTIGATION REPORTS- Detailed Follow up for all Class One Events



HOSPITAL ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE- 30 sites. Actively pursued



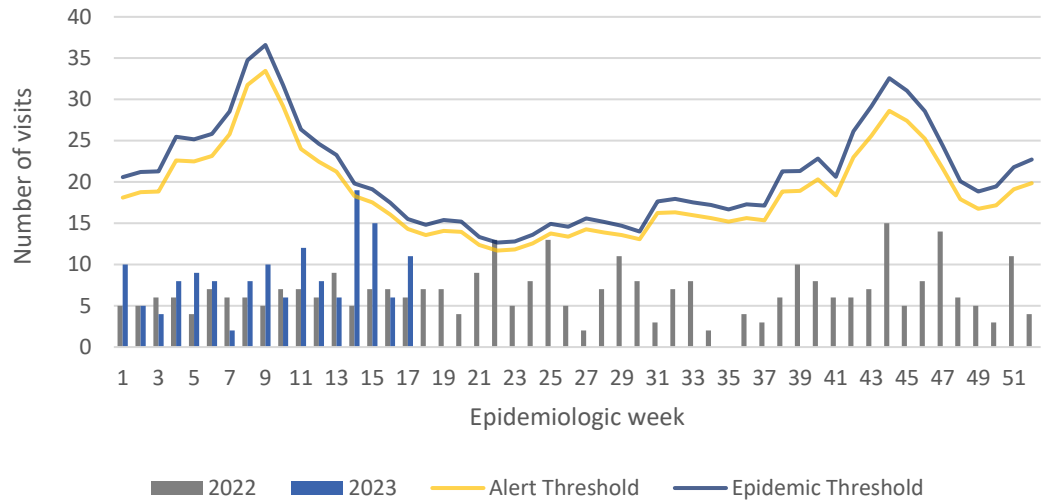
SENTINEL REPORT- 78 sites. Automatic reporting

FEVER AND NEUROLOGICAL

Temperature of $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ / 100.4°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).



Weekly Visits to Sentinel Sites for Fever and Neurological Symptoms 2022 and 2023 vs. Weekly Threshold: Jamaica

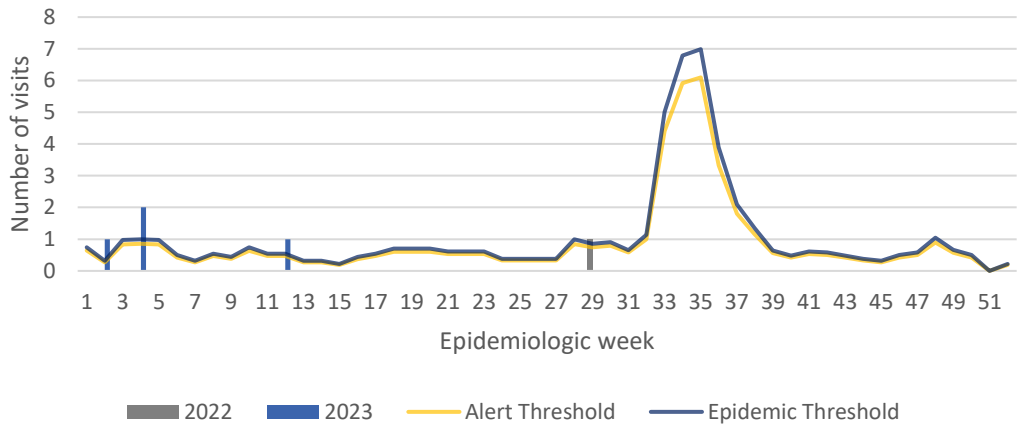


FEVER AND HAEMORRHAGIC

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



Weekly visits to Sentinel Sites for Fever and Haemorrhagic 2022 and 2023 vs Weekly Threshold; Jamaica



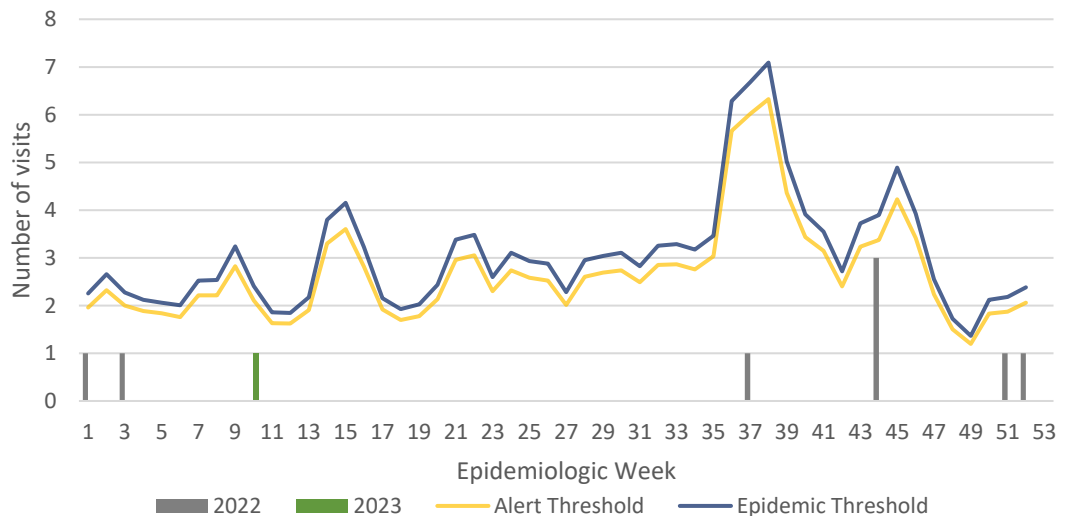
FEVER AND JAUNDICE

Temperature of $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ / 100.4°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.



Fever and Jaundice cases: Jamaica, Weekly Threshold vs Cases 2022 and 2023



3 NOTIFICATIONS-
All clinical sites



INVESTIGATION REPORTS- Detailed Follow up for all Class One Events



HOSPITAL ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE- 30 sites. Actively pursued

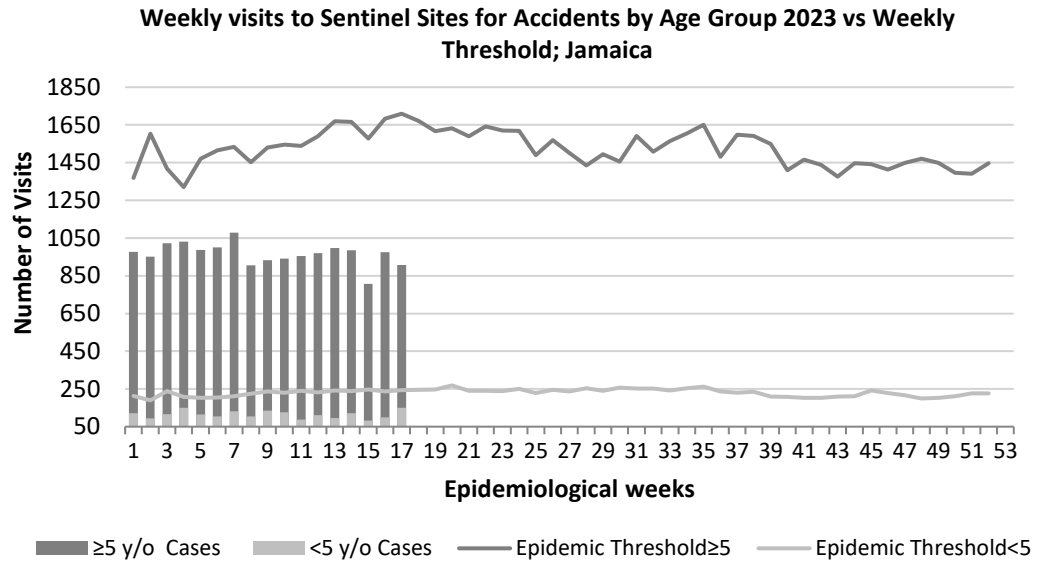


SENTINEL REPORT- 78 sites. Automatic reporting



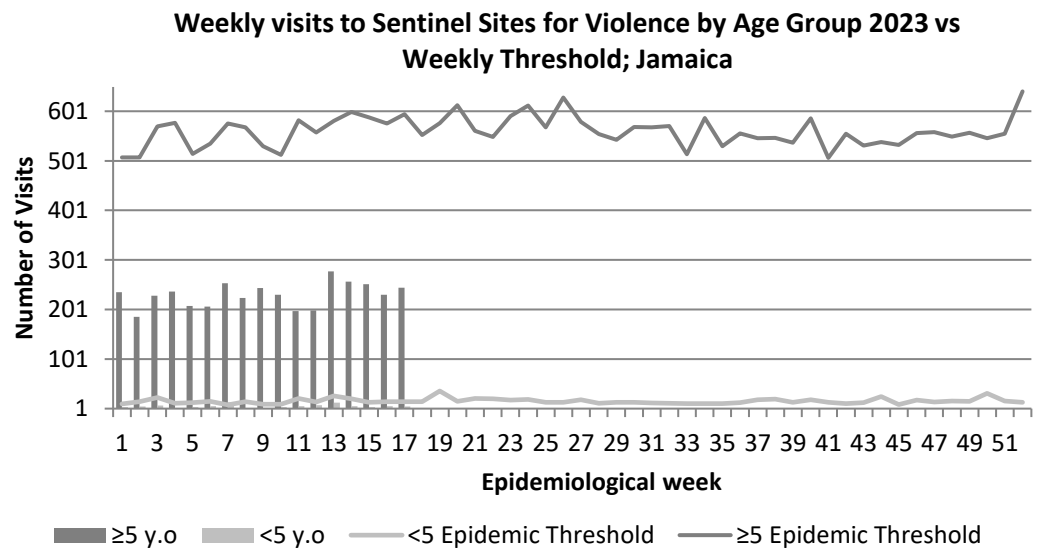
ACCIDENTS

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



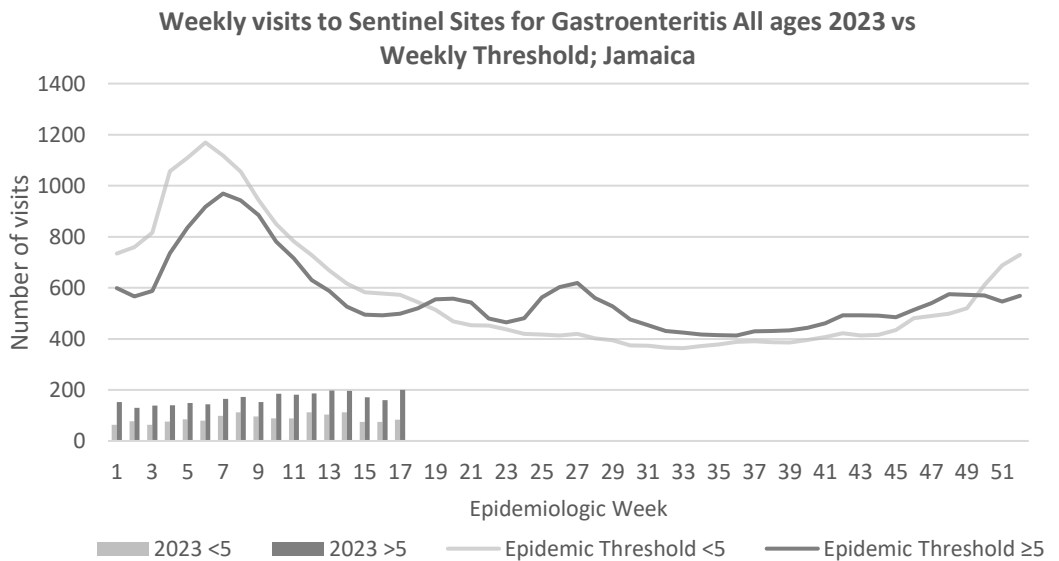
VIOLENCE

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 ^α			
		CURRENT YEAR 2023	PREVIOUS YEAR 2022		
NATIONAL /INTERNATIONAL INTEREST	Accidental Poisoning	107 ^β	84 ^β	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. ^γ Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever data include Dengue related deaths; ^δ Figures include all deaths associated with pregnancy reported for the period.	
	Cholera	0	0		
	Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever ^γ	See Dengue page below	See Dengue page below		
	COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2)	1943	33282		
	Hansen’s Disease (Leprosy)	0	0		
	Hepatitis B	15	4		
	Hepatitis C	4	2		
	HIV/AIDS	N/A	N/A		
	Malaria (Imported)	1	0		
	Meningitis (Clinically confirmed)	11	9		
	Monkeypox	3	N/A		
EXOTIC/ UNUSUAL	Plague	0	0	^ε CHIKV IgM positive cases ^θ Zika PCR positive cases ^β Updates made to prior weeks in 2020.	
HIGH MORBIDITY/ MORTALITY	Meningococcal Meningitis	0	0		
	Neonatal Tetanus	0	0		
	Typhoid Fever	0	0		
	Meningitis H/Flu	0	0		
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES	AFP/Polio	0	0	^α Figures are cumulative totals for all epidemiological weeks year to date. NA- Not Available	
	Congenital Rubella Syndrome	0	0		
	Congenital Syphilis	0	0		
	Fever and Rash	Measles	0		0
		Rubella	0		0
	Maternal Deaths ^δ	17	24		
	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	39	37		
	Pertussis-like syndrome	0	0		
	Rheumatic Fever	0	0		
	Tetanus	0	2		
	Tuberculosis	9	12		
	Yellow Fever	0	0		
	Chikungunya ^ε	0	0		
Zika Virus ^θ	0	0			



5 NOTIFICATIONS-
All clinical sites



INVESTIGATION REPORTS- Detailed Follow up for all Class One Events



HOSPITAL ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE- 30 sites. Actively pursued



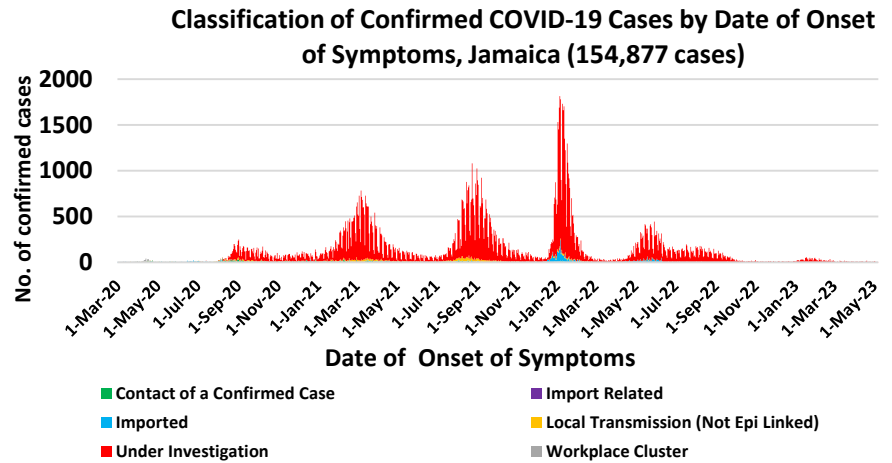
SENTINEL REPORT- 78 sites. Automatic reporting

COVID-19 Surveillance Update

March 10, 2020 – EW 17, 2023

CASES	EW 17	Total
Confirmed	47	154877
Females	21	89334
Males	26	65540
Age Range	3 years to 90 years old	1 day to 108 years

* 3 positive cases had no gender specification
* PCR or Antigen tests are used to confirm cases



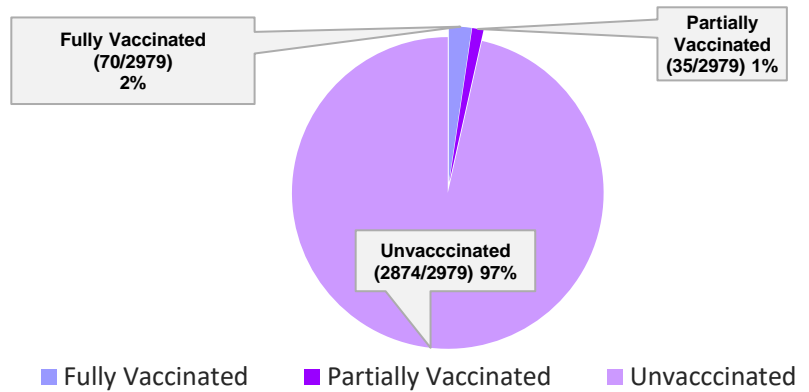
COVID-19 Outcomes

Outcomes	EW 17	Total
ACTIVE *past 2 weeks*		82
DIED – COVID Related	0	3536
Died - NON COVID	0	300
Died - Under Investigation	2	353
Recovered and discharged	0	102899
Repatriated	0	93
Total		154877

*Vaccination programme March 2021 – YTD

2979 COVID-19 Related Deaths since March 1, 2021 – YTD

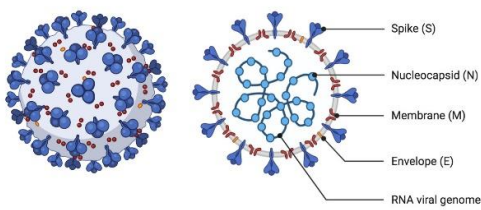
Vaccination Status among COVID-19 Deaths



COVID-19 Parish Distribution and Global Statistics

COVID-19 Virus Structure

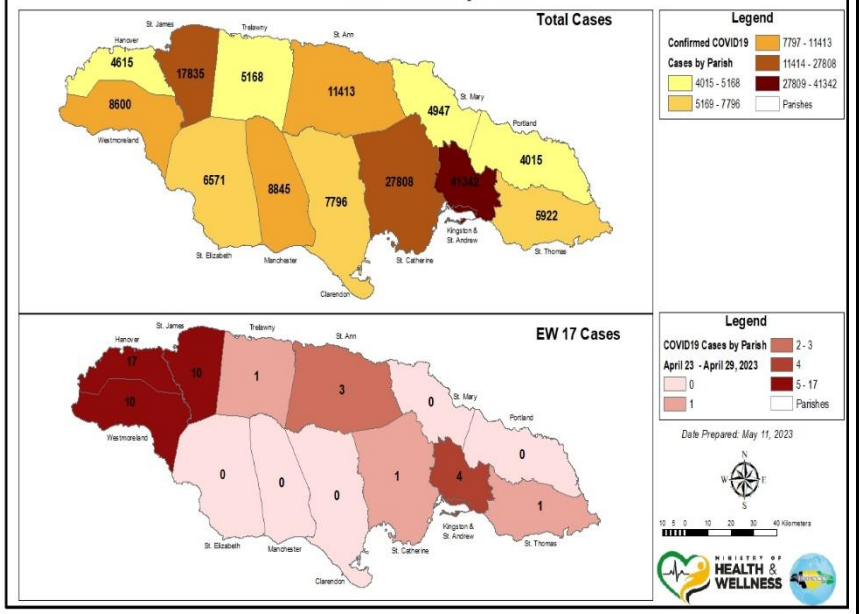
SARS-CoV-2



COVID-19 WHO Global Statistics EW14-EW17

Epi Week	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
14	704,773	4,609
15	742,464	4592
16	686,810	4158
17	595,281	3753
Total (4weeks)	2,729,328	17,112

COVID19 Cases by Parish



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

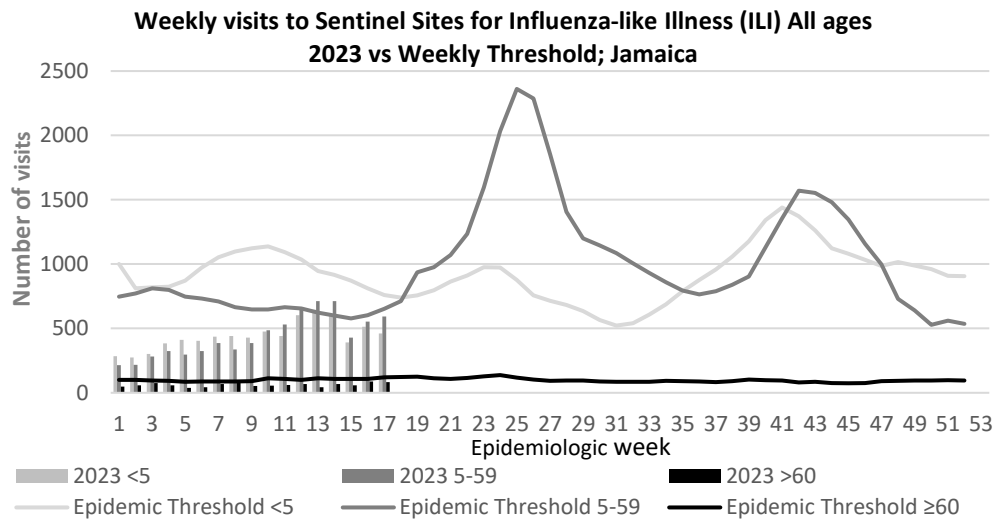


NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE UNIT INFLUENZA REPORT

EW 17

April 23 – April 29, 2023 Epidemiological Week 17

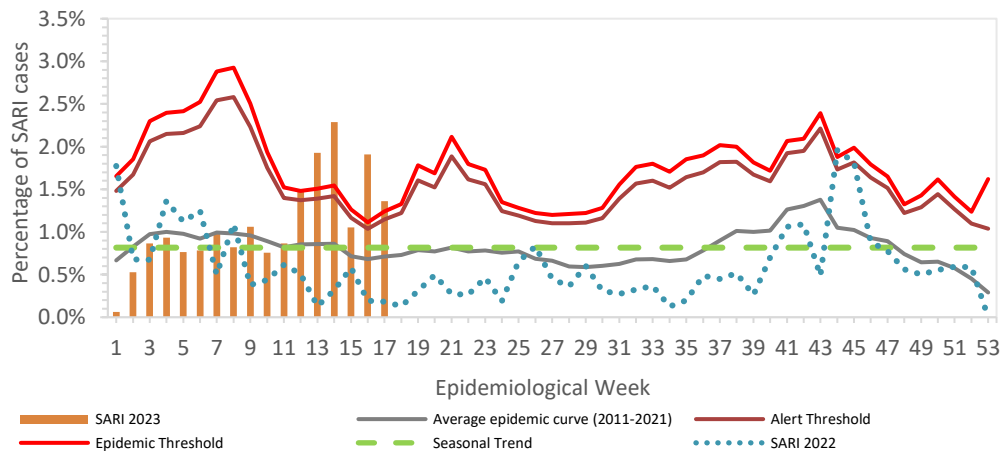
	EW 17	YTD
SARI cases	19	297
Total Influenza positive Samples	4	62
Influenza A	0	13
H3N2	0	1
H1N1pdm09	0	11
Not subtyped	0	1
Influenza B	4	49
B lineage not determined	0	2
B Victoria	4	47
Parainfluenza	0	1
Adenovirus	0	2
RSV	0	13



Epi Week Summary

During EW 17, nineteen (19) SARI admissions were reported.

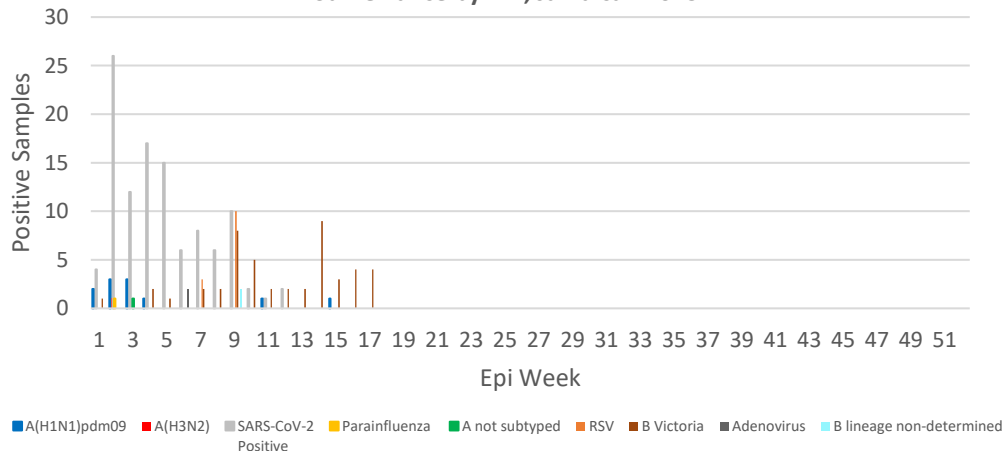
Jamaica: Percentage of Hospital Admissions for Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI 2023) (compared with 2011-2021)



Caribbean Update EW 17

Caribbean: An increase in influenza activity has been detected. Influenza B Victoria lineage has predominantly circulated. The countries where increases in activity have been detected are Belize and Jamaica. RSV and SARS-CoV-2 activity has remained low.

Distribution of Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses Under Surveillance by EW, Jamaica - 2023



7 NOTIFICATIONS-
All clinical sites

INVESTIGATION REPORTS- Detailed Follow up for all Class One Events

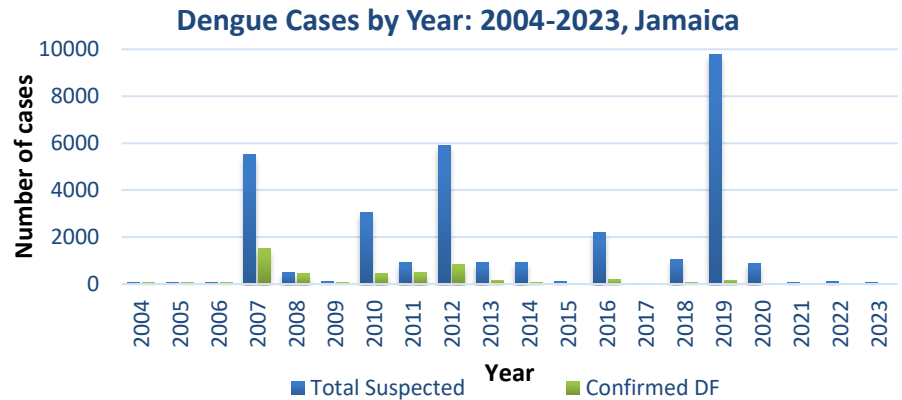
HOSPITAL ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE- 30 sites. Actively pursued

SENTINEL REPORT- 78 sites. Automatic reporting


Dengue Bulletin

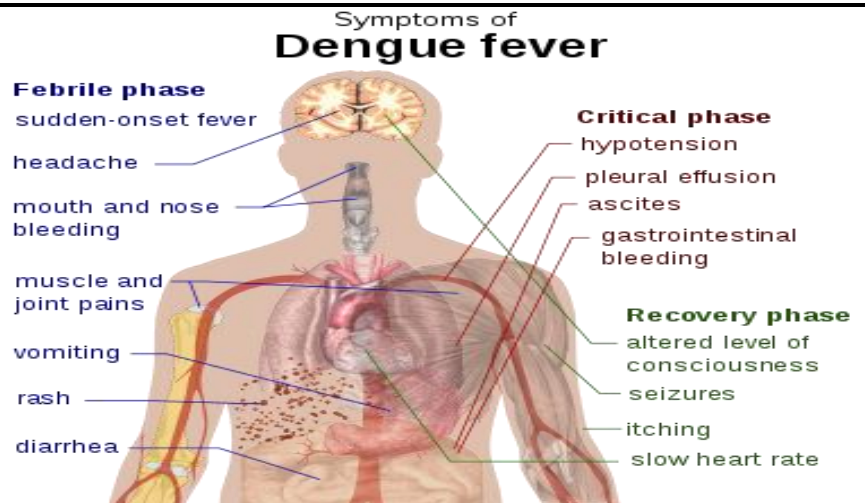
April 23 – April 29, 2023 Epidemiological Week 17

Epidemiological Week 17



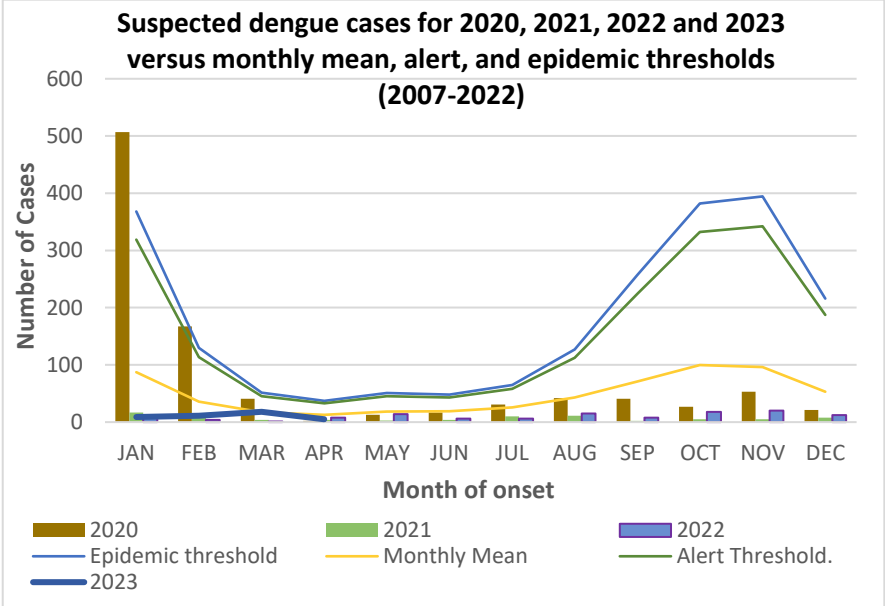
Reported suspected and confirmed dengue with symptom onset in week 17 of 2023

	2023*	
	EW 17	YTD
 Total Suspected Dengue Cases	1	43
Lab Confirmed Dengue cases	0	0
CONFIRMED Dengue Related Deaths	0	0



Points to note:

- *Figure as at April 29, 2023
- Only PCR positive dengue cases are reported as confirmed.
- IgM positive cases are classified as presumed dengue.



8 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

RESEARCH PAPER

Abstract

Title: Training Teachers to Help Students to Cope with Post-Traumatic Stress

Authors:

Dr. Ganesh Shetty
Kingston & St. Andrew Health Department

Prof. Cynthia Onyefulu
University of Technology, Jamaica

Dr. Steve Weaver
University of the West Indies

Dr. Sandra Chambers
SE Regional Health Authority

Corresponding author:

Dr. Ganesh Shetty patient.info.2010@gmail.com

Introduction. Exposure to trauma in children may result in mental health problems such as post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD), anxiety disorder, depressive symptoms, dissociation, substance abuse, and delinquent and aggressive behaviors. The children who develop PTSD may later result in perpetrating violence on others. This study aimed to train a group of teachers in a primary school in Kingston, Jamaica with knowledge and skills to help students cope better with traumatic experiences. Research questions addressed were: What percentage of teachers know of the manifestations of and coping skills to manage PTSD prior to training? To what extent will there be a difference in the teachers' knowledge of symptoms and skills to cope with PTSD after training?


Methods. The mixed methods approach was used. All 20 (5 male & 15 female) teachers voluntarily participated in the study. The teachers were pre-tested to measure their knowledge of and ways of coping with PTSD in March 2019, and attended six training sessions, and were post-tested in June 2019.

Results. The results showed that the pre-test scores ($M = 1.95$, $SD = 2.19$) of 35% of the teachers knew some skills in managing PTSD before the training. The post-test scores ($M = 4.00$, $SD = 1.69$) of the 75% of the teachers learnt the skills after the training, while 50% retained their skills three months after the training. A feedback session was also conducted.


Word count: 250



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

 9 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