

MONTSERRAT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CHOLERA PREPAREDNESS

Phase: Cholera Epidemic in Caribbean – Montserrat not affected

Goal: Minimise occurrence and spread of cholera in Montserrat

Functional Area	Activity	Person/Agency Responsible	Supporting Personnel/Resources	Means of Verification/Status
Planning and Coordination	Apprise decision makers of the potential impact of and the need to prepare for a cholera epidemic	CMO	Surveillance Response Team	Report of meeting
	Assess the potential impact of an outbreak of cholera on Montserrat	Epidemiologist	Surveillance Response Team	Cholera impact assessment on file
	Develop Operational Plans - Communication/Public Awareness - Case identification & response - Public containment response - Port response	CMO Health Promotion Coordinator Epidemiologist PEHO PEHO	Surveillance Response Team, PAHO, Heads of Sections	Plans finalised and circulated
	Prepare a list of supplies needed to respond to a local outbreak	CMO	Surveillance Response Team, HNM, SCM,	List on file
	Prepare a budget for the response to Cholera	CMO	Surveillance Response Team, PS Health, DMCA	Budget submitted to PS Health
	Liaise with agencies/sectors for coordinated response to cholera threat: - Chief Immigration Officer - MUL (Water Division) - Director of Education - Director of Agriculture	CMO PEHO CMO PEHO	Environmental Health Officers, Public Health Nurse, Epidemiologist	Multi-sectoral involvement in response to threat Agreed activities documented in Operational Plans
	Review plans periodically	Epidemiologist	Surveillance Response Team	Report of review on file

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Situation Monitoring & Surveillance	Assess the normal burden of diarrhoea in Montserrat via surveillance	Epidemiologist	Ministry of health staff involved in surveillance activities	Weekly & Four-weekly Surveillance Reports – <i>Ongoing</i>
	Strengthen national systems for diarrhoea surveillance based on PAHO guidelines	Epidemiologist	Ministry of health staff involved in surveillance activities	Training Reports detailing material covered and list of attendees – <i>Ongoing - 2 sessions held last quarter of 2010</i>
	Ensure protocols are in place for early warning, alert and outbreak verification	Epidemiologist	Surveillance Response Team	Protocols completed and circulated <i>Ongoing since November 2010</i>
	Train Outbreak Investigation Team in cholera investigation, response and control	Epidemiologist	PAHO	Training report and list of attendees on file
	Review protocols for sample collection and dispatch to CAREC Laboratory	CMO	Physicians, Laboratory Staff, Courier staff	Agreed protocol included in Operational Plan – <i>Completed</i>
	Develop Standard Operating Procedures for monitoring of persons entering at the ports	PEHO	Surveillance Response Team, Staff at Ports of Entry	SOP agreed and circulated - <i>Completed</i>
	Monitor fruit and vegetable imports with special emphasis on those from DR & Haiti	MAHLE	PEHO	Regular reports available – <i>Commenced in January 2011</i>
	Monitor regional and international surveillance activities related to cholera	Epidemiologist	PAHO, CAREC	Current data available – <i>Ongoing since October 2010</i>
	Monitor quality of tap water on island	MUL- Head of Water Division	PEHO	Test Reports available on request

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Goal: Enhanced health sector Cholera preparedness and treatment capacity, Minimise occurrence and spread of cholera in Montserrat

Functional Area	Activity	Person/Agency Responsible	Supporting Personnel/Resources	Means of Verification/Status
Public Health Measures (Non-pharmaceutical)	Review Ministry of Health's infection control guidelines & ensure relevant staff are trained/retrained	CMO	Infection Control Focal Point, Secondary Care Manager, Heads of Sections	Guidelines reviewed & included in Investigation Operational Plan Training report on file including list of participants
	Calculate amount of protective personnel equipment (PPE) needed - for outbreak investigations - for use on the wards Identify sources for procurement of supplies	Epidemiologist	Heads of Section, Surveillance Response Team, International Guidelines	Required PPE included in Operational Plan
	Identify and create a register of high risk groups	Epidemiologist	Surveillance Response Team, International Guidelines	Register included in Investigation Operational Plan
	Educate the public on measures to protect themselves against infection	CMO	Health Promotion Coordinator	Communications Strategy Implemented – <i>Commenced in October 2010 – needs to continue</i>
	Ensure that legal framework exists to address issues of population containment	CMO	Surveillance Response Team	Existing Regulations circulated to relevant staff and noted in Operational Plans Pharmacy Bin Cards
Public Health Measures (Pharmaceutical)	Assess present stocks of ORF	Senior Pharmacist	Pharmacist	Estimates included in Operational Plan
	Estimate amount of ORF needed in the event of an outbreak	Physician Specialist	Physicians, International Guidelines	

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Health Systems Response	Review WHO recommended guidelines for the management of cholera patients - adopt all applicable recommendations - make available to all relevant staff	Physician Specialist	Medical Staff, International Guidelines	Adopted protocol included in Investigation & Treatment Operational Plan – <i>Commenced in January 2011</i>
	Identify physical infrastructure for isolating and treating suspected/confirmed cases	CMO	Physicians, SCM, PNO, HNM	Identified structure documented in Operational Plan – <i>Identified in January 2011</i>
	Review current recommendations on use of oral immunisation against cholera	CMO	Physicians, Surveillance Response Team	Decision documented
Communication	Include cholera information in the health promotion awareness programmes in the media	Health Promotion Coordinator	Surveillance Response Team	Communication Strategy included in Operational Plan
	Develop alert cards for use at port of entry providing signs and symptoms of cholera and actions to be taken	Health Promotion Coordinator	Surveillance Response Team	Cards prepared and ready for distribution – <i>Complete in December 2010</i>
	Adapt existing communication plan for use between sectors	CMO	Surveillance Response Team	Completed Communication Strategy included in Operational Plan

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Situation Monitoring & Surveillance	Response team investigates all suspected cases within 4 hours of notification and record epidemiological profile, symptoms	Epidemiologist	Outbreak Investigation Team,	Case Reports/ Outbreak Investigations Reports on file/
	Samples sent to Reference Laboratory as per approved protocol	Senior Medical Technologist	Outbreak Investigation Team, Laboratory Staff	Reports documenting samples sent and results
Public Health Measures	Containment measures implemented where applicable - social distancing, isolation, quarantine,	CMO	PEHO	Situational Reports submitted
	Monitor and evaluate current public health measures, adapt as necessary	Surveillance Response Team	Other Heads of Sections	Situational Reports, attack rates
	Frequency of water quality monitoring increased	MUL	PEHO	Reports available for review on request
Case Management	Agreed procedures for patient management implemented	Physician Specialist	Health Team	Case notes
	Monitor and evaluate health response - adjust activities as needed - liaise with regional partners for advice and recommendations	Surveillance Response Team	PAHO, CAREC,	Attack rates, rate of hospital admission, case fatality rate
Communication	Accurate, information released to the public as necessary	CMO	Communication Focal Point	Documented press releases as per previously agreed strategy