

## Situation Report 10 Measles Outbreak

	Cases	Deaths
2018	20,827	199
2019*	31,056	415
* as of 13 April 2019		

1 May 2019

### Overview

Current measles outbreak started late 2017 in Mindanao. In 2018, 20,827 cases were reported with 199 deaths. Outbreak and supplementary immunization activities in 2018 were ineffective in addressing the outbreak as the immunization activity was met with increased vaccine hesitancy due to the Dengue vaccine controversy. Weak routine immunization leading to a decrease in overall immunization coverage over the last decade resulted in large immunity gaps among younger children against vaccine preventable diseases including measles.

The Philippines Department of Health (DoH) declared measles outbreaks in 5 Regions (Region NCR, III, IV-A, VI, VII) on 7 February 2019, whereas cases are being reported from all 17 Regions. DoH issued guidelines for nation-wide measles vaccination accompanied by Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) and Vitamin A distribution until end March 2019, prioritizing unvaccinated children between 6 and 59 months; schoolchildren from kindergarten to grade 6; and adults who voluntarily wish to be vaccinated against measles.

### Current Situation

Between 1 January and 13 April 2019, 31,056 measles cases including 415 deaths were officially reported through the routine surveillance system from the DoH, with a Case Fatality Rate (CFR) of 1,34% (see Table 1).

The number of cases is 368% higher in 2019 than during the same time period in 2018.

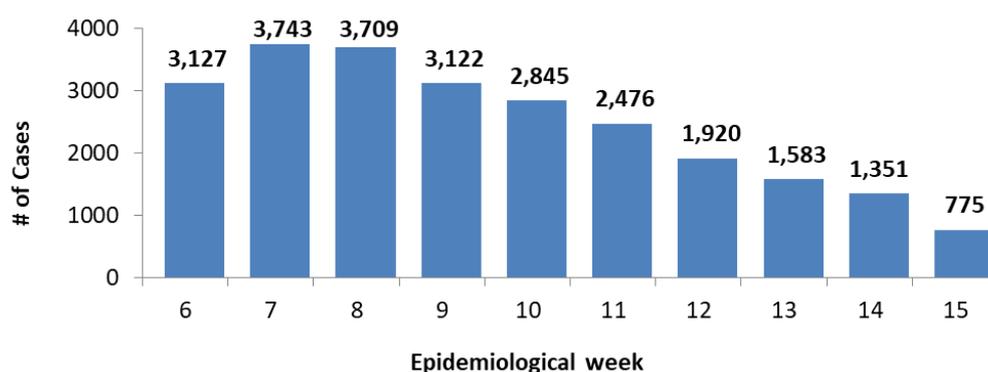
With a median age of 3 years old, 52% of measles cases are under 5 years of age. 53% of measles cases are male.

With a median age of 1 year old, 83% of all deaths are children under the age of 5, 59% of measles deaths are male. Most deaths are reported from Region III, IV-A, VIII and NCR.

**Table 1: Cumulative Measles Cases by Region**  
13 April 2018 vs 13 April 2019

Region	2018			2019		
	Cases	Deaths	%CFR	Cases	Deaths	%CFR
PHL	6,641	59	1	31,056	415	1.3
01	93	0	0	1,376	15	1.1
02	19	0	0	465	2	1.0
03	186	3	2	5,091	73	1.4
04A	164	2	1	6,010	111	1.8
04B	19	0	0	1,325	13	1.0
05	18	0	0	905	7	0.8
06	78	0	0	1,867	7	0.4
07	133	1	1	1,472	10	0.7
08	10	0	0	1,280	28	2.2
09	891	5	1	391	1	0.3
10	614	1	0	1,558	10	0.6
11	947	12	1	720	11	1.5
12	630	5	1	600	4	0.7
ARMM	2,209	20	1	536	6	1.1
CAR	22	0	0	535	2	0.4
CARAGA	73	1	1	850	9	1.1
NCR	535	9	2	6,075	106	1.7

**Figure 1. Measles Cases by Week of Rash Onset**  
3 February-13 April 2019



Source: Philippines Department of Health Measles-Rubella Surveillance Reports 2019

## Response so far

### Risk assessment

Overall risk		
National	Regional	Global
Moderate	Low	Low

In view of the declining number of newly reported cases and CFR in the past week, as well as the high vaccination coverage of the target population (see below), the risk of the current outbreak has been changed from high to moderate at national level.

### Case management

The CFR of 1.34% is still considered high when compared to the 0.89% CFR in the same period in 2018.

### Laboratory testing

The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) received a total of 20,876 measles/rubella samples from health facilities throughout the country between 1 January and 20 April 2019, mostly from NCR (38%), Region III (12%) and IVA (11%). Samples received in epidemiological week 16 (14-20 April) were 64% lower compared to the preceding week. However, they were still 27% higher than the same epidemiological week in 2018.

### Immunization

Up to 24 April 2019, 5,379,927 individuals have been vaccinated against measles and rubella: 3,512,350 aged 6-59 months (93% of the target population of 3,784,099).

#### Partner support

Partners like the Philippine Red Cross (PRC), IMC, IOM, ReachHealth and Americares have significantly contributed to the large number of children vaccinated, as well as the search for unvaccinated children thanks to Rapid Coverage Assessments (RCA).

- PRC's community health volunteers continue to vaccinate children in priority regions in accordance to micro plans developed in close coordination with health authorities at municipal level.
- Americares' nurses vaccinated 985 children in 9 municipalities in Cebu and Laguna. Americares supported 24 health facilities with supplies, and 4 regions with banners and flyers.

The first batch of 1 million measles-rubella (MR) vaccines procured through UNICEF arrived on 6 March 2019, and an additional 5 million doses of MR vaccine arrived on 19 March.

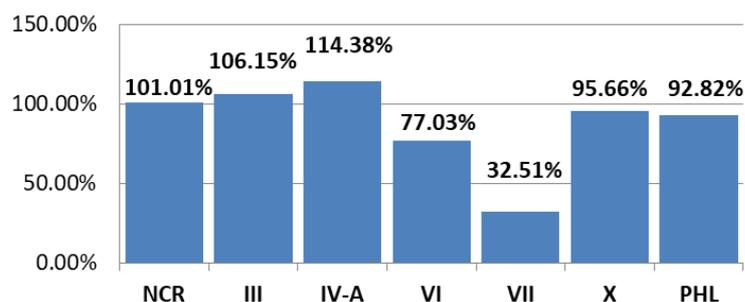
RCAs conducted by UNICEF and WHO in 9 regions found 91% of all checked children vaccinated. The most common reasons for non-vaccination were lack of information about the measles campaign, procrastination, and/or sickness. 50% of parents who refused their child to be vaccinated declined to mention why; 25% replied they feared the vaccine, and 12% mentioned dengvaxia.

Weaknesses identified by RCAs were all effectively tackled, varying from vaccine shortages, lack of safety boxes for used needles, and defective AD syringes. Longer-term matters such as enforced use of standardized vaccination cards, waste management plans, and outreach to remote areas, are being addressed through proposed measures to strengthen the routine immunization system

#### Good practices observed:

- Cross-sectoral collaboration with other government agencies (Department of Social Welfare and Development, fire, and police department) or private sectors (hospitals and clinics, medical society)
- Some governors (Tarlac, Bulacan), mayors, barangay captains provided support and budget for printing of IEC materials.

**Figure 2. Coverage of Measles Outbreak Response Immunization (Children aged 6-59 months) 24 April 2019**



## Response plan

### Post outbreak response (April-September 2019)

Age group	Activity	Timeframe
Under-five	Identify children with missed doses of routine vaccinations and provide catch-up vaccinations including polio and measles	until end June
School-based	Continue school-based immunization once schools open in June	until end September
Above 12 years	One dose for those who did not complete 2 doses	

### Overview of UNICEF and WHO engagement so far

#### UNICEF are supporting with:

- Facilitation of procurement of additional 6,000,000 doses of measles and polio vaccines
- Provision of 3 tents to Region III (JB Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital, Dr Paulino Garcia Memorial Research and Medical Center, Bataan General Hospital) and 7 hospitals in NCR
- Deployment of additional manpower to support the national immunization team and DOH NCR
- Mobilization and technical support to Zamboanga del Norte, Samar and North Samar
- Planning for the measles outbreak response in DoH-BARMM
- Partnership with Ideas Positive Alumni Community (IPAC) in the fielding of youth volunteers in different regions of the country for information dissemination, master listing of defaulters and RCA
- Support to the Post Measles Rubella outbreak immunization review and planning work shop at the national level and in the provinces of Samar and North Samar

#### WHO are supporting with:

- Dissemination of key guidelines and IEC materials to health partners
- Updating of guidelines on:
  - o Primary Health Care Facilities and Hospitals
  - o Measles Post-Exposure Management
  - o Measles Case Classification and Management.
  - o Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIA) and Outbreak Immunization (ORI).
  - o Technical support in development of Measles control and elimination plan at national and specified regional level.
  - o Documentation of the 2018/2019 measles response to ensure the gaps and lesson learned are adapted on ensuring effective measures for measles control in future.

#### Jointly, UNICEF-WHO are supporting with:

- Development of more detailed communication plan for measles outbreak response and post measles outbreak catch-up vaccination with DOH-HPCS
- Development of field monitoring tools and updating of Rapid Coverage Assessment (RCA) tool
- Ongoing monitoring of measles immunization activities and conducting RCA
- Technical support to DoH at all levels
- Support to the National Post Measles Rubella outbreak immunization review and planning workshop

