



Epidemiological Alert:

Weekly update on the Cholera situation

EW 2 (January 9 to January 15 2011)

(Published on 26 January 2011)

The purpose of this alert is to present the current epidemiological situation of the cholera outbreak in Haiti and the Dominican Republic updated as of epidemiological week (EW) 1, 2011. The information that is presented has been provided by the Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP) of Haiti which compiles the data obtained by the different partners of the Health Cluster and the Ministry of Public Health of the Dominican Republic, respectively.

Haiti

Since the beginning of the cholera outbreak in the EW 42¹ (2010) as to EW 1 (2011) the MSPP registered a total of 183,906 cholera cases of which 55,9% (102,821) were hospitalized² and 2.0% died (global case-fatality rate).

New cases per week

During the EW 2 of 2011, there were 9,373 new registered cases, with a weekly incidence rate of 10.1 cases per 10,000 inhabitants. This represents a decrease for the third consecutive week in the weekly incidence rate, which went from 24.1 per 10,000 inhabitants in the last week of 2010, to 12.7 in the first week of 2011 and 10.1 in this second week.

Although new cases are still being registered in the 10 departments, seven registered a decrease in their incidence rate ranging from 3.5% to 49.1%, when compared to the previous week. Three departments located in the north of the country increased their incidence rate: Nord, Artibonite and Nord-Est.

Summary

Haiti

During the second EW of 2011 and for the third consecutive week, Haiti has registered a decrease in the weekly incidence rate at the national level. It decreased from 24.1 to 12.7 and to currently 10.1 cholera cases per 10,000 inhabitants.

Three departments located in the north of the country, increased their weekly incidence rate (Nord, Nord Est, and Artibonite).

At the national level, the in-hospital case fatality rate for week 2 of 2011 stayed at 1.3%. Very similar to the previous week which was 1.2%

Dominican Republic

The Ministry of Public Health reported the first death caused by cholera in the province of Altagracia.

Since the beginning of the outbreak in SE 45 of 2010 and as of to SE 2 of 2011 there were 244 laboratory confirmed cases.

¹ On October 20, 2010 the first cases of cholera (*V. cholerae* O: 1 serotype Ogawa) are confirmed by via laboratory testing in patients hospitalized in the department of Artibone.

² A case of cholera is defined as a patient with profuse, acute, watery diarrhea, in a resident of a department in which at least one laboratory confirmed case of cholera has been confirmed by laboratory. Hospitalized cases are when a patient is admitted to a health facility (a hospital or cholera treatment center) during at least one night. A death due to cholera is the death of patient with the cholera disease that satisfied the definition of cholera cases. Any death that occurs due to cholera that occurs in a health facility, even if this person was admitted overnight or in the morning is considered a cholera hospital death.

Hospitalization trends and in-hospital case fatality rate

At the national level, there was also a decrease for the third consecutive week in the number of new hospitalizations. The decrease with respect to the previous epidemiological week was of 27.0%. All departments, except Nord, registered a decrease in the number of new hospitalizations in week 2 of 2011 when compared to the previous week. The most important decrease was registered in Ouest, with a decrease of 54.5% when compared with registered in the previous week.

The department of Nord, was the only one in which new hospitalizations increased, it registered an increase of 59.1% when compared to the previous week.

The in-hospital case fatality rate at the national level (proportion of deaths by cholera among hospitalized patients) stayed nearly the same in the last two weeks. In EW 2 it was 1.3% barely one point above 1.2% registered in SE 1.

Some departments again registered in-hospital case fatality rates significantly higher than the national average. Such is the case of Nippes, with 4.2% and Sud with 2.8%. Nord and Grande Anse, which in the previous week had registered high case fatality rates, in EW 2 their rates decreased significantly. Nord went from 4.7% to 0.3% and Grande Anse went from 3.4% to 1.9%.

Global case fatality rate

The global case fatality rate of the cholera epidemic (which is the total number of deaths registered divided by the total number of registered cases) as of EW 2 of 2011 is 2.0% (with a range that goes from 0.8% in Port-au-Prince to 9.5% in the department of Sud Est).

Dominican Republic

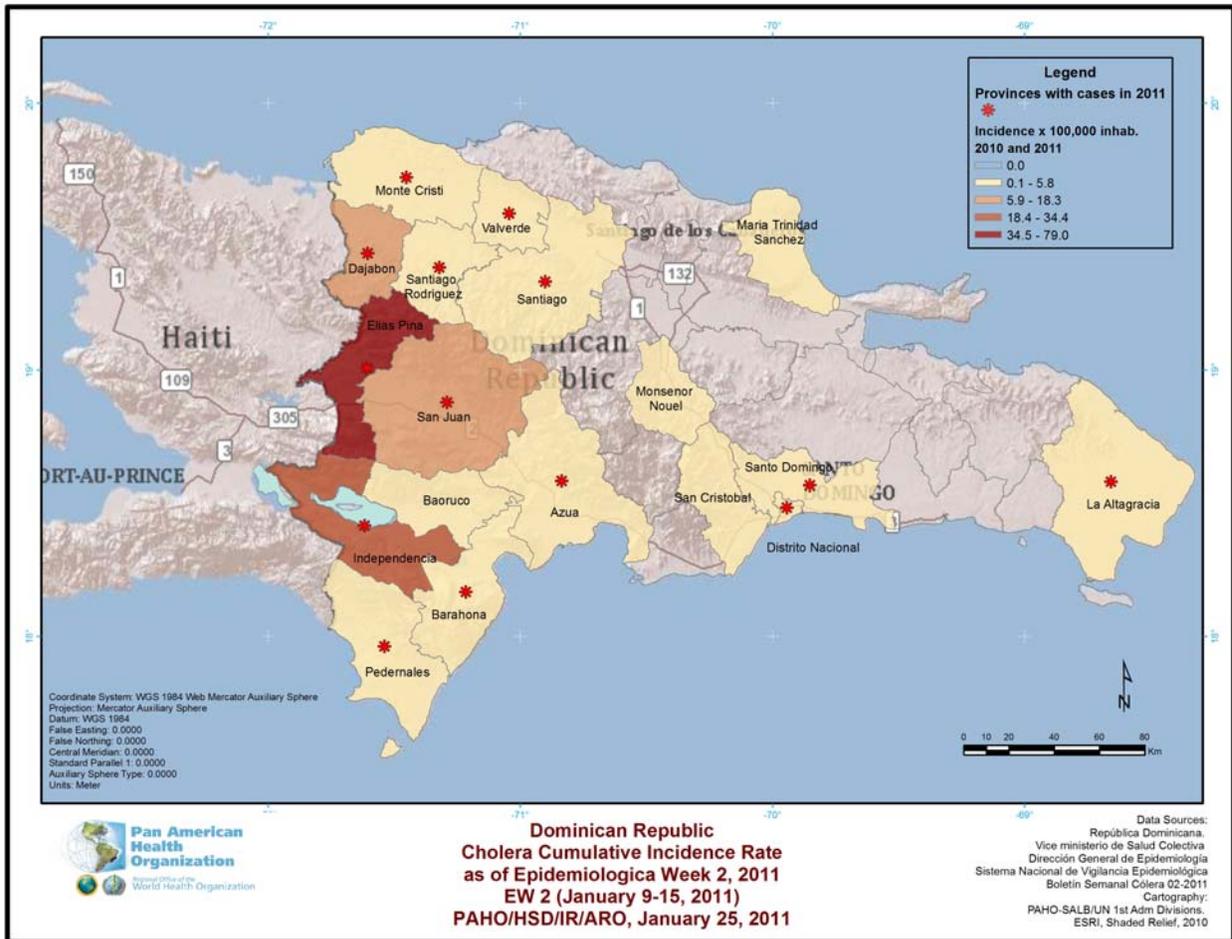
The Ministry of Public Health reported on the epidemiological week 2 of 2011 the first confirmed death by cholera.

The case is a male of Haitian nationality, with permanent residence in the province of Duarte (northern area of the country) but that had temporarily moved to the province of Altagracia (east of the country), where he died.

Since the beginning of the outbreak and as of EW 2 of 2011, there were 244 cholera cases confirmed by laboratory (191 in 2010 and 53 in the first two weeks of 2011).

Since the beginning of the outbreak there have been registered cases and hospitalizations due to cholera in 15 of the 31 provinces of the country. The provinces where cases have been detected during the previous two weeks are Azua, Barahona, Elias Piña, Independencia, La Altagracia, Santiago, Valverde, Santo Domingo and Distrito Nacional.

The province of Elias Piña has notified up to this moment the highest incidence rate with an accumulated 78.4 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, followed by Independencia with 34 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, San Juan with 18.4 per 100,000 and Dajabon with 11.9 per 100,000. The rest of the provinces maintain a rate below 6 cases per 100,000 inhabitants.



Note:

The daily updates with respect to the number of cases, hospitalizations and fatalities due to cholera are published through the Interactive Cholera Map which can be found through the following link:

http://new.paho.org/hq/images/Atlas_IHR/CholeraHispaniola/atlas.htm

The report concerning the actions taken by the Health Assistance Group, at the national and department level can be found through the following link:

http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4404&Itemid=3487