

# Overseas briefs

Sources: World Health Organization (WHO) and Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network

## *Meningitis, Togo*

From November 1996 to 27 January 1997 an outbreak of meningitis caused 739 cases with 121 deaths in Togo. Meningococcal meningitis is suspected but laboratory investigations are not yet completed. Most cases occurred in the town of Dapaong, Savanes District in northern Togo. The population of Dapaong is 206,000, and that of the whole of Savanes District 300,000. WHO has begun procurement and provision of vaccine, oily chloramphenicol and injection material.

## *Cholera, Bolivia*

The Ministry of Health of Bolivia has reported an outbreak of cholera in Yacuiba, Tarija Province. This area is on the border of Salta Province, Argentina where an increase in cholera cases has been reported. From 1 to 16 January, 492 cases had been reported in Yacuiba. A further 231 cases with 6 deaths occurred in other provinces in Bolivia - Beni, Potosi and Santa Cruz. Fifty per cent of these cases have been laboratory confirmed. A team from the Ministry of Health and the Pan American Health Organization/WHO is coordinating efforts to promote preventive measures in the affected areas. A meeting was held on 18 January between the Bolivian and Argentinian health authorities to discuss and implement environmental control measures.

## *Measles, French Polynesia*

Between September 1996 and 5 January 1997, 326 suspected cases of measles were reported from the Society and Marquisas island groups in French Polynesia. Eight cases were confirmed by serological testing, 122 (37%) were vaccinated and 164 (50%) were aged 10 years or older. Measles vaccination between the ages of 12 and 18 months has been compulsory in French Polynesia since 1986. In 1997 the administration of a second dose is to be introduced at secondary school entry age (11 to 13 years) for all children. In addition, children between 11 and 14 years not immunised in the past will be immunised.

## *Dengue*

**New Caledonia:** Fourteen cases of dengue had been notified in New Caledonia in the two weeks prior to 20 January 1997. Five cases have been confirmed: three are serotype 2 and two are serotype 3 dengue. Dengue 3 has been endemo-epidemic in New Caledonia since early 1995, however dengue 2 has not been notified since 1972. Members of the population under the age of 25 are therefore at risk of contracting dengue 2.

**French Polynesia:** Between August 1996 and 29 December 1996 a total of 659 confirmed cases of dengue 2 were recorded in the outbreak in French Polynesia. There were 2,307 notified suspected clinical cases for the same period.

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Contributions covering any aspects of communicable disease are invited. Instructions to authors can be found in *CDI* 1997;21:9.

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