Common Vocabulary Used to Understand Dengue Surveillance

Case definition - a set of criteria to determine if a person has the disease being investigated in an outbreak or within a surveillance system. It defines a case in time, person, and place.

Confirmed fatal case - a reported laboratory-confirmed case of a person who died of dengue illness or complications of disease.

Cumulative suspected cases - total number of suspected cases during the current year.

Dengue - an infectious disease caused by one of four closely related dengue viruses (DENV 1, DENV 2, DENV 3, or DENV 4). The viruses are transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected *Aedes* mosquito.

Dengue hemorrhagic fever - an old term used to describe a severe manifestation of the disease (hemorrhage). The World Health Organization modified the dengue classification system in 2009 so that patients with dengue hemorrhagic fever are now called patients with "severe dengue".

Endemic disease - an infectious disease that is common to and that regularly occurs in a certain population or region.

Epidemic - a large outbreak affecting a larger region or country.

Epidemic threshold - a set threshold for the number of cases of a disease above which the disease is considered to be at epidemic levels.

Epidemiology - the study of how diseases are caused, spread, and controlled or cured.

Historical average - the weekly average of the number of dengue reported cases in last 25 years.

Incidence - the number of new cases of an illness or disease in a population in a given time period (e.g. a week or a year). Incidence is a way to look at how likely a person is to contract a disease.

Laboratory-confirmed case – a reported case of a person with clinical symptoms of dengue who has a specific laboratory test showing that the person was infected with dengue virus.

Outbreak - an occurrence of disease greater than expected at a particular time and place.

Pandemic - a global outbreak of disease.

(Public Health) Surveillance - the ongoing systematic collection, recording, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of data reflecting the current health status of a community or population.

> **Passive surveillance** - data about a particular disease or condition are routinely sent to public health officials from health care providers, hospitals, and laboratories.

Active surveillance - health officials directly contact health care providers, hospitals, laboratories, or patients to obtain more data about a particular disease or condition.

Prevalence - the proportion of people in a given population that have a disease at a given time.

Serotypes - types or classification of the virus (DENV -1,-2,-3,-4).

Suspect case - reported case of a person who goes to his/her health care provider with clinical symptoms of dengue, but has not had infection confirmed by a dengue-specific laboratory test.