

MEXICO



InDRE's Virology Department where influenza diagnostics occur.

OVERVIEW

The Mexican National Laboratory Network consists of the Institute for Epidemiologic Diagnosis and Reference "Manuel Martínez Baéz" (InDRE) that coordinates training, quality control and reporting for 31 state laboratories. The cooperative agreement has assisted Mexico's Secretariat of Health (SOH) by increasing influenza laboratory capacity in Mexican states and improving diagnostic protocols. This grant helped Mexico to maintain seasonal influenza surveillance and develop response actions in the event of an influenza pandemic.

SURVEILLANCE

Mexico's National Epidemic Surveillance System (SiNaVE) detects when influenza virus activity starts and when the season can be considered as active. In México, epidemic surveillance and laboratory-based surveillance are the two pillars of influenza surveillance used to detect virus activity and new influenza virus strains.

In 2014, the Influenza Epidemiological Surveillance Manual was updated and published. This manual describes the characteristics, activities and

HIGHLIGHTS

- Inaugurated the new campus of the Directorate General of Epidemiology including the new facilities of the National Influenza Center.
- Updated and published the Influenza Epidemiological Surveillance Manual.
- Collaborated with Mexico, USA and Canada (all involved in the North American Plan for Animal and Pandemic Influenza [NAPAPI]), to revise the 2014–2015 Work Plan.

responsibilities of the Influenza Sentinel Sites (USMI). A new case definition has also been introduced for "death due to influenza", defined as a positive laboratory result for an influenza virus and a death certificate where the basic cause of death is specified as influenza. This definition has been implemented as a new variable on the platform of Epidemiological Surveillance System of Influenza (SISVEFLU).

SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES

- Posted epidemiological surveillance information to the website <http://www.epidemiologia.salud.gob.mx/informes/2015/influenza/influenza-semanas.html>.
- Developed a weekly newsletter that is distributed to the national epidemiological network and shared with partners.
- Updated and published the Influenza Epidemiological Surveillance Manual in which the characteristics of USMI and its activities and responsibilities are described.

LABORATORY

As part of the Directorate General of Epidemiology (DGE), the diagnostic capacities and capabilities of the National Influenza Center (NIC) in México, increased as a result of the first cooperative agreement. The same increases occurred in all laboratories of the national public health laboratory network.

With the resources of the recent agreement, DGE was able to recruit more staff. In April 2014, the President of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto, inaugurated the new Directorate General of Epidemiology Campus; including the new facilities of the NIC and InDRE.

LABORATORY ACTIVITIES

2013

- Collected, registered, and tested 18,118 samples from patients with severe acute respiratory infection (SARI); 2,001 (11.0%) were positive for an influenza virus.

2014

- Collected, registered, and tested 19,294 samples from patients with SARI; 4,861 (25.2%) were positive for an influenza virus.

PREPAREDNESS

Through a series of meetings with representatives of the three countries (Mexico, USA and Canada) involved in the North American Plan for Animal and Pandemic Influenza (NAPAPI), the Work Plan for 2014–2015 has been revised. Among the activities to be undertaken are maintaining communication through the National Focal Points of the three countries (Mexico, USA and Canada) and updating emergency protocols in case of an influenza epidemic for immediate response.

Potential areas of collaboration are being considered in case of an emergency event. The activities also include investigating outbreaks, sharing laboratory samples and medical countermeasures, and sharing information in a trilateral way. In May 2014, Mexico made the official transfer of the NAPAPI Secretariat to the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) to the Department of Health and Human Services of the United States.

PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES

- Continued exchange of information and maintained communication regarding possible pandemic influenza emergencies between NAPAPI country members.
- Upgraded NAPAPI Board Members.

TRAINING

- Conducted a simulation exercise between NAPAPI member countries on pandemic preparedness in order to assess coordination and response.



A site visit outside of Mexico City with the Epidemiology Team.