

KYRGYSTAN



Nurses at the National Clinical Infectious Disease Hospital in Bishkek demonstrating the influenza specimen collection process during a site visit by national staff and CDC.

OVERVIEW

Beginning in 2008, Kyrgyzstan began conducting sentinel surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) in the cities of Bishkek and Osh. The cooperative agreement with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which began in 2013, has strengthened the sentinel surveillance system in Kyrgyzstan and continues to help build capacity and improve the country's preparedness to respond to a pandemic.

SURVEILLANCE

SARI sentinel surveillance was first established in Kyrgyzstan in 2008 and currently there are four SARI sentinel sites, with two hospitals in Bishkek and two hospitals in Osh. ILI surveillance was established in 2009, with three ILI sentinel sites in outpatient clinics, one in Bishkek and two in Osh. During the 2014–2015 season, an additional ILI site was established in Tokmok.

SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES

- Connected 39 SSES centers to the internet for reporting.
- Developed epidemic threshold for seven provinces and two cities to help assess and

HIGHLIGHTS

- Trained 115 doctors, epidemiologists, and directors of the state sanitary and epidemiological surveillance (SSES) centers on influenza monitoring, assessment, analysis, and recognition of outbreaks of influenza.
- Expanded sentinel surveillance with the addition of an ILI site at the Family Medicine Center Number One in Tokmok.
- Provided the national and regional virology laboratories with reagents and supplies.

predict the epidemiological influenza situation and detect outbreaks of influenza.

- Conducted an evaluation and comparison of the routine and sentinel surveillance systems for influenza (analysis of the timeliness, accuracy, and sensitivity of the different surveillance systems).
- Conducted supervisory visits to sentinel sites in Osh, Tokmak, and Bishkek.
- Conducted training for virologists from the National Virological Center in the virology laboratories in the Kara-Suu and Issyk-Ata districts.
- Established new reporting forms for receiving annual reports from sentinel sites.
- Participated in a review of the influenza sentinel surveillance system in June 2014 in collaboration with CDC in order to identify strengths and opportunities for improving the system.

LABORATORY

The National Influenza Laboratory in Bishkek was established in 2002, and is situated within the Centre of Molecular-Genetic and Microbiological Investigations. The laboratory was designated by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a National Influenza Center (NIC) in 2007. Four laboratories in the Republic are involved in the influenza surveillance network: (1) National Virology Laboratory, Center of Microbiological and Molecular Genetic Studies, Ministry of Health, (2) the Virology Laboratory at the Center of State Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision of Bishkek; (3) the PCR laboratory at the Issyk-Ata Republican Center of Psychological Health

and State Epidemiological Surveillance; and (4) the Virology Laboratory at the Kara-Suu Republican Center of Psychological Health and State Epidemiological Surveillance.

LABORATORY ACTIVITIES

- Participated in WHO's External Quality Assessment Project (EQAP) and received a score of 100% on the last panel.
- Tested 613 samples, of which 97 (15.8%) were positive for an influenza virus: 38 were influenza A (H3N2) virus, 12 were influenza A (H1N1)pdm09, and 47 were influenza B.
- Participated in a laboratory assessment in collaboration with CDC in order to identify strengths and opportunities in the laboratory.
- Trained laboratory assistants at the regional laboratories on RT-PCR and influenza virus isolation methods.

PREPAREDNESS

- Support from CDC has significantly advanced the level of influenza pandemic preparedness and planning. The Department of Disease Prevention and Sanitary Inspection, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, has begun to develop an operational plan for the health sector in the event of an outbreak of influenza.

PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES

- Organized a round table for leaders of SSES centers to build capacity and help strengthen influenza surveillance at the local level.
- Designed and printed pamphlets, checklists for parents, posters, and informational sheets on the main symptoms and tips on prevention to help raise awareness and educate the population of Kyrgyzstan about influenza (24,000 pcs).
- Planned exercises to enhance pandemic preparedness with the concerned departments and ministries.
- Purchased 343 suits with N-95 masks and glasses which were issued to nine regional centers of the Department of Disease Prevention and Sanitary Inspection.

TRAINING

- Provided a workshop for 21 health care workers and laboratory staff on biosafety, storage, and transport of samples.
- Provided training for nine laboratory experts on the laboratory diagnosis of influenza viruses in Bishkek, Osh, and Chui regions.
- Provided training for doctors and epidemiologists at the regional and municipality levels on monitoring, analyzing, and identifying influenza outbreaks.

INFLUENZA VACCINE ACTIVITIES

A training was organized to prepare doctors and epidemiologists to formulate the number of at-risk groups (i.e. children and patients with heart disease, lung disorders, diabetes, obesity, health workers) in supervised areas.

In the event of an influenza outbreak, it is important to understand the number of people at risk that need vaccination. In the near future, a study of the economic impact of influenza will be carried out, with results of the study to be taken into account during the planning and administration phases of future vaccination campaigns against influenza.