

Some examples of PPHSN actions

Investigation and control of cholera outbreak in Pohnpei



In June 2000, following a request from health authorities in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), a PPHSN investigation team conducted a detailed and constructive analysis of the cholera outbreak in Pohnpei and made recommendations on the control of the epidemic.

Training in epidemiology and outbreak investigation

In 2002, PPHSN partners started a series of



training sessions in epidemiology and outbreak investigation. The first workshop was held in Pohnpei for EpiNet team members from FSM, Palau and the Marshall Islands.

Response to SARS threat in 2003

For example: early warning through PacNet, creation of a PPHSN SARS Task Force, development of PPHSN SARS Guidelines for PICTs, provision of SARS kits in selected countries, organisation of workshops.



Influenza surveillance and pandemic preparedness

In 2004, PPHSN partners compiled advices on avian influenza (bird flu) for human health and animal health. PPHSN Guidelines for influenza preparedness and control and influenza pandemic preparedness were also developed and published in 2005. Projects to support surveillance and preparedness are being initiated.



How can I learn more about PPHSN & its activities?

- Visit the PPHSN website: <http://www.spc.int/phs/PPHSN>
- Read Inform'ACTION, the information bulletin of the PPHSN.

The PPHSN Coordinating Body (CB), with the support of a Focal Point (SPC), serves the PPHSN

CB membership is rotated in a staggered manner.



Current members include:

7 core members
Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Wallis and Futuna,

and **5 allied members**: Communicable Diseases Network Australia & National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Fiji School of Medicine, Institute of Environmental Science and Research, Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the World Health Organization. SPC, WHO and the Fiji School of Medicine are permanent members.

The Focal Point

SPC has been designated as the Focal Point for communications and other necessary ongoing support functions.

For more information on PPHSN, please contact:

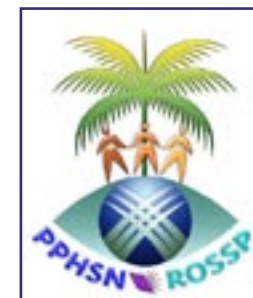
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Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network



PPHSN

What is PPHSN?

The Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) is a voluntary network of countries and organisations dedicated to the promotion of public health surveillance and appropriate response to the health challenges of 22 Pacific Island countries and territories.

Goal: PPHSN's goal is to improve **public health surveillance and response in the Pacific Islands** in a sustainable way.

The first priorities of PPHSN are communicable diseases, especially the outbreak-prone ones.

Who are its members?

PPHSN's **core members** are the Ministries and Departments of Health of the Pacific Island countries and territories who serve as the Governing Body of PPHSN.

The network is further supported by **allied members** — regional training institutions, agencies, laboratories, and other organisations or networks with an interest in public health surveillance in the region, who chose to be a PPHSN member.

When was it created?



PPHSN was created in 1996 under the joint auspices of SPC and WHO.



Three services to fight epidemics

PacNet

For alert & communication



The email (and fax) listserver for a network of health practitioners and decision-makers interested or working in the Pacific Islands. It allows rapid overall communication, especially early warnings for epidemic threats, and consequently makes it possible to raise awareness and preparedness levels in the region. It also gives access to

resources, including technical expertise. As of 31 October 2005, 637 health professionals from the Pacific region and beyond were subscribed to PacNet.

Monthly flow of messages posted on PacNet according to the epidemic context

The number of messages posted to the list varies according to the epidemic context in the region. When an outbreak is suspected or there is an epidemic threat to the region, the flow of messages exchanged through PacNet increases. When there is no threat, the flow of messages decreases.

PacNet has shown once again its appropriateness and usefulness during the SARS outbreak.

LabNet

For verification & identification



The three-tier network of public health laboratory services includes:

Level 1 (L1): National/territorial laboratories.
Level 2 (L2): Four public health laboratories from the Pacific Island region (in Fiji Islands, French Polynesia, Guam and New Caledonia) that have agreed to

provide select diagnostic services to neighbouring countries or territories according to their individual capacity.

Level 3 (L3): Reference laboratories in Pacific Rim countries or within the Pacific.

EpiNet

For investigation & response, including preparedness



The response arm of the network, consisting of multi-disciplinary national/territorial (and regional) outbreak response teams, the EpiNet (or equivalent) teams.

Besides coordinated surveillance and response field activities, EpiNet's role is also to establish and maintain relevant PPHSN

target disease surveillance and response protocols, including technical and resource-related aspects of all operations.

