



## Directory of PPHSN Resources – 2010 Edition Allied Members

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<http://www.spc.int/phs/PPHSN/>
- Area(s) of expertise in relation to communicable disease surveillance & response:** See information below
- Assistance or services you could offer to the PPHSN:** See information below
- Publications:** See information below

The Public Health Surveillance & Communicable Disease Control (PHS&CDC) Section is part of the Public Health Programme within the Social Resources Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. It is based at SPC's Noumea headquarters. The section is also the Focal Point of the PPHSN Coordinating Body.

### Contacts

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Check also the technical staff involved in the PRIPPP below.

### Assistance offered by the PHS&CDC Section

Requests for assistance can be made directly to any of the section's staff. Certain types of assistance (e.g. in-country) may require written requests from relevant government departments. The first priorities of the PPHSN are communicable diseases, especially the outbreak-prone ones. At this stage the target diseases include: dengue, measles, rubella, influenza, leptospirosis, typhoid fever, cholera, SARS and HIV/STIs.

### Policy development

Technical assistance on policies and national plans of action with regards to communicable disease surveillance and response is available to PICT governments on request, particularly with reference to the PPHSN strategic framework and development plans.

### Technical assistance



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Ad hoc technical assistance is available on request to EpiNet teams and ministries and departments of health for communicable disease public health surveillance and epidemiology, especially the review and development of surveillance systems, and outbreak investigation and response. Through the laboratory specialist and LabNet, the public health laboratory network of the PPHSN, technical assistance and advice can be provided on laboratory testing methods, technical and shipping procedures for the confirmation of outbreaks.

### Training

In partnership with PPHSN members and bodies, the section conducts sub-regional and in-country training workshops in:

- public health surveillance
- outbreak investigation & communicable disease epidemiology
- computer applications for public health surveillance and outbreak investigation.

Accreditation by the Fiji School of Medicine is possible. These workshops can also be delivered within the framework of a "Data for Decision-Making" (DDM) training programme or Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP).

*Participants:* Preferably members of the national/territorial EpiNet team (or equivalent), plus any person involved in public health surveillance and response.

*Duration:* 1 week for each module.

*Cost:* SPC or other PPHSN partners (including PICTs) cover airfare and per diem costs. A cost-share basis is also possible, e.g. for in-country training with the country covering local costs.

*Follow-up:* Participants are expected to implement or improve some surveillance activities in-country. A field project is required within the framework of the DDM or FETP.

### Training on request

In partnership with PPHSN members and bodies, sub-regional or in-country training workshops can be provided on request, provided funding (by the country/territory or from other sources) is available. The subject areas can be tailored to address specific country needs.

For example:

- In-country training workshops on identification, surveillance and control of vector mosquitoes (in collaboration with Pasteur Institute of New Caledonia and Louis Malardé Institute), data use, surveillance or outbreak investigation.
- In-country training on laboratory testing methods, technical and shipping procedures.

### Training attachments

This training takes the form of an attachment within the Section at SPC's Noumea headquarters. Trainees work on specific projects, with clear objectives and expected outputs, agreed on between themselves and the Section. Usually, an article by the trainee on the achieved work is published as a result of the attachment.

*Eligible applicants:* Students or health professionals from the region interested in public health surveillance of communicable diseases.

*Conditions:* Application on request of country/territory or partner agency. Approval is contingent on the workload of the section and on availability of funding.

*Number of participants:* One, possibly two persons can be trained at a time.

*Duration:* Preferably 3-4 months, although this is flexible.



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**Cost:** On a cost-sharing basis, depending on availability of funding (with the section possibly covering airfare and per diem costs for food and accommodation).

**Follow-up:** On their return home, possibility of assistance at distance if needed.

### Meetings

In order to plan and monitor PPHSN development, the following meetings are organised by the section (in some cases in cooperation with partners):

(a) *PPHSN Coordinating Body meetings:* Typically held once a year with all Coordinating Body members.

(b) *PPHSN regional or sub-regional meetings:* Held approximately every two years for EpiNet team (or equivalent) members (usually the focal points) and/or other decision makers from ministries and departments of health active in the area of communicable disease surveillance and response.

### Networks

**PacNet** is an e-mail (and fax) listserver for a network of health practitioners interested or working in the Pacific Islands, which allows rapid overall communication (and makes possible 'Early Warnings') regarding epidemic threats; PacNet consequently makes it possible to raise awareness and preparedness levels in the region. It also gives access to resources, including expertise.

**PacNet-restricted** is used as a communication tool restricted to selected health professionals from Ministries and Departments of Health, EpiNet team members, National IHR Focal Points and PPHSN Coordinating Body members. It is a possible alternative to PacNet in the very early stages of outbreaks, when information is often sensitive and confidential (i.e. not yet confirmed and/or an adequate public health response has not yet been brought about). It is also used for requests for information regarding outbreak news published by media.

**PacNet-Lab** was created for the development of LabNet, the public health laboratory network, and includes laboratory health professionals from the region, as well as the Coordinating Body members. The list is used to share lab-specific information.

**Subscription:** Health practitioners can subscribe to PacNet or PacNet-Lab, by sending an e-mail message to: [join-pacnet@lyris.spc.int](mailto:join-pacnet@lyris.spc.int) and [join-pacnet-lab@lyris.spc.int](mailto:join-pacnet-lab@lyris.spc.int).

### Grants

Through the PPHSN, the section aims at setting up a sustainable funding mechanism for outbreak-related assistance in the region. In the meantime, depending on funding availability, the section tries to answer to small funding requests from the PICTs in emergency response situations due to communicable disease outbreaks.

### Information resources available

**Inform'Action**, the bulletin of the PPHSN, is published by the section three to four times each year. Articles (typically by health professionals from the region) address public health surveillance and communicable disease control. Hard copies of *Inform'Action* are sent to all Ministries and Departments of Health, including all EpiNet teams (or equivalent), PacNet members and to PPHSN allied bodies. Other publications include guidelines, including the **PPHSN Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines**, the **PPHSN Guidelines for Influenza Preparedness & Control and Influenza Pandemic Preparedness**, the **Monograph on Public Health Surveillance in the Pacific** and two issues of the **Pacific Health Dialog** on **Telehealth in the Pacific** and **Pacific Health Surveillance & Surveillance**.

All publications are available in electronic format on the PPHSN website (<http://www.spc.int/PPHSN>), and on request. The websites (see above) are also important information sources (especially, the PPHSN website).



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### Assistance offered through the PRIPPP

The **Pacific Regional Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Project (PRIPPP)** has been designed to build the capacity of Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) to deal with the potential threat of avian influenza, pandemic influenza and other emerging diseases. PRIPPP is a four year project, spanning 1 July 2006 – 30 June 2010.

PRIPPP covers both animal and human health sectors and it is directly managed under the Public Health Surveillance and Communicable Disease Control Section and the [Animal Health and Production Section](#).

SPC is the implementing body for PRIPPP, with funding provided by Australia and New Zealand. PRIPPP is implemented in strategic partnership with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

#### Contacts:

##### PRIPPP management team:

- Animal Health & Production Adviser: Dr Ken Cokanasiga (Fiji), [kenc@spc.int](mailto:kenc@spc.int)
- Epidemiologist, Dr Tom Kiedrzyński (Noumea), [tomk@spc.int](mailto:tomk@spc.int)
- PRIPPP Coordinator, Ms Jennie Fischer (Noumea), [jennief@spc.int](mailto:jennief@spc.int)

##### Technical staff involved in the PRIPPP:

- Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Specialist, Dr Seini Kupu (Noumea), [SeiniK@spc.int](mailto:SeiniK@spc.int)
- Pandemic Preparedness and Training Specialist – Fiji, Dr Narendra Singh (Fiji), [NarendraS@spc.int](mailto:NarendraS@spc.int)
- Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Specialist – PNG, Dr James Wangi (PNG), [JamesW@spc.int](mailto:JamesW@spc.int)
- Subregional Animal Health Specialist – Melanesia, Dr David Thomson (PNG), [DavidT@spc.int](mailto:DavidT@spc.int)
- Subregional Animal Health Specialist – Polynesia, Di Ilagi Puana (Fiji), [IlagiP@spc.int](mailto:IlagiP@spc.int)
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#### Goal:

The goal of PRIPPP is to have “PICTs able to effectively and efficiently respond to emerging diseases, in particular highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and pandemic influenza”.

#### Objectives:

The objectives of PRIPPP are “immediate measures implemented to prevent, or respond to, a possible outbreak of HPAI and pandemic influenza” and “sustainable capacities built to respond to emerging diseases, in line with international guidelines.

#### Areas of Assistance:

The major components of PRIPPP reflect three broad areas of assistance:

- Avian Influenza and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and broader emergency plans
- Surveillance and response by animal and human health systems
- Regional coordination and project management



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### Key Activities:

PRIPPP can assist PICTs develop Country Action Plans for avian influenza and pandemic influenza preparedness which identify priority areas for capacity strengthening.

PRIPPP can assist PICTs to complete national influenza pandemic preparedness plans and test them.

PRIPPP conducts **training** in:

- Paravet training
- Animal Health Surveillance Training
- Disease outbreak investigation training
- Short Field Epidemiology Training Programme (“Data for Decision Making” type of training)

PRIPPP provides **technical advice** and **support** to

- Assist with the development of infection control strategies
- Assist with surveillance and response planning
- Assist with the development of procurement and stockpile strategies for key and emergency supplies
- Assist with the development of SOPs for relevant aspects of response plans
- Assist with the development of communications plans.

Those interested in any of the assistance or training outlined above should contact the PRIPPP management team.

### Meetings & Networks

The project is guided by the Pacific Avian and Pandemic Influenza Taskforce (PAPITaF) which had its last meeting in November 2008.

### Grants

PRIPPP has a Small Grants Facility to allow PICTs direct access to funds up to \$AU45,000 to build national response capacity for avian and pandemic influenza. The PRIPPP Project Coordinator will be the primary contact point for information and management of the Grants.

Applications will need to demonstrate that proposed activities are directly in line with the goals, purpose and objectives of PRIPPP.

There is a two-stage process to apply for funding. Firstly, proposing organisations should fill out a two page Expression of Interest (EOI) form, available from Ms Jennie Fischer ([jennief@spc.int](mailto:jennief@spc.int)). Completed forms should be sent to the Project Coordinator, who will circulate them to members of the PRIPPP team for feedback against the requirements of the guidelines.

Selected applications will be asked to develop a full proposal for further evaluation. Applications that are not successful will be returned with comments and may be revised for later funding rounds.