Yellow fever

Reporting on 2014 data retrieved from TESSy* on 19 November 2015

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Key facts

- In 2014, no cases of yellow fever were reported in EU/EEA countries.

Methods

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- Data were obtained from 29 EU/EEA countries, with the exception of Liechtenstein and Iceland.

- 22 countries used the EU case definition, four countries used an alternative case definition, and three countries did not specify the definition they used.

- Surveillance is compulsory in 27 EU/EEA countries, comprehensive, and mostly passive (active in Belgium, the Czech Republic and Slovakia). Data reporting is case-based and at done the national level (Annex).

Epidemiology

No cases of yellow fever were reported in EU/EEA countries in 2014.

Discussion

Yellow fever is endemic in several countries in Africa and South America [1]. According to WHO, there are an estimated 200 000 cases of yellow fever, causing 30 000 deaths, worldwide each year, with 90% occurring in Africa. The yellow fever burden in Africa was estimated for the year 2013 as 130 000 cases with fever and jaundice or haemorrhage (95% CI 51 000–380 000), including 78 000 deaths (95% CI 19 000–180 000) [2].

In 2014, only 21 cases of yellow fever and 12 deaths were reported: the Democratic Republic of Congo reported two outbreaks involving seven cases, Brazil one case, and Peru reported 13 cases, including 12 deaths [3]. In 2013, 230 cases of yellow fever (including 85 deaths) were reported to WHO from four African countries (206 cases and 69 deaths, mainly from Ethiopia and Sudan, but also from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Cameroon) and from two countries in South America (23 cases and 15 deaths from Peru and Colombia) [4]. Large immunisation campaigns were carried out in the affected areas [4]. However, the capacity of these countries to implement vaccination campaigns is limited due to a worldwide shortage of vaccine supplies [3].

Public health conclusions

Vaccination is the most important preventive measure against yellow fever. The vaccine is safe, affordable and highly effective, and a single dose of yellow fever vaccine is sufficient to confer sustained immunity and lifelong protection against yellow fever disease. A booster dose of yellow fever vaccine is not needed. The vaccine provides effective immunity within 30 days for 99% of the vaccinated people [1].

References

1. World Health Organization. Factsheet: yellow fever 2014. Available from: http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs100/en/

2. Garske T, Van Kerkhove MD, Yactayo S, Ronveaux O, Lewis RF, Staples JE, et al. Yellow fever in Africa: estimating the burden of disease and impact of mass vaccination from outbreak and serological data. PLoS medicine. 2014 May;11(5):e1001638.

3. Yellow fever in Africa and the Americas, 2014. Wkly Epidemiol Rec. 2015 Jun 26;90(26):323-34.

4. Yellow fever in Africa and South America, 2013. Wkly Epidemiol Rec. 2014 Jul 4;89(27):297-306.

Additional information

ECDC Surveillance Atlas of Infectious Diseases

Annex

Table. Yellow fever, surveillance systems overview, 2014

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Table. Yellow fever, surveillance systems overview, 2014

	Case definition	Reporting	Surveillance	Comprehensiveness	Representativeness	Sensitivity	Timeliness
Austria	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Belgium	EU	Case-based	Active	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Bulgaria	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Cyprus	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Czech Republic	EU	Case-based	Active	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Denmark	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Estonia	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Finland	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
France	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Germany	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Greece	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Hungary	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Ireland	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Italy	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Latvia	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Lithuania	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Luxembourg	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Malta	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Netherlands	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Poland	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Portugal	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Romania	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Slovakia	EU	Case-based	Active	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Slovenia	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Spain	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Sweden	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
United Kingdom	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Iceland	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Liechtenstein	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Norway	EU	Case-based	Mostly passive	Comprehensive	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

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* The European Surveillance System (TESSy) is a system for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on communicable diseases. EU Member States and EEA countries contribute to the system by uploading their infectious disease surveillance data at regular intervals.