



Luxembourg, 20 April 2018

## **Audio meeting of the Health Security Committee – 20 April 2018**

### **Flash report**

### **Outbreak of Dengue in La Reunion, France**

**Chair:** Wolfgang Philipp, Head of Unit, SANTE C3

**Audio participants:** BE, DK, DE, ES, FR, IE, IT, LT, MT, PT, SE, SI, SANTE C3, ECDC and ECHO.

The Chair welcomed the members of the Health Security Committee (HSC) as well as representatives from the ECDC and ECHO.

1. Outbreak of Dengue in La Reunion
2. AOB

#### ***1. Outbreak of Dengue in La Reunion***

SANTE organised an audio with the HSC to discuss a significant outbreak of Dengue is ongoing in La Reunion. Since the beginning of 2018 and as of 15 April, 1 388 autochthonous cases of Dengue were reported. This epidemic could still continue and intensify in the coming weeks.

ECDC gave an overview on the outbreak and presented the Rapid Risk Assessment (RRA), which was circulated to Member States on 13 April 2018. The ongoing Dengue outbreak in La Reunion is of unusual magnitude and driven by *Aedes albopictus*, a mosquito vector that is also widely distributed in the southern part of Europe. Further transmission is expected in La Reunion at least until the beginning of the austral winter (July to September). EU Member States, and particularly FR are well connected by air travel to La Reunion, and the current outbreak increases to some extent the probability of introduction of Dengue to the EU through travel-associated cases. However, imported cases of Dengue fever linked to travel to other global destinations are not infrequent in Europe. Dengue fever prevention is based on protection against mosquito bites (personal protective measures).

The HSC was updated on the epidemiological situation, as well as the response strategy and measures taken by the French Authorities, including active case finding;

intensification of vector control; reinforcement of communication to the public and healthcare workers; mobilisation of additional resources (e.g. firefighters).

The HSC discussed whether *Aedes albopictus* has shown any resistance to insecticides. Further information will be shared if available.

SANTE informed of the recent revision of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) recommendation on use of Dengue vaccine<sup>1</sup>, and the subsequent communication from the manufacturer<sup>2</sup>.

**SANTE will further observe the situation in collaboration with ECDC. SANTE will share any relevant material with the HSC, and eventually ask ECDC to consider further updating the RRA.**

## 2. AOB

ECHO updated the HSC on the Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism<sup>3</sup>.

SANTE invited Member States to share information on their actions on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) with the Commission, in occasion of the submission of the WHO global monitoring of country progress on addressing antimicrobial resistance - self-assessment questionnaire 2017-18.

SANTE thanked participants and closed the meeting.

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<sup>1</sup>[http://www.who.int/immunization/diseases/dengue/revised\\_SAGE\\_recommendations\\_dengue\\_vaccines\\_a\\_pr2018/en/](http://www.who.int/immunization/diseases/dengue/revised_SAGE_recommendations_dengue_vaccines_a_pr2018/en/)

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.sanofipasteur.com/media/Project/One-Sanofi-Web/sanofipasteur-com/en/media-room/docs/Company\\_Statement\\_on\\_SAGE\\_19042018\\_FINAL\\_EN.pdf](https://www.sanofipasteur.com/media/Project/One-Sanofi-Web/sanofipasteur-com/en/media-room/docs/Company_Statement_on_SAGE_19042018_FINAL_EN.pdf)

<sup>3</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/com-2017-772\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/com-2017-772_en)