

WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGY BULLETIN

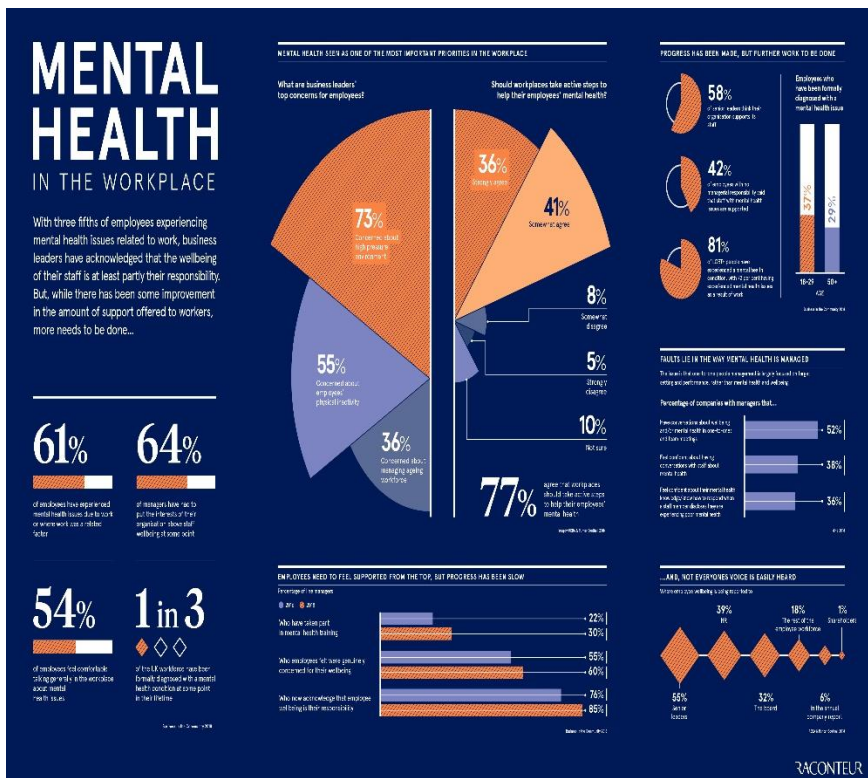
NATIONAL EPIDEMIOLOGY UNIT, MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS, JAMAICA

EPI WEEK 40

Mental Health

Overview: In recent years, there has been increasing acknowledgement of the important role mental health plays in achieving global development goals, as illustrated by the inclusion of mental health in the Sustainable Development Goals. Depression is one of the leading causes of disability. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 15-29-year-olds. People with severe mental health conditions die prematurely – as much as two decades early – due to preventable physical conditions. Despite progress in some countries, people with mental health conditions often experience severe human rights violations, discrimination, and stigma. Many mental health conditions can be effectively treated at relatively low cost, yet the gap between people needing care and those with access to care remains substantial. Effective treatment coverage remains extremely low. Increased investment is required on all fronts: for mental health awareness to increase understanding and reduce stigma; for efforts to increase access to quality mental health care and effective treatments; and for research to identify new treatments and improve existing treatments for all mental disorders. In 2019, WHO launched the WHO Special Initiative for Mental Health (2019-2023): Universal Health Coverage for Mental Health to ensure access to quality and affordable care for mental health conditions in 12 priority countries to 100 million more people.

Burden: Mental health conditions are increasing worldwide. Mainly because of demographic changes, there has been a 13% rise in mental health conditions and substance use disorders in the last decade (to 2017). Mental health conditions now cause 1 in 5 years lived with disability. Around 20% of the world’s children and adolescents have a mental health condition, with suicide the second leading cause of death among 15-29-year-olds. Approximately one in five people in post-conflict settings have a mental health condition. Mental health conditions can have a substantial effect on all areas of life, such as school or work performance, relationships with family and friends and ability to participate in the community. Two of the most common mental health conditions, depression and anxiety, cost the global economy US\$ 1 trillion each year. Despite these figures, the global median of government health expenditure that goes to mental health is less than 2%.



https://www.who.int/health-topics/landslides#tab=tab_1



SYNDROMES

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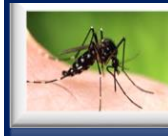
CLASS 1 DISEASES

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INFLUENZA

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DENGUE FEVER

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GASTROENTERITIS

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RESEARCH PAPER

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SENTINEL SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

Sentinel Surveillance in Jamaica



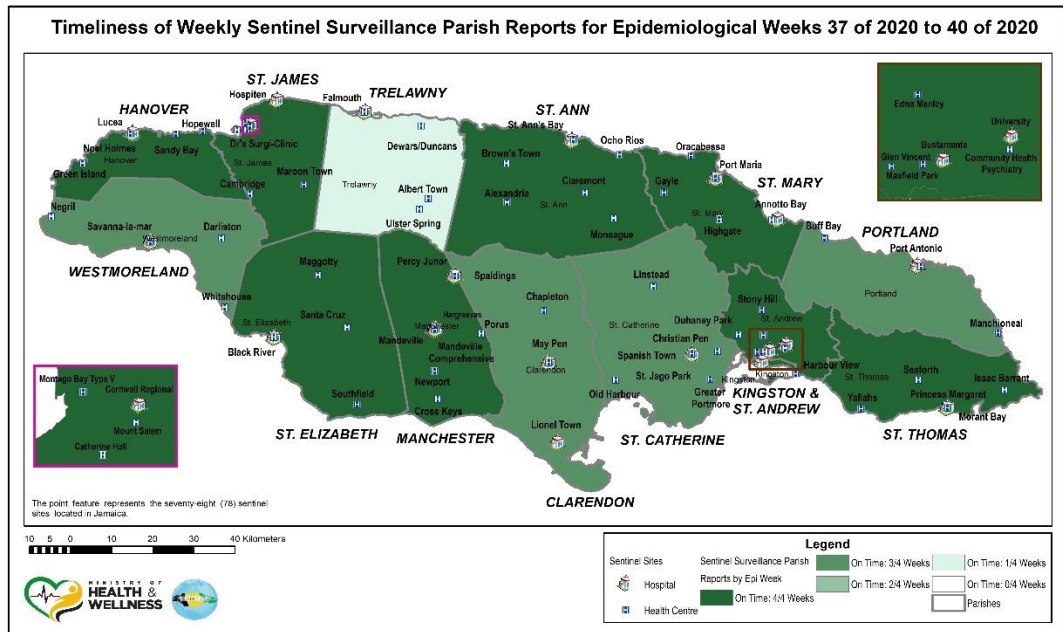
A syndromic surveillance system is good for early detection of and response to public health events.

Sentinel surveillance occurs when selected health facilities (sentinel sites) form a network that reports on certain health conditions on a regular basis, for example, weekly. Reporting is mandatory whether or not there are cases to report.

Jamaica's sentinel surveillance system concentrates on visits to sentinel sites for health events and syndromes of national importance which are reported weekly (see pages 2 -4). There are seventy-eight (78) reporting sentinel sites (hospitals and health centres) across Jamaica.

Map representing the Timeliness of Weekly Sentinel Surveillance Parish Reports for the Four Most Recent Epidemiological Weeks - 37 to 40 of 2020

Parish health departments submit reports weekly by 3 p.m. on Tuesdays. Reports submitted after 3 p.m. are considered late.



REPORTS FOR SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

FEVER

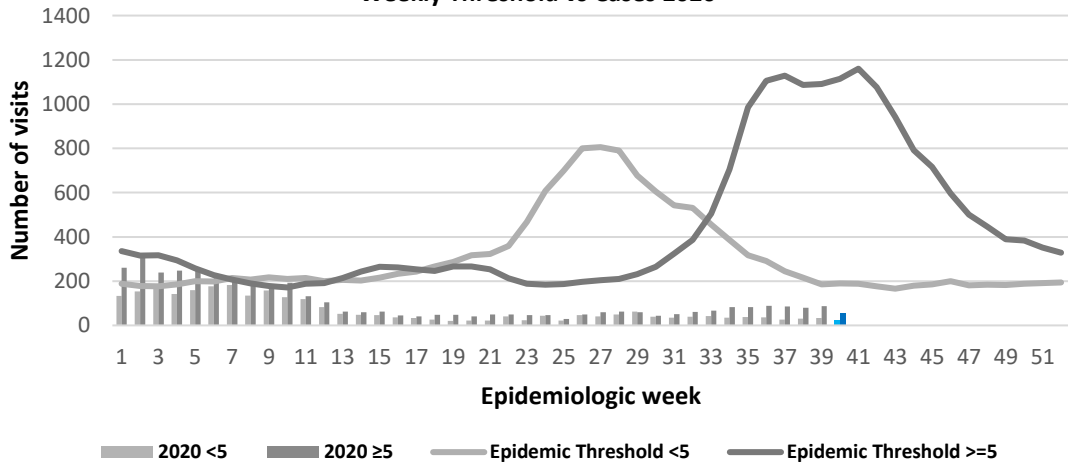
Temperature of $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ / 100.4°F (or recent history of fever) with or without an obvious diagnosis or focus of infection.



KEY

VARIATIONS OF BLUE SHOW CURRENT WEEK

Weekly Visits to Sentinel Sites for Undifferentiated Fever All ages: Jamaica, Weekly Threshold vs Cases 2020



2 NOTIFICATIONS- All clinical sites



INVESTIGATION REPORTS- Detailed Follow up for all Class One Events



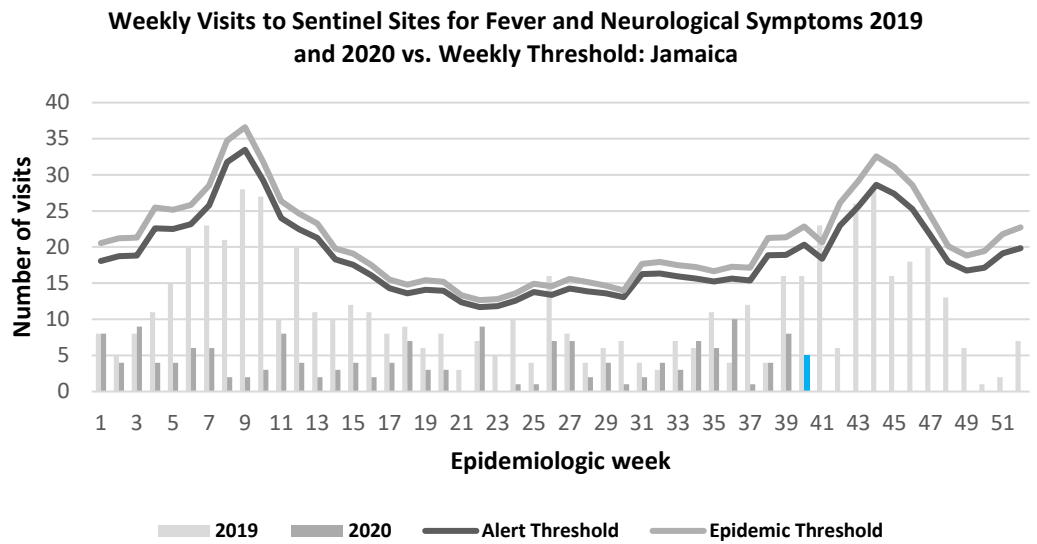
HOSPITAL ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE- 30 sites. Actively pursued



SENTINEL REPORT- 78 sites. Automatic reporting

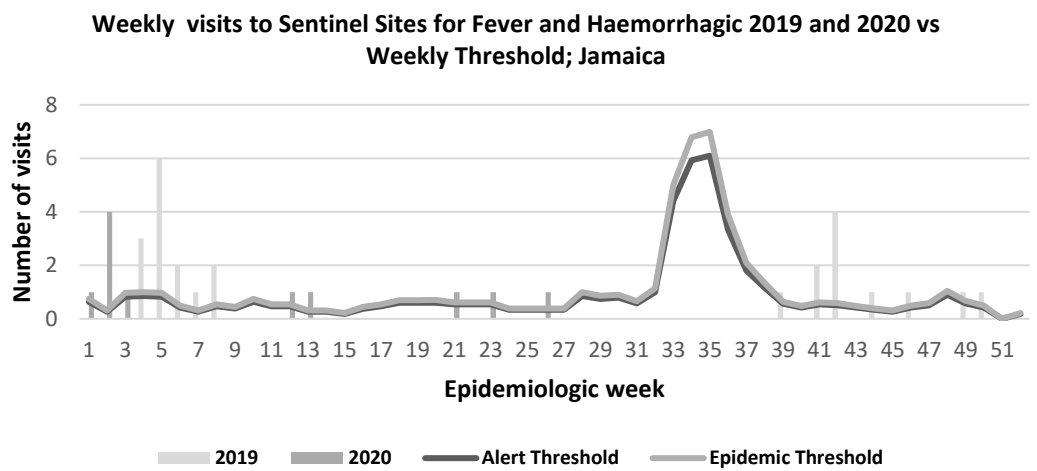
FEVER AND NEUROLOGICAL

Temperature of $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ / 100.4°F (or recent history of fever) in a previously healthy person with or without headache and vomiting. The person must also have meningeal irritation, convulsions, altered consciousness, altered sensory manifestations or paralysis (except AFP).



FEVER AND HAEMORRHAGIC

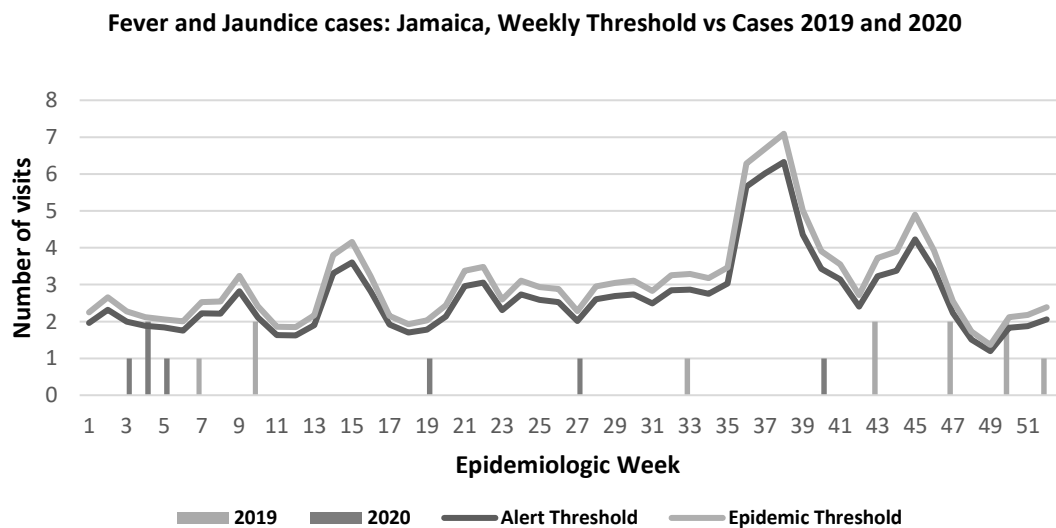
Temperature of $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ / 100.4°F (or recent history of fever) in a previously healthy person presenting with at least one haemorrhagic (bleeding) manifestation with or without jaundice.



FEVER AND JAUNDICE

Temperature of $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ / 100.4°F (or recent history of fever) in a previously healthy person presenting with jaundice.

The epidemic threshold is used to confirm the emergence of an epidemic in order to implement control measures. It is calculated using the mean reported cases per week plus 2 standard deviations.



3 NOTIFICATIONS-
All clinical sites



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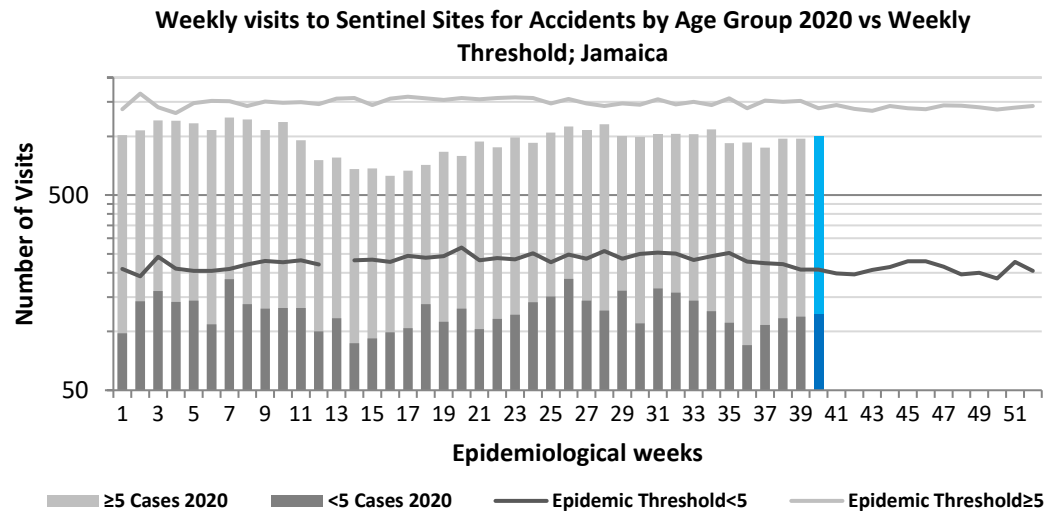
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ACCIDENTS

Any injury for which the cause is unintentional, e.g. motor vehicle, falls, burns, etc.

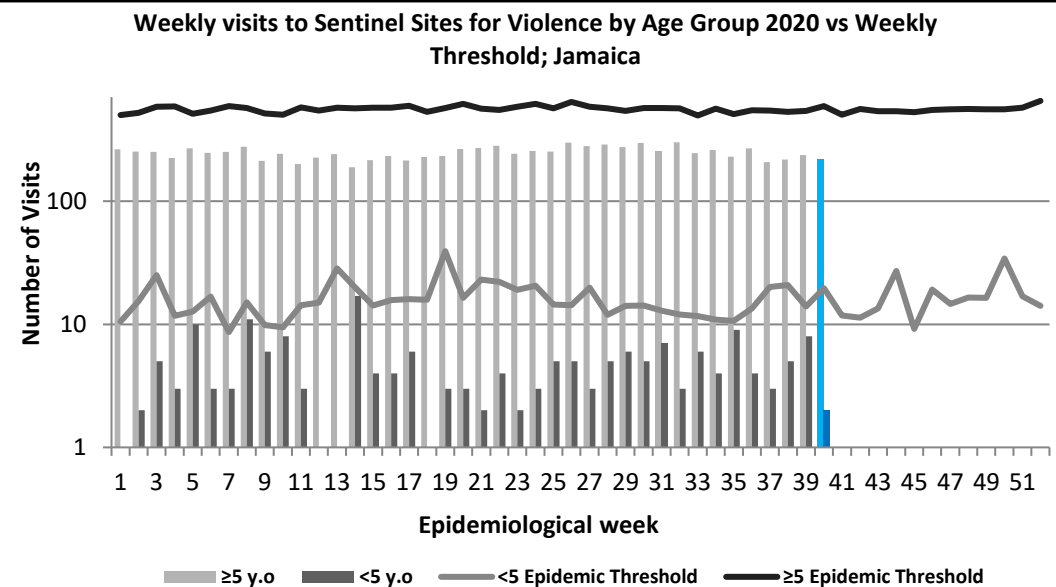
KEY

VARIATIONS OF BLUE SHOW CURRENT WEEK



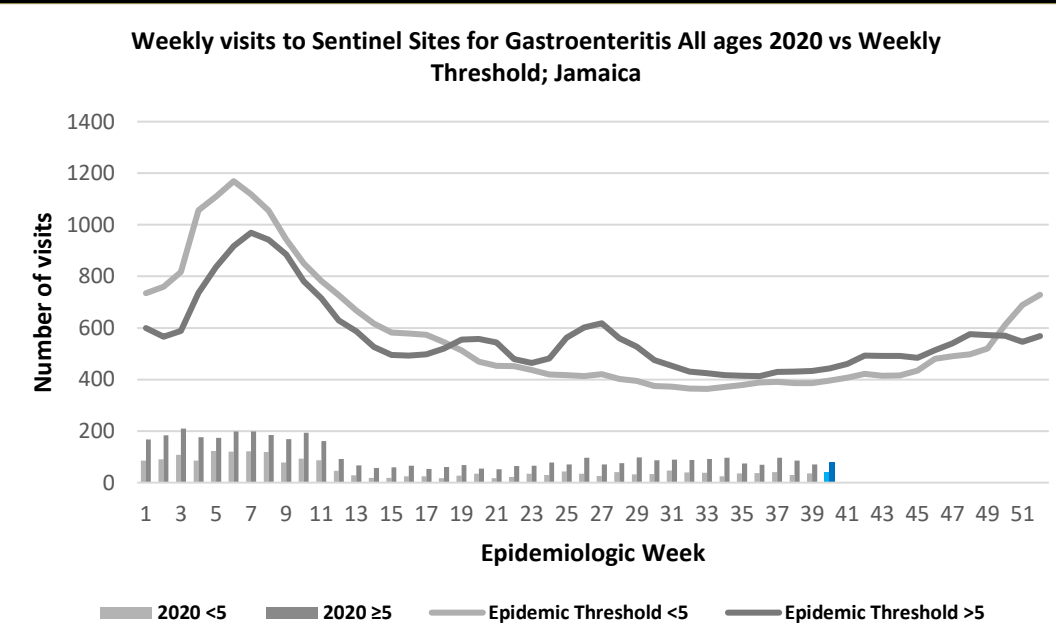
VIOLENCE

Any injury for which the cause is intentional, e.g. gunshot wounds, stab wounds, etc.



GASTROENTERITIS

Inflammation of the stomach and intestines, typically resulting from bacterial toxins or viral infection and causing vomiting and diarrhoea.



4 NOTIFICATIONS-
All clinical sites



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- CLASS ONE NOTIFIABLE EVENTS		Comments		
	CLASS 1 EVENTS	Confirmed YTD		
		CURRENT YEAR 2020	PREVIOUS YEAR 2019	
NATIONAL /INTERNATIONAL INTEREST	Accidental Poisoning	22	59	
	Cholera	0	0	
	Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever*	NA	NA	
	Hansen’s Disease (Leprosy)	0	0	
	Hepatitis B	0	11	
	Hepatitis C	0	2	
	HIV/AIDS	NA	NA	
	Malaria (Imported)	0	0	
	Meningitis (Clinically confirmed)	1	20	
EXOTIC/ UNUSUAL	Plague	0	0	
HIGH MORBIDITY/ MORTALITY	Meningococcal Meningitis	0	0	
	Neonatal Tetanus	0	0	
	Typhoid Fever	0	0	
	Meningitis H/Flu	0	0	
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES	AFP/Polio	0	0	
	Congenital Rubella Syndrome	0	0	
	Congenital Syphilis	0	0	
	Fever and Rash	Measles	0	0
		Rubella	0	0
	Maternal Deaths**	30	52	
	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	23	161	
	Pertussis-like syndrome	0	0	
	Rheumatic Fever	0	0	
	Tetanus	0	0	
	Tuberculosis	26	48	
Yellow Fever	0	0		
Chikungunya***	0	2		
Zika Virus****	0	0		

AFP Field Guides from WHO indicate that for an effective surveillance system, detection rates for AFP should be 1/100,000 population under 15 years old (6 to 7) cases annually.

Pertussis-like syndrome and Tetanus are clinically confirmed classifications.

* Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever data include Dengue related deaths;


** Figures include all deaths associated with pregnancy reported for the period. * 2019 YTD figure was updated.

*** CHIKV IgM positive cases




**** Zika PCR positive cases

NA- Not Available

 5 NOTIFICATIONS- All clinical sites

 INVESTIGATION REPORTS- Detailed Follow up for all Class One Events

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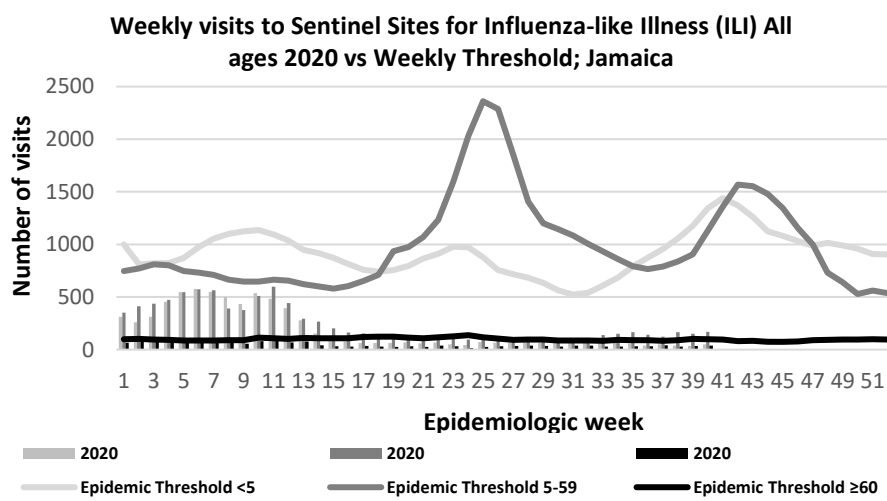
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NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE UNIT INFLUENZA REPORT

EW 40

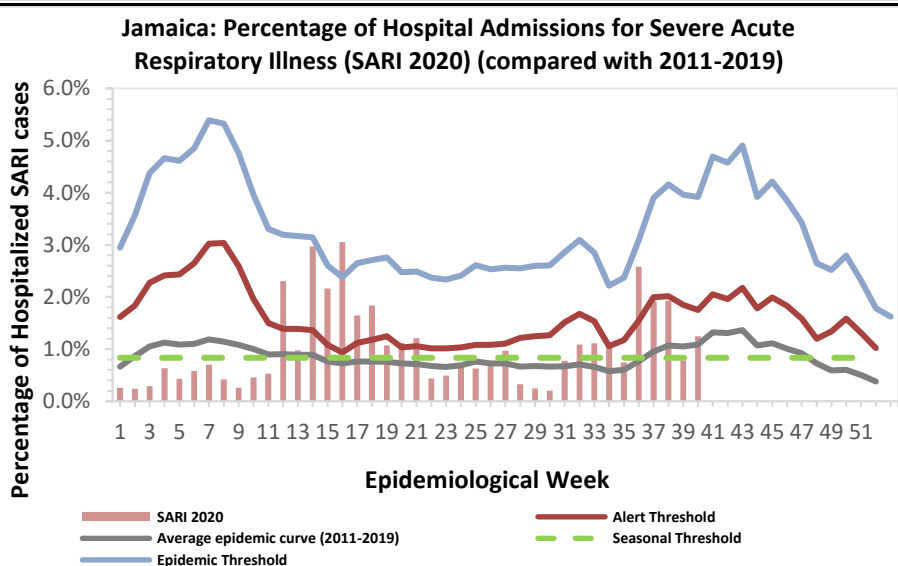
September 27, 2020 -October 03, 2020 Epidemiological Week 40

	EW 39	YTD
SARI cases	17	540
Total Influenza positive Samples	0	69
Influenza A	0	45
H3N2	0	4
H1N1pdm09	0	38
Not subtyped	0	3
Influenza B	0	24
Parainfluenza	0	0



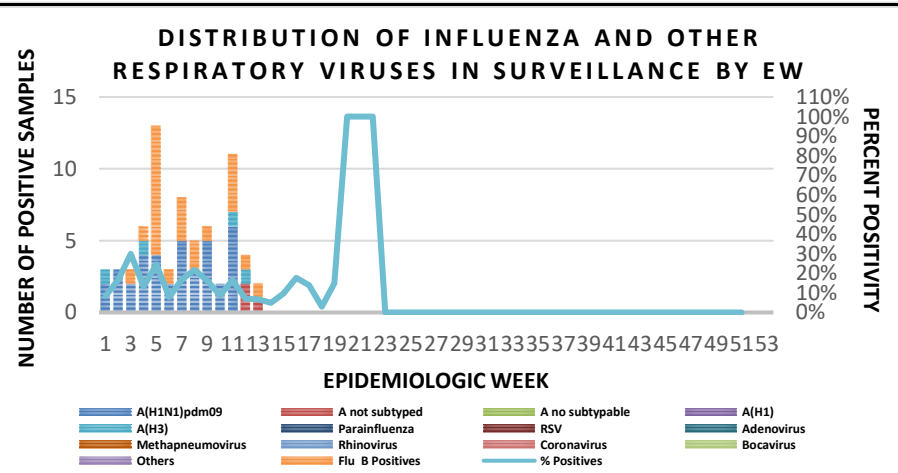
Epi Week Summary

During EW 40, 17 (seventeen) SARI admissions were reported.



Caribbean Update EW 40

Caribbean: Influenza and other respiratory virus activity remained low in the subregion. In Haiti and Jamaica SARI activity continue at epidemic levels.



6 NOTIFICATIONS-
All clinical sites



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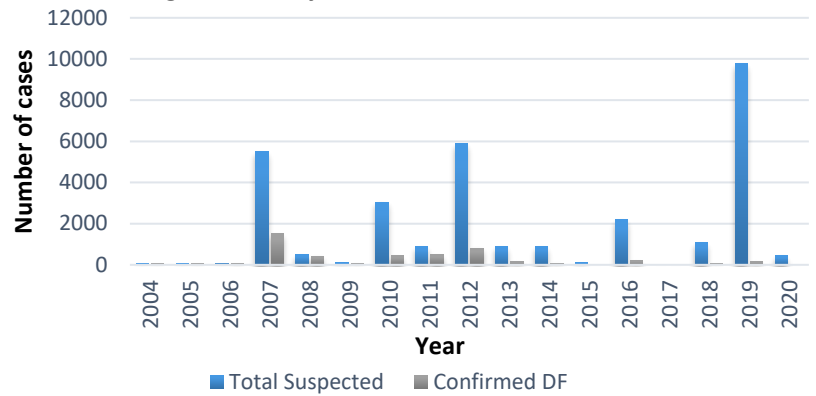
Dengue Bulletin

September 27, 2020 – October 03, 2020 Epidemiological Week 40

Epidemiological Week 40



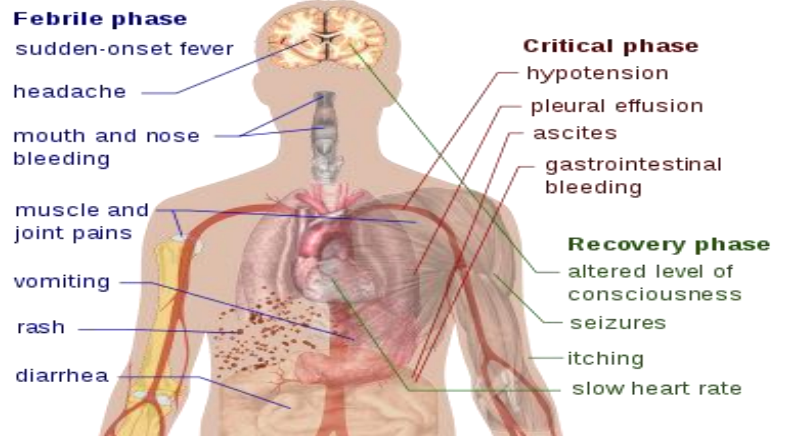
Dengue Cases by Year: 2004-2020, Jamaica



Reported suspected and confirmed dengue with symptom onset in week 40 of 2020

	2020	
	EW 40	YTD
Total Suspected Dengue Cases	0**	749**
Lab Confirmed Dengue cases	0**	1**
CONFIRMED Dengue Related Deaths	0**	1**

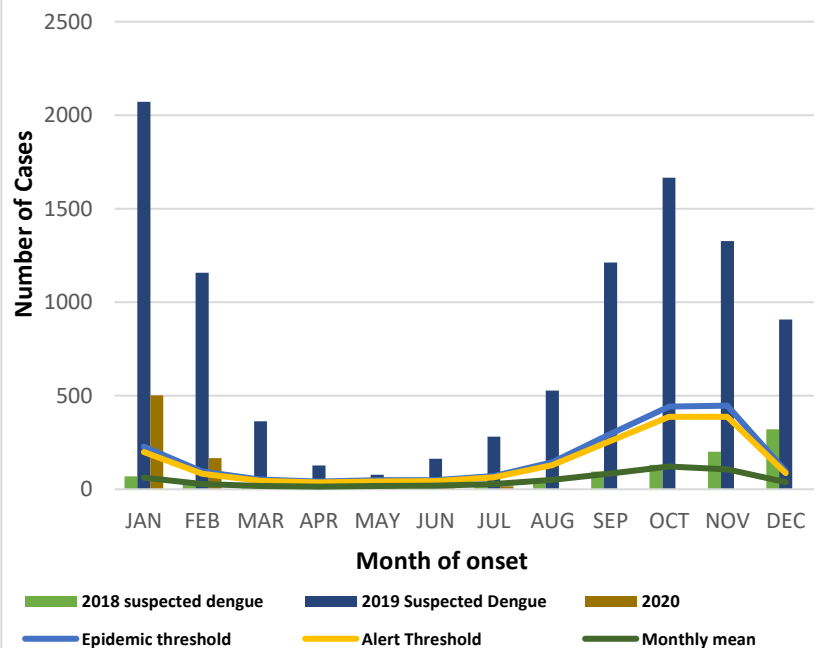
Symptoms of Dengue fever



Points to note:

- ** figure as at October 16, 2020
- Only PCR positive dengue cases are reported as confirmed.
- IgM positive cases are classified as presumed dengue.

Suspected dengue cases for 2018 and 2019 versus monthly mean, alert, and epidemic thresholds



7 NOTIFICATIONS-
All clinical sites



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RESEARCH PAPER

ABSTRACT

Mental Health Awareness training in courses such as First Aid for Mental Health can act as a means of early intervention, treatment, prevention and help to change societal views, especially amongst youths and professionals who can influence change.

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Aim: Stigma and the lack of mental health awareness training shape societal views of mental illness in Jamaica. Many do not know the causes, signs and how to help. As a result, minor mental health conditions escalate into crisis. However, First Aid for Mental Health training can help. It's simple, non-clinical form can be delivered by a qualified instructor and is suitable for all, including the police and youths. Policy change can support this, but the benefits have not been explored. This study aims to explore the benefits of First Aid for Mental Health awareness training, as a means of early intervention, prevention, treatment and destigmatization.

Method: The paper is a review of secondary quantitative and qualitative data, peer-reviewed articles, and recent newspaper articles. The study can be expanded on with primary data.

Results: Fear and danger are the common perceptions of people with mental illness. Awareness training is attached to crisis cases and is carried out by the MOH, through integrated community healthcare, but they are stretched. The police and young people should be trained as they are more likely to be at risk. An enforcing of the Occupational, Health and Safety Act 2017 would make mental health as important as First Aid.

Conclusion: Mental health awareness training is needed to counter perceptions held. Accessing community healthcare training happens only if individuals have experienced a crisis, therefore, enforcing the OHS would include training in workplaces and schools, which is the environment the police and youths would better receive it.

Keywords: mental health, fear, community healthcare.



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8 NOTIFICATIONS-
All clinical
sites



INVESTIGATION
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