Introduction

The Epidemiology Bureau (EB) is mandated to oversee disease surveillance functions. It established the Philippine Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (PIDS) system in 2007 under which the bacterial meningitis (BM) and acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) surveillance falls.

BM is an illness clinically characterized by fever, neck stiffness, altered consciousness and other meningeal signs such as bulging fontanelle, Kernig’s and/or Brudzinski’s sign. Majority of the bacterial meningitis affecting young children are caused by three vaccine-preventable organisms: Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib), Streptococcus pneumoniae and Neisseria meningitidis. In the Philippines, the surveillance system targets bacterial meningitis of all age groups. These organisms cause severe invasive disease affecting the central nervous system (CNS) (meningitis), lungs (pneumonia) and blood (sepsis).

Meanwhile, AES is an illness clinically characterized by fever, change in mental status and/or new onset of seizures (excluding simple febrile seizures in children). This is used as a surrogate syndrome for Japanese Encephalitis (JE) cases in surveillance. In the Philippines, JE has been detected in swine and mosquitoes, respectively.

In 2014, an integrated surveillance for Acute Meningitis-Encephalitis Syndrome (AMES) Surveillance was initiated because both AES and BM present as acute central nervous system (CNS) infections with overlapping case presentations. This may result in difficulties in distinguishing the two syndromes. As such, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) is important in the diagnosis and laboratory confirmation of both disorders.

NOTE: Disease counts reported here do NOT represent the final number and are subject to change after inclusion of delayed reports and review of cases.
Trend

A total of 40 AMES suspected cases were reported from selected sentinel sites from January 1 to 17, 2016 (Figure 1). This is 21% higher compared to the same period last year (33). Of these, 36 (90%) specimens (CSF, Serum 1 &2) were collected and 4 (10%) without specimen. Of the collected specimens, there was 1 (3%) laboratory confirmed Japanese Encephalitis case, 18 (50%) cases with negative laboratory results and 17 (47%) pending results.

Geographic distribution

The distribution of suspected AMES cases varied considerably among the sentinel sites (Figure 2). Most of the reported cases were from Jose B. Lingad Memorial Hospital (20%), Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (15%) and Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (15%) (Figure 2).

Profile of cases

Most of the suspected AMES cases were among 1 to 10 years old (24%) (Figure 3). Fifty-five percent of the suspected AMES cases were male (Figure 3). Among the suspected AMES cases, 20% received vaccinations which are measles vaccine, MMR and Haemophilus Influenza type b and 80% did not receive any immunization (Figure 4). Two among the suspected AMES died (CFR=5.00).

Figure 1. Suspected AMES Cases by Morbidity Week, Philippines, as of January 16, 2016 2016* vs 2015 (N=40)

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FIGURE 2. REPORTED AMES CASES AND LABORATORY RESULTS BY SENTINEL, PHILIPPINES, JANUARY 1 – 16, 2016 (N=40)

Note: Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) and serum (acute and convalescent phase) are collected and tested in RITM to confirm the diagnosis (see list of AMES sentinel sites in the last page)

FIGURE 3. AMES CASES BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, PHILIPPINES JANUARY 1 – 16, 2016 (N=40)
FIGURE 4. NUMBER OF IMMUNIZED AMONG SUSPECTED ACES CASES BY AGE GROUP
PHILIPPINES, 2016 (n=8)

FIGURE 5. SUSPECTED ACUTE MENINGITIS ENCEPHALITIS SYNDROME DEATHS, JANUARY 1-16, 2016

REGION | CASES
---|---
Region 1 | 0
Region 2 | 0
Region 3 | 1
Region 4A | 0
Region 4B | 0
Region 5 | 0
Region 6 | 0
Region 7 | 1
Region 8 | 0
Region 9 | 0
Region 10 | 0
Region 11 | 0
ARMM | 0
CAR | 0
CARAGA | 0
NCR | 0
TOTAL | 2

LEGEND
1 Dot = 1 Case

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AMES Sentinel Site</th>
<th>Number of Suspected AMES Cases</th>
<th>3(100%)</th>
<th>3(100%)</th>
<th>3(100%)</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1(33%)</th>
<th>2(67%)</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1(100%)</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
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<th>0</th>
<th>0</th>
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<td>Ilocos Training Regional Medical Center</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3(100%)</td>
<td>3(100%)</td>
<td>3(100%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3(100%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>3(100%)</td>
<td>3(100%)</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>5(63%)</td>
<td>4(80%)</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>5(100%)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1(13%)</td>
<td>7(87%)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3(100%)</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>1(100%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1(100%)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Western Visayas Medical Center</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>6(100%)</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>1(20%)</td>
<td>1(20%)</td>
<td>3(60%)</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>1(20%)</td>
<td>3(60%)</td>
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<td>2(50%)</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>4(100%)</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>2(67%)</td>
<td>1(33%)</td>
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<td>3(50%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5(83%)</td>
<td>1(17%)</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>40</strong></td>
<td><strong>33(82%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>27(82%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>26(79%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>1(3%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>17(51%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>15(45%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>33</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
<td><strong>8(38%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>12(57%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
<td><strong>3(37%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>4(50%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.00</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: All cases with dengue result; samples not tested and with no sample are not included in the classification as positive, negative or pending (n1, n2, n3)

2SPMC: 1 Dengue case, 3 SPMC: 1 Dengue case
*P-Positive, N-Negative and Pn-Pending

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CASE DEFINITION of Acute Meningitis-Encephalitis Surveillance

A combined case definition for BM and AES surveillance shall be used. Suspected cases will be captured through the standard case definition of Acute Meningitis-Encephalitis Surveillance System (which includes meningitis, encephalitis, and overlapping cases)

A case of suspected Acute Meningitis-Encephalitis is a person of any age, WITH a sudden onset of fever, plus one of the following:

- change in mental status (including altered consciousness, confusion, or inability to talk)
- new onset of seizures
- neck stiffness
- other meningeal sign

Selected Sentinel Sites of Acute Meningitis-Encephalitis Surveillance
Region I- Ilocos Training Regional Medical Center  
Region II- Cagayan Valley Medical Center  
Region III- Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital  
Region V- Bicol Medical Center  
Region VI- Western Visayas Medical Center  
Region VII- Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center  
Region XI- Southern Philippines Medical Center  
Region NCR- Philippine Children’s Medical Center  
Region CAR- Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center

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