

Influenza Situation report No.3 12 August 2022.

The Ministry of Health would like to update on the Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) cases in Vanuatu. From 1 to 7 August, the National Surveillance unit recorded 474 Influenza like Illness cases. The number of new cases decreased nationally by 47% from the previous week.

Total suspected Influenza like Illness cases recorded is 9845; 38% from Sanma province, 30 % from Shefa Province, 12% from Penama Province, 8% from Tafea province, 7% from Torba province and 5% from Malampa Province.

To date, nine (9) Cases has been hospitalised, all have underlying conditions. No deaths reported during the reporting period.

The Ministry of Health recorded the number of cases documented has now dropped below the alert threshold for the last two weeks and therefore, the **Outbreak is now declared over**.

Signs and symptoms.

Influenza is characterized by a sudden onset of fever, cough (usually dry), headache, muscle and joint pain, severe malaise (feeling unwell), sore throat and a runny nose. The cough can be severe and can last 2 or more weeks.

Most people recover from fever and other symptoms within a week without requiring medical attention. But severe illness or death can result, especially in people at high risk. These include pregnant women, children under 5 years-old, the elderly, individuals with underlying medical conditions (such as chronic cardiac, pulmonary, renal, metabolic, neurodevelopmental, liver or hematologic diseases) and immunosuppressed individuals. Health care workers are at high risk of acquiring influenza due to increased exposure to patients.

Prevention.

Therefore, the Ministry of Health continues to advise people that those who are sick stay home to avoid infecting others. Other public health and social measures put in place for COVID-19 can also prevent other respiratory illnesses. These include: frequent handwashing with soap and water, avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth, covering coughs and sneezes, physical distancing, meeting in well ventilated areas, and avoiding crowds.

Immunization is the most effective measure against influenza. People who are at high risk including those with underlying medical condition and those who are 55 years old and above are encouraged to receive an influenza vaccine. While the Ministry of Health is not conducting an influenza vaccination program, these may be accessed through private clinics and pharmacies for a fee.

Signature:





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Note to editors

For more information go to:

- [Your closest health facility]
- Ministry of Health, Health Promotions Vanuatu Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/Health-Promotions-Vanuatu-167426667566197/>

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