EWARS Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin: Syrian Arab Republic
Epi week 31 (26th July to 1st August 2020)

Highlights

- A total of 221,963 consultations were recorded in all the 14 governorates in week 31.
- The leading causes of morbidity among all age groups influenza-like illnesses (41.9%) and acute diarrhea (38.6%).
- 5 acute flaccid paralysis case were reported from Daraa (2), and one case in each of Tartous, Rural Damascus, and Hama.
- 24 suspected measles cases were reported during week 31. the blood specimens of 12 cases were collected and tested at the reference laboratory in Damascus. The laboratory result showed all negative for measles.
- Increase in SARI cases by 46.7% to previous week. Number of cases in week 31 was 292 SARI cases.
- During week 31, MoH reported 153 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Syria. Noting that COVID-19 has not been included with EWARS notified diseases. Instead the MOH initiated an independent surveillance structure for COVID-19, however, plan is in place to integrate COVID-19 surveillance with EWARS.

Performance Indicators

- A total of 1,122 out of 1,300 active reporting sites (86.3%) in all 14 governorates of Syria reported through EWARS, with 57% timeliness among those sites providing data during week 31 (Figure 1). The decrease in timelines and completeness of reporting is related to Eid Adha holiday.

Figure1: Completeness and Timeliness of Reporting till week 31, 2020

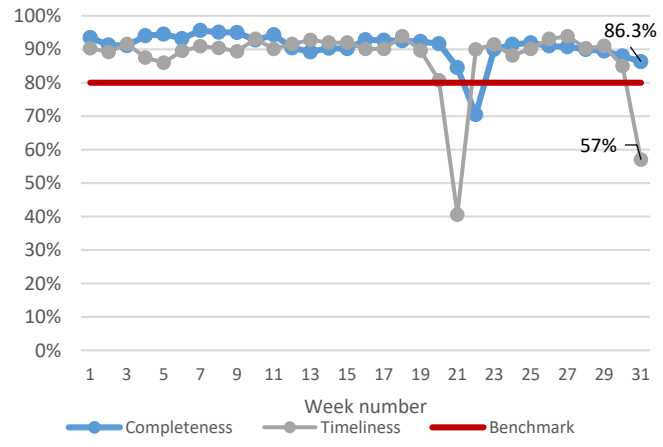
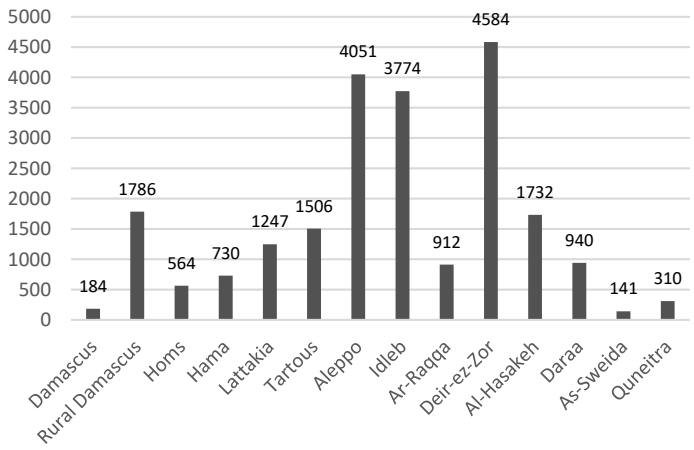


Figure 2: Number of reported cases through EWARS by governorate (week 31 2020)



Morbidity

- A total of 221,963 consultations were recorded in 1,122 health facilities in 14 governorates in week 31, 2020. Among them, 22,461 cases were EWARS notifiable health conditions (Figure 2).
- Among all age groups, the leading causes of morbidity influenza-like illnesses (ILI) (41.9%), and acute diarrhea (AD) (38.6%).
- Of the 22,461 total reported cases, 51.1% (11,475) were female, and 42.5% (9,562) were children under 5 years old.
- Among children under 5 years of age, 48.2% of cases are ILI, and AD representing 35.6% of the cases during this reporting period (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Proportional morbidity by age group in week 31, 2020

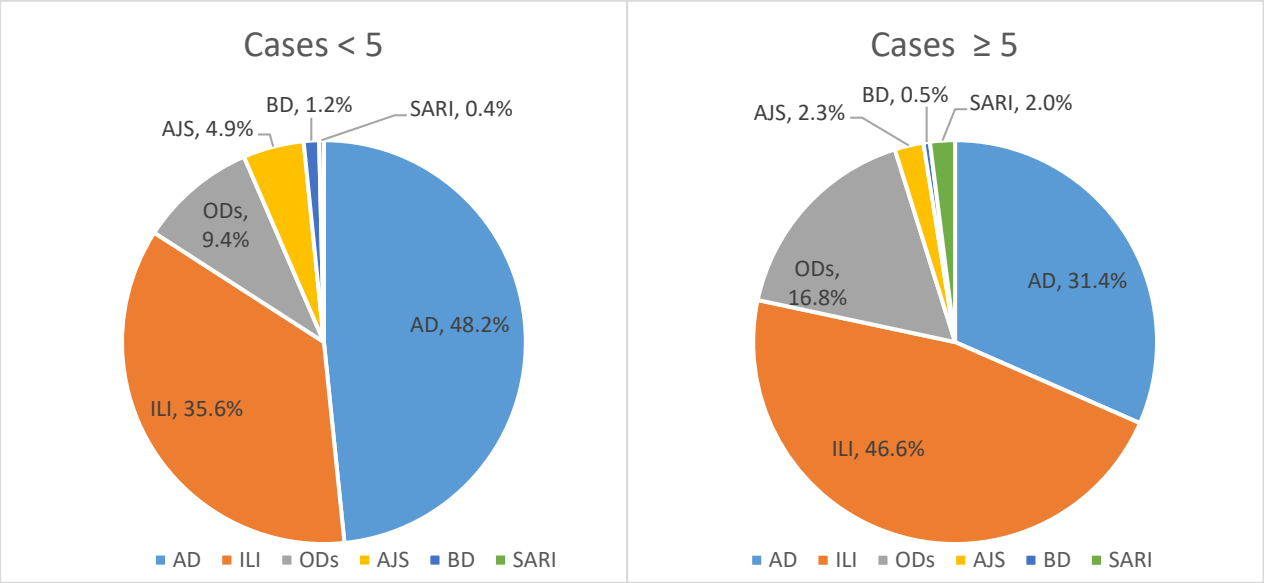
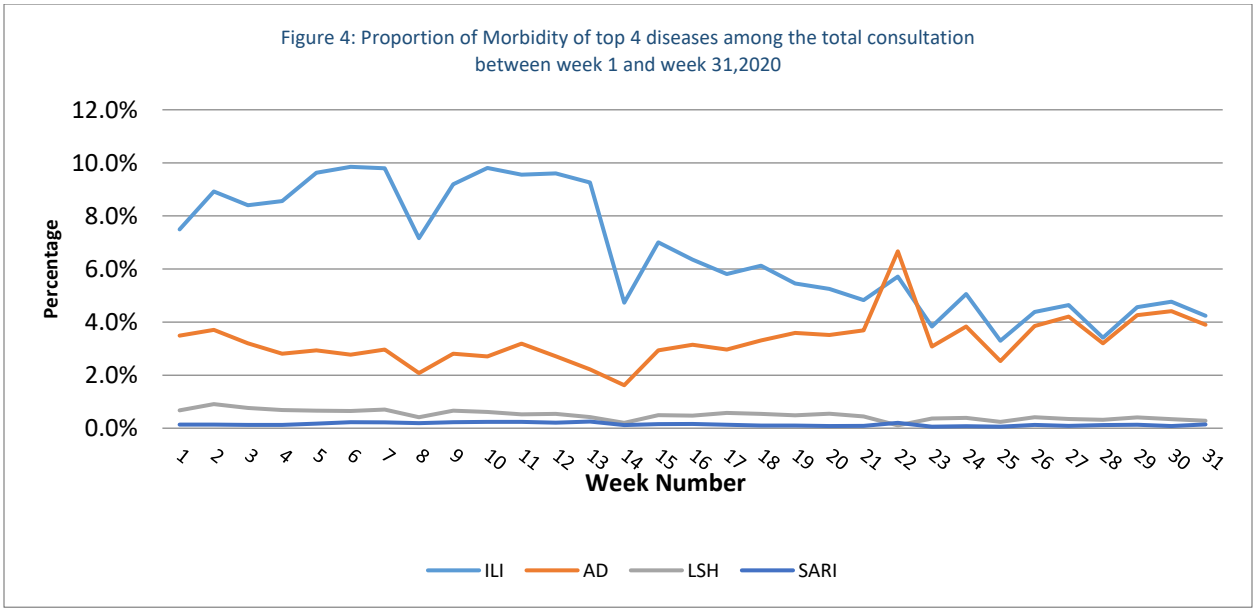


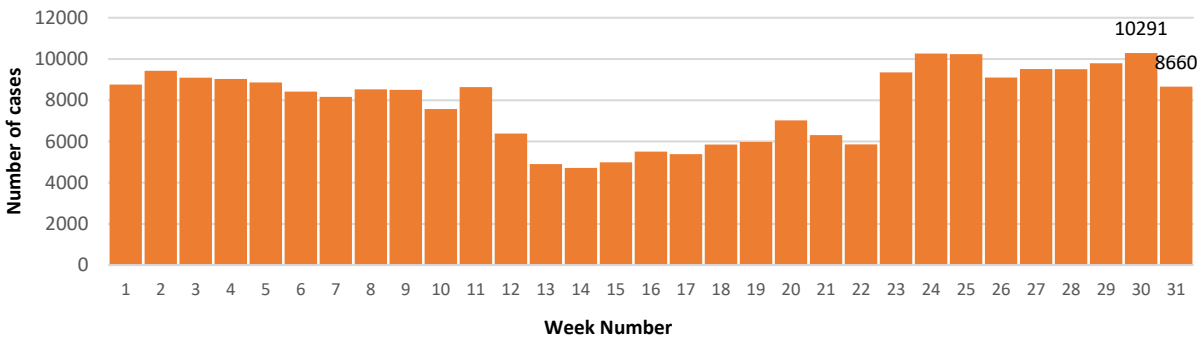
Figure 4: Proportion of Morbidity of top 4 diseases among the total consultation between week 1 and week 31,2020



1. Waterborne Diseases

- There no case of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) in week 31.
- A total of 8,660 AD cases were reported during week 31. The cases in week 31 decreased by 15.8% to previous week (Figure 5)

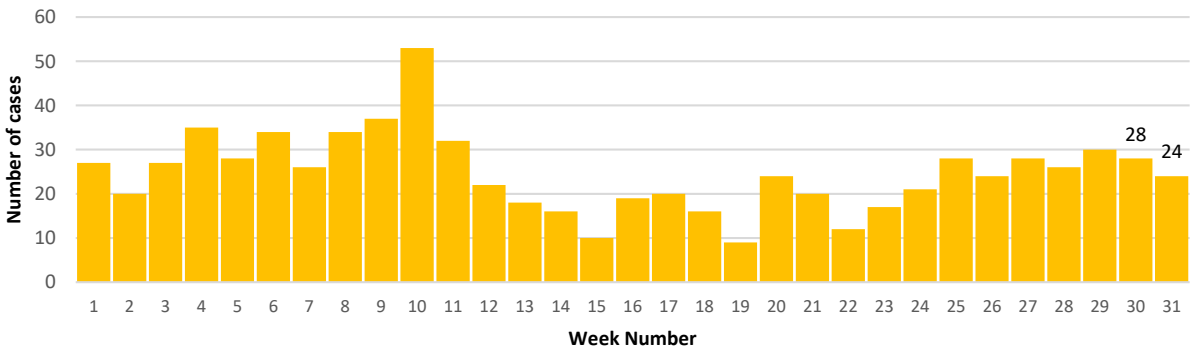
Figure 5: Number of acute diarrhea till week 31, 2020



2. Vaccine Preventable Diseases

- 5 case of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) were reported in week 31
- Number of suspected measles in week 31 was (24) cases. Most cases were reported from Idleb (12), Deir-ez-Zor(8), and Tartous(3) . The trend of SM cases shows slight decrease in week 31. (Figure 6)

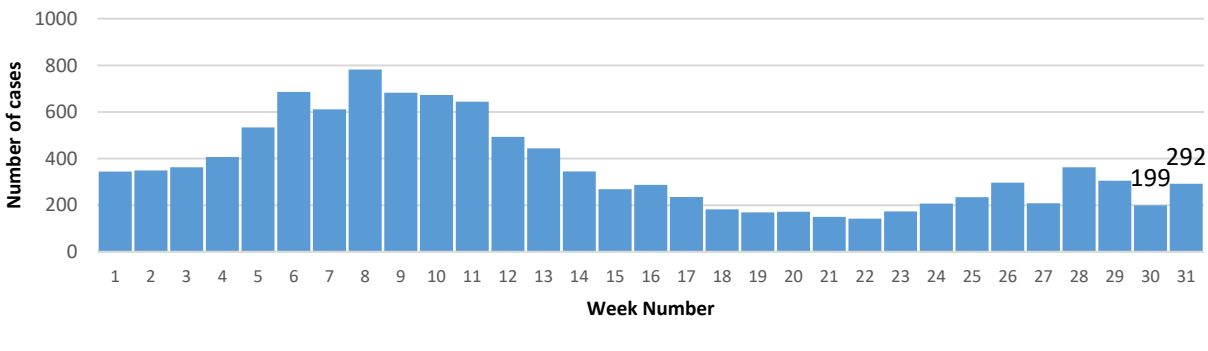
Figure 6: Number of suspected measles cases till week 21, 2020



3. Respiratory Diseases

- In total, 292 SARI cases were reported during week 31. SARI cases increased by 46.7% in week 31 comparing to previous week. (Figure 7)
- In total, 9,407 ILI cases were reported during week 31.

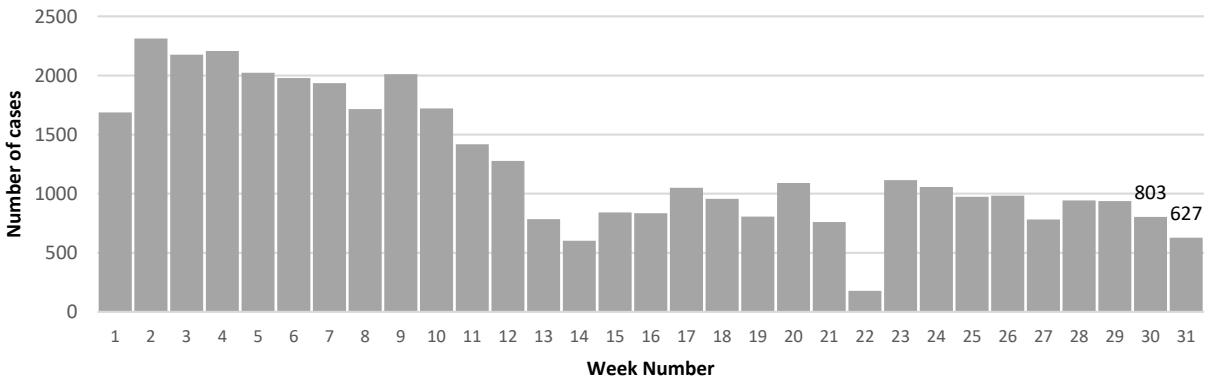
Figure 7: Number of SARI cases till week 21, 2020



4. Other Diseases

- 3,056 cases were reported as "other diseases" through EWARS. The health conditions with the highest incidents were lice (861), leishmaniasis (627), and scabies (285).
- During week 31, most of suspected leishmaniasis cases were reported from Aleppo (48.3%), Idleb (27.9%), and Deir-ez-Zor (15.0%). (Figure 8)

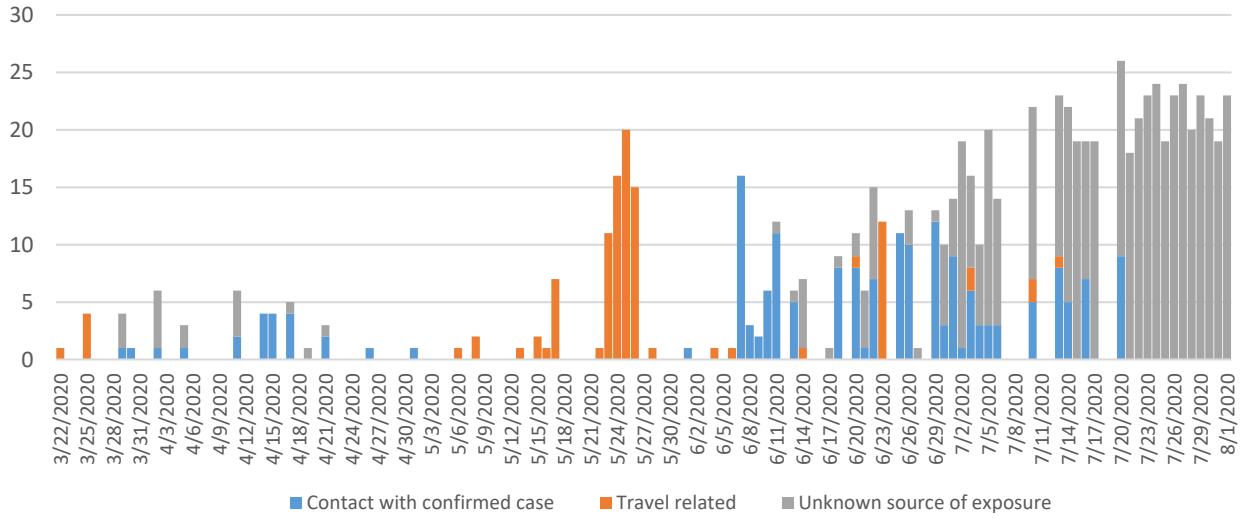
Figure 8: Number of suspected Leishmaniasis cases till week 31, 2020



5. COVID-19

- As of 1st of August 2020, a total of 780 cases - in 10 governorates, 445 (57.1%) in Damascus, 176 (22.6%) Rural Damascus, 39 (5%) in Qunitera, 34 (4.4%) Aleppo, 29 (3.7%) Lattakia, As-sweida 16 (2.1), 15 (1.9%) Homs, 12 (1.5%) Daraa, 10 (1.3%) Hama, 4 (0.5%) in Tartous.
- Number of deaths related to COVID-19 is 43 in 5 governorates, CFR 5.5%.
- 104 cases (13.3%) are travel related cases, 185 cases (23.7%) are contacts of confirmed cases, and 491 cases (62.9%) - unidentified source of exposure.

Fugure 9: EPI curve for COVID-19 positive cases by type of exposure as of 1 August 2020 (n=780)



Public Health Response Actions

Suspected measles

A total of 24 suspected measles cases was reported during week 30. All the cases were investigated by rapid response teams of the health directorates expect for cases reported from Adleb due to accessibility. The blood specimens from 12 suspected cases were collected and tested for IgM ELISA at the reference laboratory in Damascus. WHO supported the national measles laboratory with lab reagents needed for the diagnosis of measles.

Acute flaccid paralysis:

- The stool samples were collected and tested at the polio reference laboratory in Damascus, and the results showed the all case were negative for poliomyelitis.
- MoH in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF MoH in collaboration with WHO conducted Polio Immunization activities in high risk areas, in addition to areas of low immunization coverage between19 to 23 July 2020. vaccination activities were focused on NES (mainly Hassakeh, Der Ez Zor, Raqqa) Aleppo was also included in the campaign.
- The Ministry of Health targeted more than 948,300 children under 5. and 3044 vaccination teams were deployed for this campaign through 618 fixed sites and 2426 mobile teams. All IDPs camps in NES were part of the polio campaign.
- WHO supported mobile vaccination teams and conducted tent-to-tent visits to reach all children in those camps. The MOH reported 972,984 children received 2 drop of the Oral Polio Vaccine (bivalent) and the independent monitoring teams have estimated the coverage at 89% as per family recall and 78% as per Finger Marking.

Covid-19

- WHO supports to enhance laboratory capacity at central and sub-national level. Public laboratories in Damascus, Aleppo and Lattakia, and Homs have been supported with needed lab kits and supplies.
- WHO supported the Ministry of Health – Syria to develop and implement a sensitive Active Surveillance system for the early detection and investigation of COVID-19 cases admitted to hospitals. The ministry of health deployed 115 technical personnel to visit 125 prioritized health facilities on a weekly basis in 13 governorates. Moreover, Ministry of Health has deployed 111 Rapid Response Teams as well for active case search, daily zero reporting and case investigation. During the reported period 8200 cases were

  detected, timely investigated and samples received in the designated laboratories in Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, and Lattakia.
- Contact tracing; 111 rapid response teams are deployed to assess and conduct contact tracing. All close contacts are tested and asked to quarantine at home. Further to tracing of COVID-19 contacts, WHO supported MoH to conduct screening activities for COVID-19 in the areas of clustering High-density residential neighborhoods.
- Quarantine facilities have been set up for travelers. In 13 governorates, there are 32 designated quarantine facilities with a maximum capacity of 1700. MoH applied criteria was to test all repatriates and all close contacts of a confirmed case.

Comparison with Previous Week by Health Condition

Disease	Week 30	Week 31
Acute diarrhea (AD)	10,291	8,660
Bloody diarrhea (BD)	210	184
Acute watery diarrhea (AWD)	0	0
Acute jaundice syndrome (AJS)	887	761
Influenza like illness (ILI)	11,133	9,407
Acute flaccid paralysis (AFP)	0	5
Suspected measles (SM)	28	24
Suspected meningitis (SMN)	57	39
Typhoid fever (TYF)	882	546
Brucellosis (BRU)	318	230
Suspected tuberculosis (TB)	30	25
Severe acute respiratory infection (SARI)	199	292
Suspected pertussis (PER)	57	35
suspected leishmaniasis (LSH)	803	627
Suspected chickenpox (CHP)	149	114
Scabies (SCA)	377	285
Lice (LIC)	1,144	861
Suspected mumps (MUM)	65	50
Others	479	283
Total	**27,109**	**22,461**

Case Distribution by Age Group, and by Governorate

Week 31, 2020

		Idleb	Al-Hasakeh	Ar-Raqqa	As-Sweida	Quneitra	Lattakia	Aleppo	Hama	Homs	Dar'a	Damascus	Deir-ez-Zor	Rural Damascus	Tartous	Total
Acute diarrhea (AD)	< 5	961	519	354	22	18	118	501	228	153	158	57	1231	193	92	4605
	≥ 5	801	380	228	35	65	212	551	190	108	244	50	773	245	173	4055
Bloody diarrhea (BD)	< 5	0	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	11	6	0	88	0	0	117
	≥ 5	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	0	45	0	0	67
Acute watery diarrhea (AWD)	< 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	≥ 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute jaundice syndrome (AJS)	< 5	58	7	77	0	0	0	7	1	1	4	0	307	2	0	464
	≥ 5	45	6	24	1	0	0	2	10	3	12	0	171	4	19	297
Influenza like illness (ILI)	< 5	426	247	96	32	82	281	631	27	74	146	3	629	426	302	3402
	≥ 5	389	428	94	30	126	367	1802	131	123	283	64	527	790	851	6005

Acute flaccid paralysis (AFP)	< 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
	≥ 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Suspected measles (SM)	< 5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	2	16
	≥ 5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	8
Suspected meningitis (SMN)	< 5	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	0	1	19
	≥ 5	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	2	0	0	20
Severe acute respiratory infection (SARI)	< 5	0	9	0	0	0	0	1	13	0	2	0	1	0	10	36
	≥ 5	0	3	0	3	0	52	122	16	6	1	0	0	17	36	256
Typhoid fever (TYF)	< 5	36	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	64	1	0	106
	≥ 5	39	5	2	0	0	0	8	13	10	35	0	317	10	1	440
Brucellosis (BRU)	< 5	11	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	8	3	0	27
	≥ 5	5	10	1	0	0	0	8	32	7	12	4	94	30	0	203
Suspected tuberculosis (TB)	< 5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
	≥ 5	3	1	1	0	0	2	11	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	21
Suspected pertussis (PER)	< 5	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	18
	≥ 5	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	17
suspected leishmaniasis (LSH)	< 5	80	2	0	0	0	0	53	4	0	0	0	36	0	0	175
	≥ 5	95	6	1	0	0	2	250	27	0	0	0	58	1	12	452
Suspected chickenpox (CHP)	< 5	26	2	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	18	2	0	54
	≥ 5	38	2	7	0	2	1	2	0	2	1	0	1	4	0	60
Scabies (SCA)	< 5	57	3	0	0	0	0	4	0	3	3	0	27	6	0	103
	≥ 5	90	13	0	0	1	2	17	2	10	8	2	33	1	3	182
Lice (LIC)	< 5	224	7	0	2	0	15	9	4	1	0	0	26	0	0	288
	≥ 5	308	10	0	2	0	191	32	11	6	0	0	11	2	0	573
Suspected mumps (MUM)	< 5	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	8
	≥ 5	35	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	42
Others	< 5	0	20	0	1	9	2	0	1	15	12	0	51	0	1	112
	≥ 5	0	43	0	12	6	2	1	2	21	5	3	32	43	1	171
Total of < 5		1900	821	540	58	110	416	1217	287	262	333	60	2512	637	409	9562
Total of ≥ 5		1874	911	372	83	200	831	2834	443	302	607	124	2072	1149	1097	12899
Grand total		3774	1732	912	141	310	1247	4051	730	564	940	184	4584	1786	1506	22461