



SPC
Secretariat
of the Pacific
Community

Enhanced surveillance for mass gatherings in the Pacific



**Tackling the risk
of importation
and spread
of infectious
diseases during
mass gatherings**

**Early detection
and response is
crucial**

**ES is a great
opportunity
to strengthen
existing systems**

**Planning at
least 12 months
before the
event to ensure
effectiveness**

Enhanced surveillance for mass gatherings in the Pacific

Mass gatherings in the Pacific

Mass gatherings in the Pacific region include sports events such as the four-yearly Pacific Games and Mini Games, and Oceania football and rugby tournaments, and cultural exchanges such as the four-yearly Festival of Pacific Arts (FOPA) and the Melanesia Arts Festival.

What is enhanced surveillance?

Surveillance involves the collection and analysis of health data for the early detection of and response to potential public health threats. Enhanced surveillance (ES) builds on existing national surveillance systems, and can involve: increasing the number of sentinel sites, case-based reporting, and utilising web-based tools for quicker data entry, analysis and reporting.

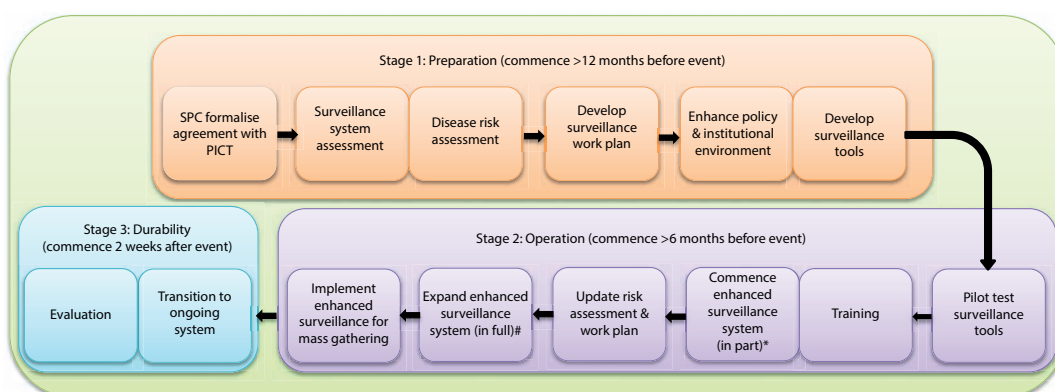
Why use enhanced surveillance during mass gatherings?

The large number of people attending mass gatherings brings a significant risk of potential public health threats, such as the importation and international spread of infectious diseases.

Surveillance must be 'enhanced' during mass gatherings to ensure the early detection of, and prompt response to, public health threats. An additional benefit of ES is the ability to improve the effectiveness of existing surveillance systems in a durable way.

Planning is essential

Planning for ES for a mass gathering should commence at least 12 months before the event, to ensure that systems are thoroughly piloted and ready for operation, and that the Pacific Island country or territory can put in place the necessary policy and institutional frameworks.



*Expand to all new sentinel sites; continue with weekly reporting; commence use of web-based data entry and analysis
#Change from weekly reporting to daily reporting

SPC assistance

SPC, in collaboration with regional partners, has provided support for ES for mass gatherings in the Pacific region since 2012. Events supported include the 11th Festival of Pacific Arts in Solomon Islands (2012), the 9th Pacific Mini-Games in Wallis and Futuna (2013), the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia (2014), and the 3rd International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Apia, Samoa (2014).

If you have any questions about ES, or if you need assistance for a planned mass gathering event, please contact SPC's Public Health Division, Research, Evidence and Information Programme – Email: PHDREIP@spc.int