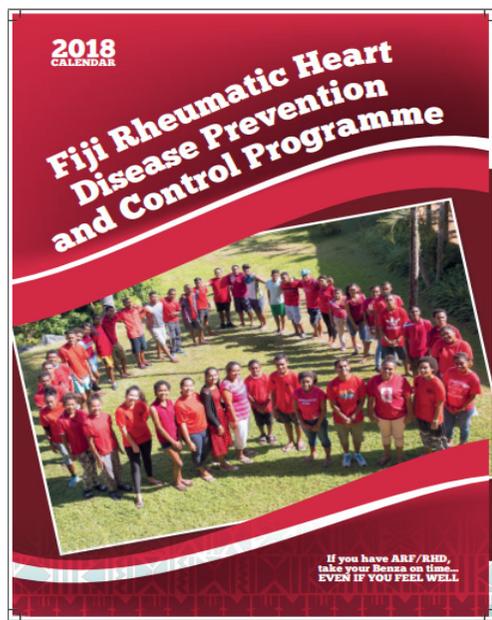
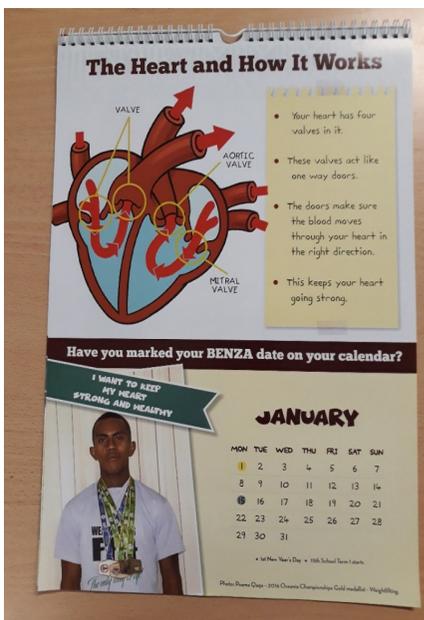


Weekly Health updates

January 2018



NEW RHD CALENDAR FOR CLINIC VISIT MONITORING



The Fiji Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) 2018 Calendar is now available at all health facilities in Fiji. If you are a person living with RHD, get your copy of the calendar from any clinic near you. The new calendar will be very useful for RHD patients to monitor their administration of benza injection on the specified dates from the clinics. At times it is observed that there are patients who do not turn up to the clinics as they get mixed up with their dates therefore this system of monitoring will

be very useful. RHD patients need to be vaccinated on schedule to reduce the risk of further complications and a better healing process can be anticipated. The RHD unit of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services continues to enhance the patients' information about caring for one's health. The new strategies and reminds all patients to adhere to their clinic dates thus using this calendar will assist them to keep track of their clinic visit dates.

MINISTRY INTENSIFIES EFFORT ON ADDRESSING COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN NORTH



According to the Acting National Advisor Communicable Disease, Dr. Aalisha Sahukhan during a briefing to the media regarding the dengue outbreak in Labasa and Macuata Sub-Division

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services is working diligently with the communities, Commissioner Northern's Office and Labasa Town Council to effectively address the recent outbreak in dengue recorded in the Macuata Subdivision, particularly in the Labasa town area.

This was brought to light during the Minister for Health and Medical Services, Hon. Rosy Akbar's official visit to Labasa Hospital and visit to Natua village in Savusavu yesterday. During this visit, Minister Akbar had a briefing with the Ministry's Northern Division Outbreak Response Team in terms of the actions taken to address the cases of communicable diseases and way forward to enhance the Ministry's response strategies.

For last year, the northern division has recorded a total of 873 dengue cases from the period of 1st January to 31st December 2017. The Labasa hospital has responded to the current outbreak by activating a Dengue Hub Centre, where patients with dengue fever symptoms are being assessed and treated. Northern Division Outbreak Response Team has also carried out the following activities in coordination with its relevant stakeholders.

- The Ministry's Vector Control Unit conducted targeted spraying with insecticides in high-risk areas

in November and December last year.

- Eradication of breeding sites and use of larvicides to kill mosquito larva
- Distribution of mosquito repellents to some of the dengue positive cases
- House to house visit by the health officers with enforcement and destruction of breeding places.
- There are ongoing community awareness programs on the prevention of dengue, typhoid and Leptospirosis
- On-going training and capacity building of the health officers to support the efficient response to communicable diseases

According to the Acting National Advisor Communicable Disease, Dr. Aalisha Sahukhan, as of December 17th 2017 a total of 795 laboratory confirmed cases of dengue fever have been recorded in the Northern Division. This is compared to 1,207 and 1,134 confirmed cases in the Central and Western Divisions respectively. From the week of November 20th to December 17th, there have been 279 confirmed cases reported from Macuata, mostly from the Labasa town area.

The Ministry continues to closely monitor the dengue and typhoid cases and is committed on providing all the necessary treatment and support required.

NORTHERN CAMPAIGN FOR DENGUE PREVENTION



The Northern Division Clean-up Marathon Campaign was launched on the 4th of November 2017 in Vunivau by the Divisional Secretary at the Commissioner Northern's Office, Mr Soko Tuima in conjunction with other government representatives and civil society groups. The clean-up was undertaken from 04/11/2017 to 25/11/2017 for four consecutive Saturdays in Dengue Fever Risk areas mostly in the urban and peri-urban periphery of Labasa Town.

The Aim of the clean-up was to:

- To eliminate all potential breeding habitats of mosquitoes through effective cleanup campaign in the high risk peri-urban areas and villages placing emphasis on source reduction through basic environmental health approach, integrated vector management program and community participations.
- The following strategies were implemented during the month of November to create awareness on Dengue Fever and other mosquito borne diseases
- To network, coordinate and conduct a multi-sectorial campaign targeting high risk areas to motivate and encourage behavior changes associated with container management and disposal
- To mobilize high risk communities to sustain a

clean and vector free environment.

- Conduct free cartage of refuse in dengue sensitive and high risk areas within the Macuata Rural Local Authority area.
- To undertake clean-up of compounds / backyards, overgrowth in lots and blocked drains.
- To have a cleaner and healthy environment to live in.

The public awareness was conducted in the Dengue Fever high risk areas by the Labasa Health Office staff. This was conducted in the evenings from 4.30pm -7.30pm when most community members are at home. The main message conveyed was for the community members to;

- Search and destroy all potential water-collecting structures within and around their compounds – things like tires, drums, tins, bottles, pot-plants – anything that could collect water for the mosquitoes to breed.
- Be Responsible – do not litter or throw away such water-collecting structures anyhow. Dispose all waste containers properly in rubbish pits.
- Be Active – join the campaign by cleaning up their compounds. Assist the neighboring members of the community to clean up the environment.

TOBACCO UNIT CONDUCTS ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS



Suva Fish Market with No-smoking sign and no sale of cigarette rolls sign.

Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MOHMS) is currently conducting an enforcement operation in collaboration with Suva City Council (SCC) and the Fiji Police Force. The operation commenced on the 21st of December 2017 and will finish later this month. The Ministry with its enforcement partners is targeting illegal sales of cigarette rolls, smoking in prohibited public places as well as sales to minors. The operation is mainly being carried out in the Suva City area with the focus on the bus stand, kiosk and bean cart areas. Over a period of time the ministry has received several complaints from concerned citizens as well as vendors themselves of illicit trade of tobacco products happening within this areas. The operation

was planned as a joint effort between MOHMS, SCC and the Fiji Police Force to urgently attend to this issue.

Since the commencement of the operation, a total of 49 offenders have been issued Fixed Penalty Notices (Spot Fines). 37 offenders have been fined \$1000 for sale of single rolls and 12 offenders have been fined \$200 for smoking within prohibited smoking zones. All members of the public including retailers of tobacco products are advised to take heed of the law and refrain from illegal sales of tobacco products, like sale of single cigarette rolls and sales to minors. Everyone is also reminded to refrain from smoking in areas which has no-smoking signs indicating it is a no-smoking zone.

