

# Weekly Health updates

March 2018

MINISTRY of HEALTH & MEDICAL SERVICES  
Shaping Fiji's Health



## OPERATION TO ENCOUNTER ILLICIT TOBACCO SALES AND SMOKING



No smoking signage placed in one of the public places in Suva City

The Tobacco Control Unit of Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MOHMS) in partnership with the Suva City Council and Fiji Police has conducted Operation Tavako Ligavata as part of the ongoing effort to encounter the illicit tobacco sales and smoking. This special operation was conducted from 1st of February to 1st of March 2018 with the following objectives:

- Attend complains of illicit tobacco sales and smoking received on a daily basis;
- Protect school students from being susceptible to buying and smoking cigarette; and
- Monitor no-smoking zones.

The operations was conducted majorly in the areas of Suva Municipal Market, kiosks, bean carts and bus stand area. A total of 84 offenders were booked and issued with Fixed Penalty Notices (spot fines).

The Ministry has been attending to various complains from the public about illicit tobacco product sales as well as smoking in prohibited public places. All places that are classified as prohibited no-smoking zones by law have been placed with no-smoking signage which is clearly and conspicuously displayed. It is the responsibility of every individual to ensure that the message and warnings as projected in the sign displays are followed.

The Ministry urges the public to be more responsible and refrain from smoking which is not only harmful to their health but also those who are exposed to smoking. And to urgently take note that sale of cigarette to minors (under 18 years) and sale of single/ loose cigarette rolls is strictly prohibited and has a spot fine of \$1000 for each offence respectively.

## LIFE-SAVING OXYGEN UPGRADE FOR NABOUWALU SUBDIVISIONAL HOSPITAL



Staff at the Nabouwalu Subdivisional Hospital while receiving the oxygen concentrators and solar energy system

Oxygen treatment for very sick patients at Nabouwalu Subdivisional Hospital has been significantly improved this week thanks to a partnership between the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MoHMS), Cure Kids Fiji, and the Australian High Commission's Direct Aid Program. Oxygen is a life-saving treatment for many illnesses in children, including severe pneumonia and newborn illnesses, which are leading causes of death in Fiji. In cases of severe pneumonia, oxygen treatment has been shown to improve survival by 35%, and is also essential for many illnesses in adults.

Several Oxygen concentrators and an advanced solar power system to address the unreliable power supply were installed to service the 30-bed hospital this week. Oxygen concentrators are small, portable machines which filter nitrogen from ambient air to supply highly pure oxygen for patients.

Delivery of oxygen to patients via concentrators has been researched in parts of Africa, Asia and Papua New Guinea with significant advantages over conventional cylinders identified, including being cost effective, accessible, safer and more reliable. Nabouwalu Hospital now has a dependable supply of oxygen which ensures that those needing oxygen, get it.

Cure Kids Fiji in partnership with the Ministry of Health, has now installed the new systems in three health facilities around Fiji and is working to ensure that no child dies due to a lack of oxygen. AccorHotels, Armacup, Pacific Direct Line, Rotary, ANZ and Vijay Singh are also generous supporters of the program. Ultimately, the partnership aims to provide every

child in Fiji access to a reliable oxygen supply. The partnership model of the project aims to ensure the equipment and training translate into sustainable, long term benefits to patients. A team of experts, led by paediatrician and researcher Dr Stephen Howie, of the University of Auckland, supported by Azimut 360, oversees the provision and installation of equipment, as well as training of hospital staff on the use of the machines to treat patients. Biomedical technicians and electricians from the MoHMS responsible for maintaining the equipment have been instrumental in the installation.

Dr Howie said "It is exciting to be working with the Fiji Ministry of Health, Cure Kids Fiji, and the Australian High Commission's Direct Aid Program to ensure that Nabouwalu Hospital has a reliable, life-saving oxygen supply. No child should die from lack of oxygen, and no adult should either, and we look forward to this being true for the whole of Fiji"

The Subdivisional Medical Officer Bua Dr Kulae Tuisabeto, is grateful and excited to receive the oxygen concentrators and solar energy system. "This very generous donation of the oxygen concentrators with solar power will greatly help us in our delivery of essential oxygen to our patients in a cost-effective manner."

Australian High Commissioner to Fiji, John Feakes said "I'm proud that Australia was able to work with the Fiji Government and Cure Kids Fiji to fund a reliable, cost-effective solution to provide much-needed oxygen treatment that will ultimately save lives. I look forward to getting out to Nabouwalu Hospital to see the oxygen concentrators in action."

## FIJI TO MARK THE WORLD ORAL HEALTH DAY 2018



Oral Health Awareness outreach programs is facilitated by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services will be commemorating the World Oral Health Day on the 20th March next week to raise awareness on oral health in divisions and subdivisions.

As such the Ministry has requested the participation of all Oral Health Institutions and stakeholders for a unified and collaborative approach to recognize the World Oral Health Day 2018.

This event will be a great opportunity to intensify awareness and promote Good Oral Health Practices at a national level through collaborative support

between the Ministry of Health and the dental institutions and stakeholders. This year's National Oral Health celebrations will be based on the theme "Say Ahh, Think Mouth, Think Health."

The theme signifies the importance of mouth to the general health of a person. Maintaining a healthy mouth is crucial to keeping it functioning correctly and for maintaining overall health and quality of life. Say Ahh, think mouth, think health empowers to keep a healthy mouth and helps you maintain your general health and well-being.

## Dengue Fever

DENGUE FEVER



PREVENTION



Wear protective clothing



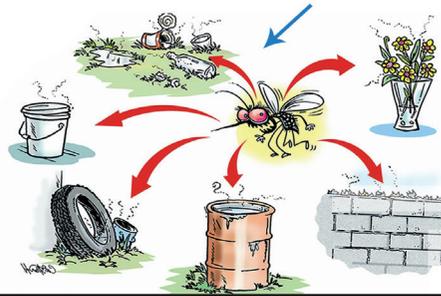
Use bed nets



Avoid mosquito bites



Use repellents



Destroy Mosquito breeding places

Bury all tins, cans, Empty pot plants and vase and Store used tires, drums in a dry place



Healthy Living



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