

**EPI ALERT**

JUNE 4TH 2013

VOLUME 20

**VIRAL SYNDROME / DENGUE FEVER**

Due to the recent heavy rains and flooding in New Providence and The Family Islands, The Department of Public Health has heightened its Surveillance for persons who may present to Health Care facilities with symptoms suggestive of Dengue Fever. Flooded areas with standing water increase the breeding sites for mosquitoes. Dengue Fever is caused by a virus, spread through the bite of an infected *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito, and may cause mild to severe symptoms in children and adults. Healthcare Providers are advised to be on the alert for persons who may present to clinics with symptoms suggestive of Dengue Fever and follow the protocol below for a suspected case.

**SYMPTOMS OF DENGUE FEVER**

- Acute onset of Fever **and 2 or more of the following:**
- Headache
- Retro-orbital pain
- Myalgia/ Arthralgia
- Rash (may not be visible on dark-skinned persons)
- Haemorrhagic manifestations (bleeding gums purpura, maleana, haemetemesis,

**IF YOU ENCOUNTER A SUSPECTED CASE:**

- 1) Ascertain detailed address and phone numbers
  - 2) Collect 5 cc of blood in **RED TOP TUBE**
  - 3) Ascertain a travel history from client
  - 4) Complete Dengue Investigation Form
  - 5) Complete Bahamas Laboratory Form
  - 6) **Inform Surveillance Unit of all suspected cases: 502- 4790, 502- 4776**
- After 5pm 376- 3533 or 376- 4705**

**DENGUE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

- Coordinate activities aimed at eliminating habitual/potential breeding sites and exposure to the vector *Aedes Aegypti*:
  - *Empty all containers and eliminate standing water*
  - *Dispose of all garbage*
  - *Wear mosquito repellent on exposed skin.*
  - *Wear long sleeve clothing*
  - *Use approved household insecticides inside the house to eliminate indoor mosquitoes.*
  - *Ensure window and door screens are intact*
  - ***NB This is a day biting mosquito with increased activity 2 hours after sunrise & several hours before sunset***
- Maintain a maximum level of clinical, laboratory, epidemiological and entomological surveillance of both disease and vector with timely exchange of information with stakeholders in order to respond effectively in the event of increases in the number of suspected cases.