

Operational Guidelines on

Plague Surveillance, Diagnosis, Prevention and Control

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Preface

Plague is one of the important vector-borne zoonotic diseases that remains endemic in many natural foci around the world, including some countries of the South-East Asia Region. Human plague outbreaks have been reported from India and Indonesia in 2004 and 2007 respectively. Plague evokes considerable fear among people because of its historical reputation of killing millions of people. The lessons learned during the major plague outbreak in 1994 in Surat and the effective measures taken by the Government of India were helpful in early detection and rapid containment of the 2004 outbreak. Recent outbreaks have shown that plague may re-emerge in areas after a long period of silence. There is need, therefore, for concerted efforts to strengthen plague surveillance activity and build adequate capacity for timely detection and rapid containment of outbreaks should an outbreak occur in previously silent natural foci in all countries of the South-East Asia Region.

The need for regional "operational guidelines" to provide a comprehensive knowledge and information on plague epidemiology, surveillance, diagnosis, case management and prevention and control was felt for the benefit of national health authorities in all Member countries. These guidelines were published by the WHO South-East Asia Region in 2004 and it was necessary to revise and update them in the context of new case definitions adopted in 2006 and the enforcement of the International Health Regulations (2005) from June 2007.

The revised and updated operational guidelines have been developed through a process of consultation and inputs from a number of experts on plague and public health, both from within and outside the World Health Organization. As there is continued threat of plague outbreaks in our Region, effective surveillance of existing natural foci of sylvatic plague and preparedness at the national, provincial and district levels is important. I am confident that these guidelines will be useful to those responsible for communicable disease surveillance and response in Member countries and will be of immense benefit to health officials responsible for emergency preparedness.

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ion and Control

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预览已结束, 完整报告链

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