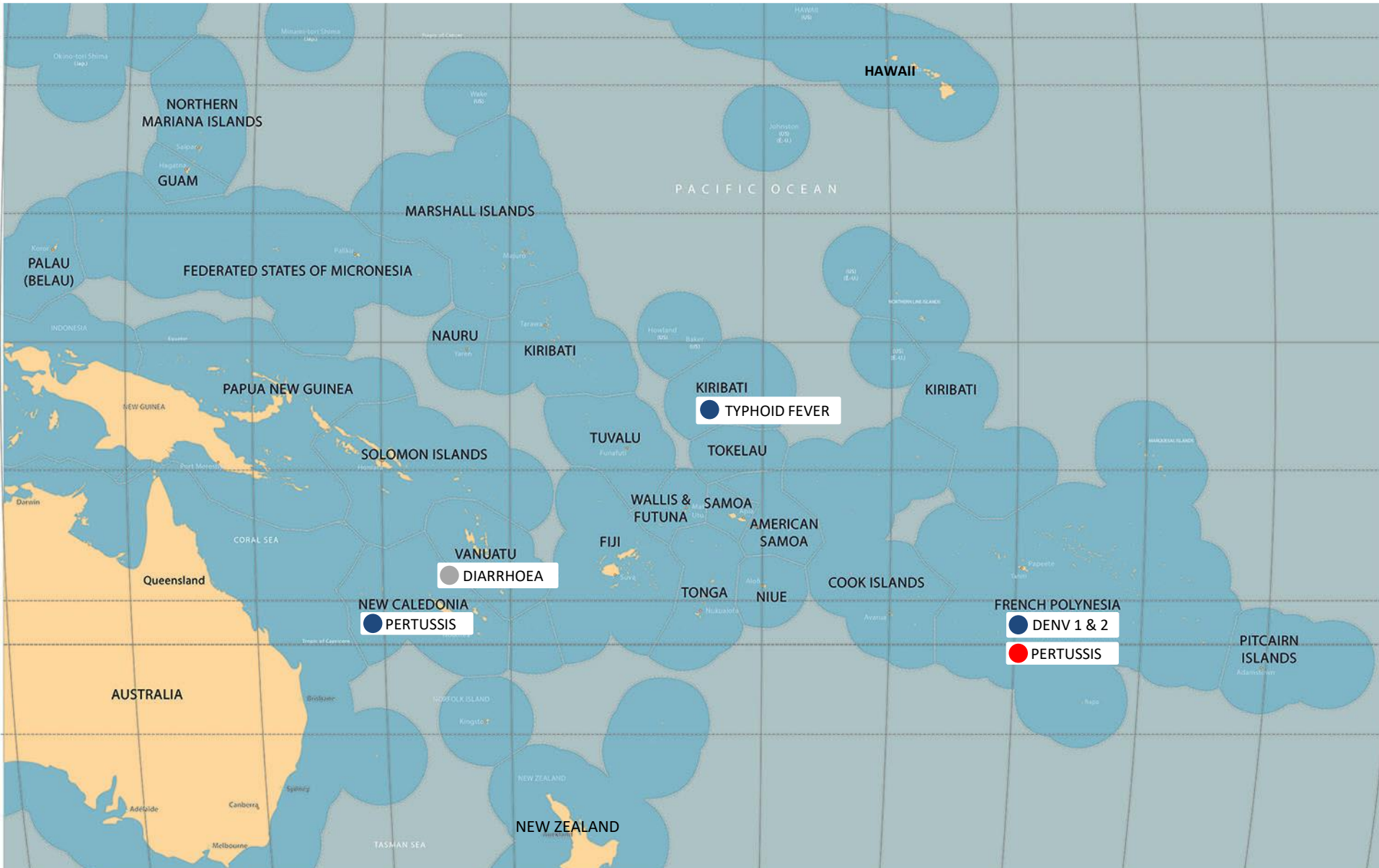


Epidemic and emerging disease alerts in the Pacific as of 26 November 2024



- Legend**
- Cases reported are increasing or peaking
 - Cases reported are decreasing or circulation is ongoing.
 - Awaiting confirmation of aetiology.
 - ★ No update for more than 2 weeks

DENV – Dengue Virus

An interactive version of the map is available online at:
www.spc.int/phd/epidemics/

Highlights/updates since the last map was sent on PacNet on 19 November 2024:

Dengue

- **French Polynesia:** In EpiWeek 45, 30 new dengue cases were confirmed from 90 samples tested, including residents of Tahiti, Huahine, Raiatea, Moorea, Rangiroa, Fakarava, Bora Bora and Ua Pou and two visitors. The total number of reported cases is 272 (252 confirmed cases and 20 probable cases) since November 27, 2023. An upward trend is observed, the positivity rate has also been increasing over the past three weeks, reaching around 30%. In Week 45, two individuals aged 1 and 39 years old required hospitalisation on short stay unit (1 to 2 days), but no severe cases or deaths have been reported since the outbreak began. Since late July, DENV-1 has become the predominant serotype circulating in the country (66% of the samples serotyped) with co-circulation of DENV-2 (34% of the samples serotyped). **The blue alert for DENV-1 and DENV-2 is maintained.** – Source: *Bulletin de surveillance sanitaire de Polynésie française n°45 - 2024 shared with PPHSN Coordinating Body focal point on 20 November 2024.*

Diarrhoea

- **Vanuatu:** From 4 to 17 November 2024, 301 watery diarrhoea cases were reported in Vanuatu. In EpiWeek 46, 118 cases of watery diarrhoea were reported, falling below the alert threshold for this reporting period (158 cases per week). Most cases reported were from Vila Central Hospital, NTM Hospital and Saupia Health Centre, all located in Port Vila on Efate Island. This is the first watery diarrhoea outbreak in 2024. **The grey alert for diarrhoea is maintained**, pending confirmation of the causative agent. – Source: *Watery Diarrhoea in Efate Situation Update 03 (Report Date: 21 November 2024/ Covering Period from 01 January – 17 November 2024) shared on PacNet on 24 November 2024.*

Pertussis

- **French Polynesia:** Between 14 June and 10 November, 313 confirmed pertussis cases were reported. In EpiWeek 45, 39 new cases were notified, including residents of Tahiti, Moorea and Tubuai (part of the Austral Islands). No hospitalisation was recorded in Week 45. Among all investigated cases, 11 individuals required hospitalisation, including eight infants aged 8 months or younger. A decreasing trend in overall incidence has been observed over the past 2 weeks. The majority of reported cases are individuals aged 7 to 79 years (71.3%), while 12.1% are infants (<1 year). **The red alert is maintained.** – Source: *Bulletin de surveillance sanitaire de Polynésie française n°45 - 2024 shared with PPHSN Coordinating Body focal point on 20 November 2024.*
- **New Caledonia:** As of 25 November 2024, 112 cases of pertussis have been reported since April 2024, out of 775 samples tested. In October, 31 cases have been notified compared to 35 notified cases in September. Since the 1st of November, 26 cases were reported, with the most recent case dated 22 November 2024. The distribution of cases and pertussis syndromes shows that women account for 60% of cases. Children aged 0 to 14 years make up 27% of positive cases. The majority of cases are in the South Province (62.3%, incidence rate 3.7 per 10,000 inhabitants), followed by the Loyalty Islands Province (20.5% incidence rate 13.6 per 10,000 inhabitants) and North Province (3.3%, incidence rate 0.8 per 10,000 inhabitants). Since April 2024, 7 hospitalisations were reported but no deaths. **The blue alert is maintained.** – Sources: [Coqueluche | Direction des Affaires Sanitaires et Sociales de Nouvelle-Calédonie](#) accessed on 26 November 2024 and [Point épidémiologique – Epidémie de coqueluche \(données arrêté au 17 novembre 2024\) shared with PPHSN Coordinating Body focal point on 22 November 2024.](#)

Other Information:

Avian Influenza – One Health

- **Hawai'i:** On 12 November 2024, the Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) began investigating possible sources of H5N1 avian influenza following its detection at a wastewater sampling site on O'ahu. The H5N1 virus was initially identified in a backyard flock on O'ahu, prompting immediate monitoring by the DOH. Subsequently, potential public exposure was linked to the Mililani Pet Fair on November 2, where birds from the infected flock were present, though they displayed no signs of illness at the time. Human contacts were thoroughly investigated, and all individuals tested for H5N1 returned negative results. The avian influenza strain was identified as clade 2.3.4.4b, genotype A3, a strain first detected in wild birds in Alaska in 2022, and distinct from the genotype affecting dairy cows on the U.S. mainland supporting the hypothesis of an introduction in Hawai'i by migratory birds. Sources (all accessed on 26 November 2024):
 - [News Releases from Department of Health | H5 AVIAN FLU DETECTED AT WASTEWATER SAMPLING SITE ON O'AHU, DOH CLOSELY MONITORING SITUATION](#) .
 - [News Releases from Department of Health | AVIAN INFLUENZA CONFIRMED IN BACKYARD FLOCK OF BIRDS](#) .
 - [News Releases from Department of Health | DOH NOTIFIES PUBLIC OF POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO AVIAN INFLUENZA AT MILILANI PET FAIR HELD NOV. 2](#) .
 - [News Releases from Department of Health | DOH INVESTIGATING HUMAN CONTACTS TO INFECTED H5N1 FLOCKS-No Humans in Hawai'i Tested Positive for Avian Influenza](#) .

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- **Niue:** As of the 21st November, there were seven reported active COVID-19 cases in Niue. The Niue Department of Health urges those with flu-like symptoms to test themselves and report positive results.

– Source: [Niue COVID-19 Update: Thursday 21st November 2024](#) accessed 26 November 2024.

Dengue

- **Australia, Queensland:** As of 11 November 2024, a dengue outbreak was declared in Masig Island in the Torres Strait, as reported by the Torres and Cape Hospital Health Service. As of 19 November 2024, 5 confirmed and 1 probable dengue cases were reported. A public health response, including vector control, active case surveillance, and ongoing public health messaging, has been implemented. – Sources: [Dengue outbreaks | Queensland Health](#) and [Dengue outbreak on Masig Island | Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service](#) accessed on 26 November 2024.

Influenza-like illness (ILI) & Influenza A

- **Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island (CNMI):** Between 10 to 16 November 2024, CNMI reported an increase in Influenza-like illness (ILI) cases from 47 in EpiWeek 45 to 63 in EpiWeek 46, marking a 39% increase compared to the previous three weeks. Testing confirmed seven Influenza A cases and three Influenza B cases out of 193 tests. – Source: *CNMI Weekly Surveillance Report 2024 – EPI Week 46 shared to PPHSN focal point on 22 November 2024.*
- **Kiribati:** As of 21 November 2024, Kiribati Ministry of Health & Medical Services reported presence of Influenza Type A in the community. Additionally in the Pacific Syndromic Surveillance Report for EpiWeek 46 the number of Influenza-like illness (ILI) reported by Kiribati showed a 23% increase (from 544 cases in EpiWeek 45 to 684 cases in EpiWeek 46) – Sources: [\(2\)ALERT... - Ministry Of Health & Medical Services-Kiribati | Facebook](#) accessed on 26 November and [Pacific Syndromic Surveillance Report for W46 2024 | 11 to 17 November shared on PacNet on 25 November 2024.](#)
- **Wallis and Futuna:** As of 25 November 2024, the Agence de Santé from Wallis and Futuna reported a significant rise in influenza activity. In Wallis, influenza-like illnesses increased by 20%, with 61 cases recorded in Week 46, surpassing the epidemic threshold, accompanied by a 10% rise in emergency visits. One confirmed case of Influenza A in Week 46 required hospitalisation (age 20+), with four additional cases confirmed in Week 47. Futuna reported a similar trend, with influenza-like illnesses tripling in Week 46, also exceeding the epidemic threshold. – Source: *Point de situation épidémiologique à Wallis et Futuna au 25/11/2024; Co-circulation SARS-CoV-2/Rhinovirus/VRS/Grippe A shared to PPHSN focal point on 25 November 2024.*

Pertussis

- **New Zealand:** In EpiWeek 46, weekly pertussis cases (including confirmed, probable and suspected cases) increased to 84 from 79 in EpiWeek 45. Pertussis cases have fluctuated throughout 2024, increasing in October with 193 cases, following 188 cases in September. On 22 November, Health agencies in New Zealand declared the early stages of a national whooping cough epidemic, with 263 cases reported in the past four weeks and numbers steadily increasing since September. Health officials emphasize protecting vulnerable groups, especially babies too young for immunisation, through on-time childhood vaccinations and maternal vaccinations during pregnancy. – Sources: [Pertussis dashboard](#) and [Whooping cough epidemic declared across Aotearoa New Zealand](#) | Ministry of Health NZ accessed on 26 November 2024.
- **Samoa:** As of 20 November 2024, the government of Samoa Ministry of Health confirmed that a 7-week-old male infant contracted pertussis (whooping cough) on November 13, 2024. Despite not being vaccinated at the time of infection, the child received proper care and has now fully recovered. Additionally in their press release the Ministry notes a high number of severe respiratory illnesses in hospitals and increasing pertussis cases across the Pacific region. – Source: [\(2\) For information of the Public. - Ministry of Health Samoa | Facebook](#) accessed on 26 November 2024.