



Ministry of Health

Syndromic Surveillance & COVID-19 Update

Epiweek 12: 20/03/23 – 26/03/23

Date of report: March 27, 2023

Prepared by: National Health Surveillance & IHR Division

Email: surveillance@health.gov.ws

Tel: 66506/66507

SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

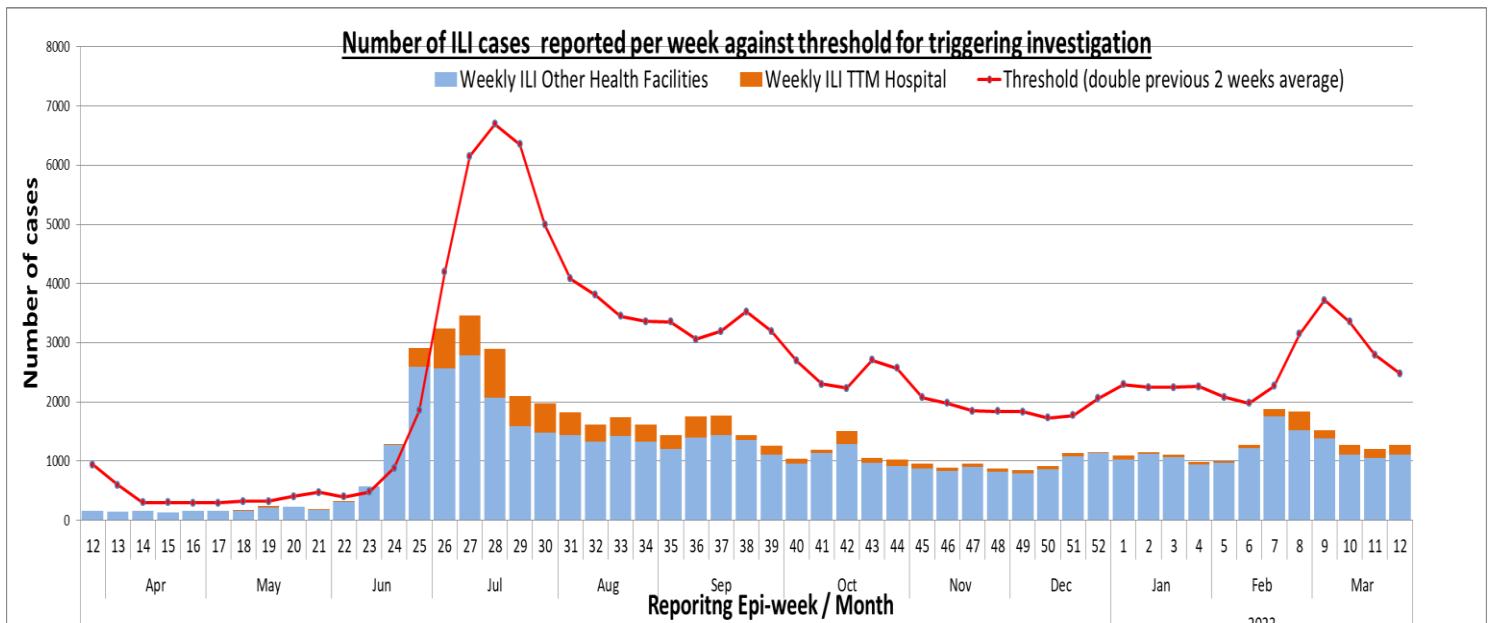
1. INFLUENZA LIKE ILLNESS

Case Definition: An acute respiratory infection with a history of fever or measured fever of $\geq 38\text{ C}^\circ$ and cough, with onset within the last 10 days

Alert threshold: Exceeding double the average in the previous 2 weeks

Epi-weeks	Epi-week 11: 13/03/23-19/03/23	Epi-week 12: 20/03/23-26/03/23
Total cases reported	1208	1272
Moving Average	1398	1242
Threshold	2795	2483

Figure 1. Number of ILI cases reported from all Health Facilities



The ILI cases reported is well below the threshold. However, even though the threshold has not exceeded, the Ministry of Health still highly recommends the general public to continue the practice of preventative measures such as – wearing of masks, hand hygiene and avoid large gatherings.
If you are feeling ill with flu-like symptoms, please stay home and take medications as prescribed by the clinician.

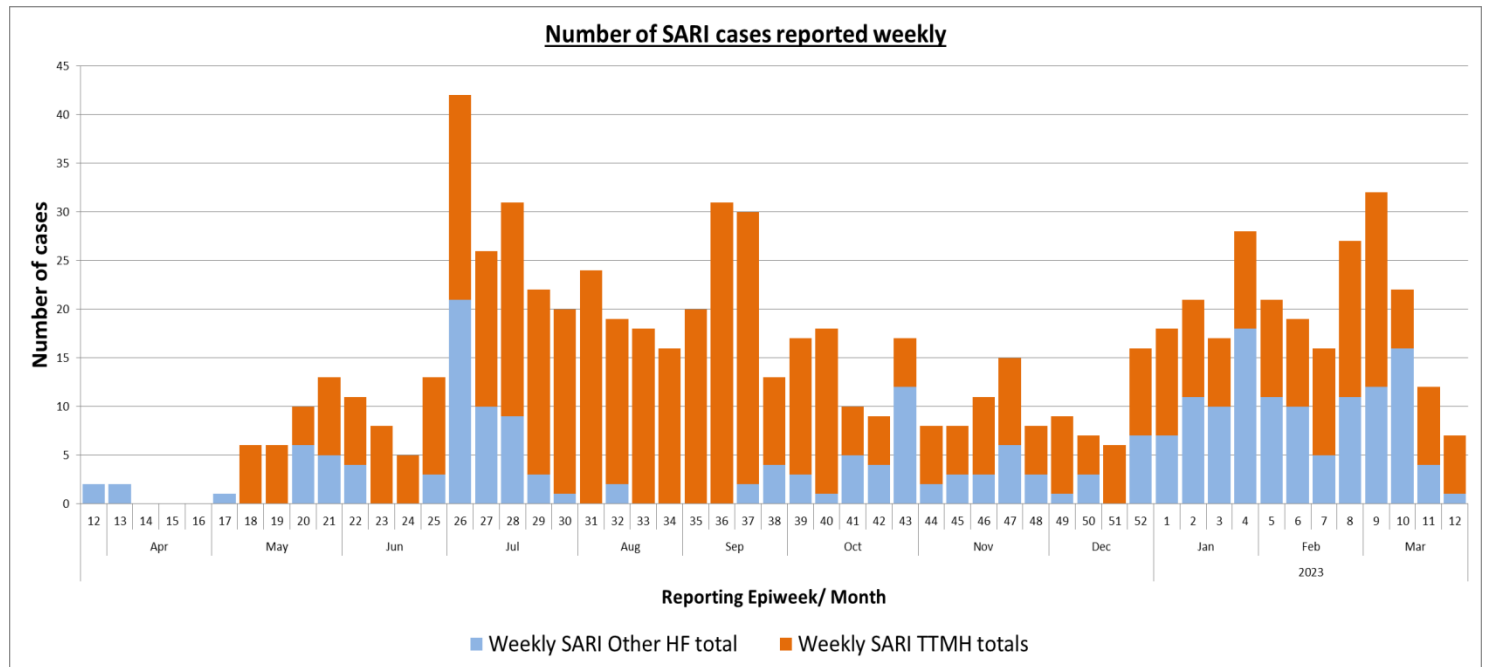
2. SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTION

Case Definition: An acute respiratory infection with a history of fever or measured fever of $\geq 38\text{ C}^\circ$ and cough, with onset within the last 10 days, AND requiring hospitalization

Alert threshold: 2 linked cases

Epiweek	Epi-week 11: 13/03/23-19/03/23	Epi-week 12: 20/03/23-26/03/23
Total cases reported	12	7
Moving Average	27	17
Threshold	2 linked cases	2 linked cases

Figure 2. Number of SARI cases reported from all health facilities



The SARI cases reported have been investigated, and no known links were identified. Therefore, it does not meet the definition exceeding the threshold. The SARI cases reported last week are people diagnosed with unresolved or severe pneumonia. The public is strongly advised to continue to practice preventative measures as mentioned above such as wearing of masks, hand hygiene and avoid crowded places.

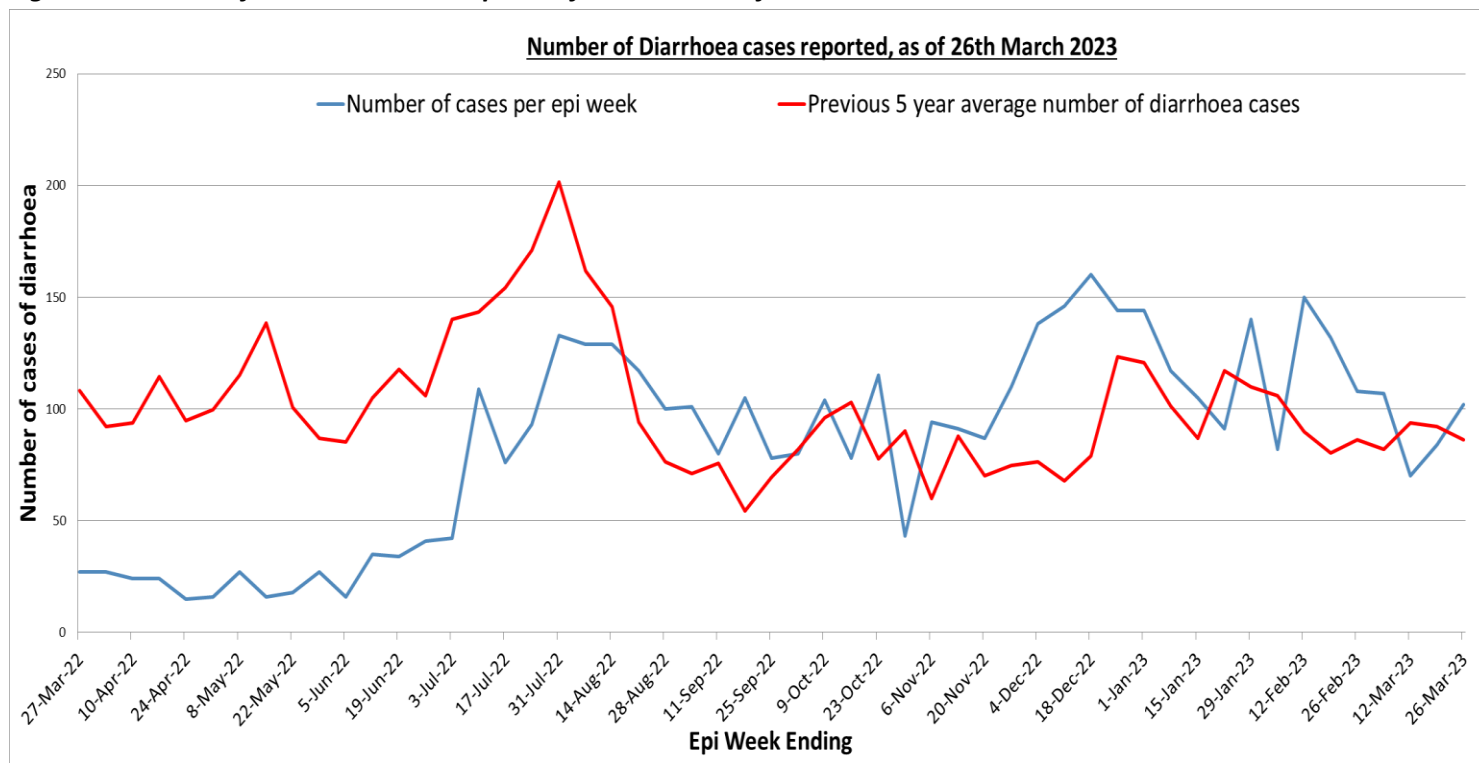
3. DIARRHOEA

Case Definition: Three (3) or more loose or watery or bloody stools in 24hrs

Alert threshold: more than twice the average of the last two weeks count

Epi-weeks	Epi-week 11: 13/03/23-19/03/23	Epi-week 12: 20/03/23-26/03/23
Total cases reported	84	102
Moving Average	88.5	77
Threshold	177	154

Figure 3. Number of Diarrhoea cases reported from all health facilities

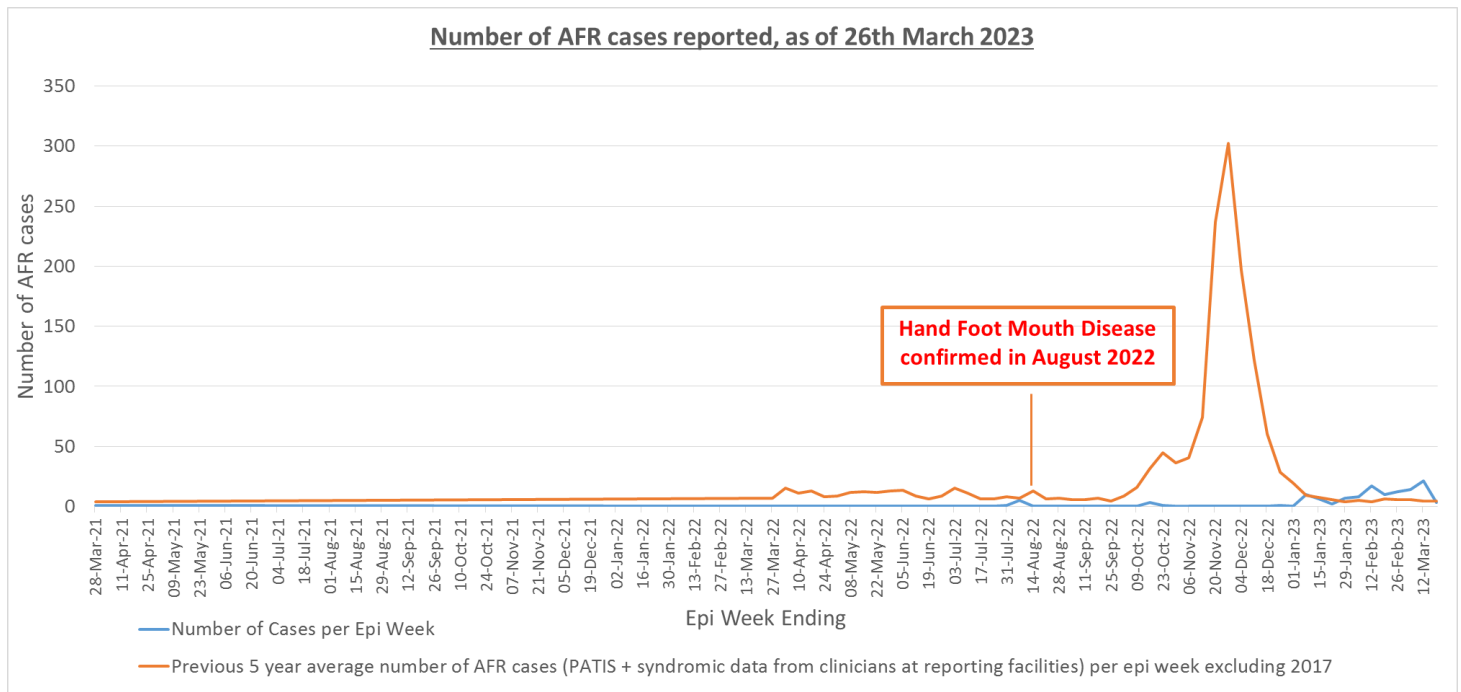


Diarrhoea cases reported in the previous weeks is below the threshold. In spite of the numbers, the Ministry of Health urges the public to continue the practice of preventative measures as we are still in the rainy/wet season. Please ensure access to safe drinking water, use of improved sanitation, hand washing with soap, and ensure good personal hygiene. In addition for prevention, all children at 6 months should have rotavirus vaccination.

4. ACUTE FEVER AND RASH

Case Definition: Sudden onset of fever (>38°C) AND acute non-vesicular or non-blistering rash		
Alert threshold: two or more cases that temporally and epidemiologically linked		
Epi-weeks	Epi-week 11: 13/03/23-19/03/23	Epi-week 12: 20/03/23-26/03/23
Total cases reported	3	1
Moving Average	17.5	12
Threshold	≥ 2 linked cases	≥ 2 linked cases
The AFR cases reported have been investigated and no known links have been identified. Therefore, it does not meet the alert threshold. The Ministry of Health advises the public to ensure all children have had their MMR/MR and other routine vaccinations. The MMR vaccine defends against measles, mumps and rubella.		

Figure 4. Number of AFR cases reported from all health facilities



5. PROLONGED FEVER

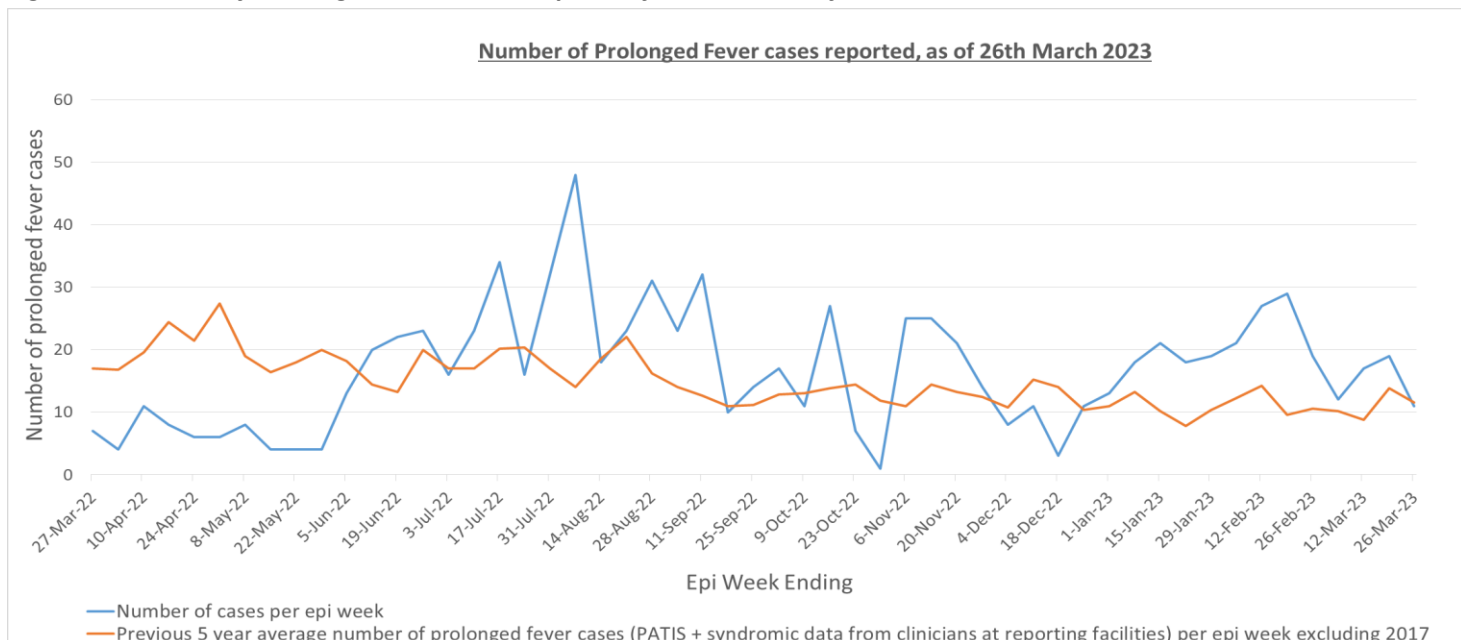
Case Definition: Fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ lasting 3 or more days.

Alert threshold: twice the average number of cases seen in the previous two weeks

Epi-weeks	Epi-week 11: 13/03/23-19/03/23	Epi-week 12: 20/03/23-26/03/23
Total cases reported	19	11
Moving Average	14.5	18
Threshold	29	36

Prolonged fever cases reported in the previous week is below the threshold. All cases of prolonged fever are advised to test for Typhoid Fever. In the previous week, there were no confirmed cases of typhoid Fever.

Figure 5. Number of Prolonged Fever cases reported from all health facilities



6. DENGUE-LIKE ILLNESS

Case Definition: Fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$) for at least 2 days, PLUS at least 2 of the following:

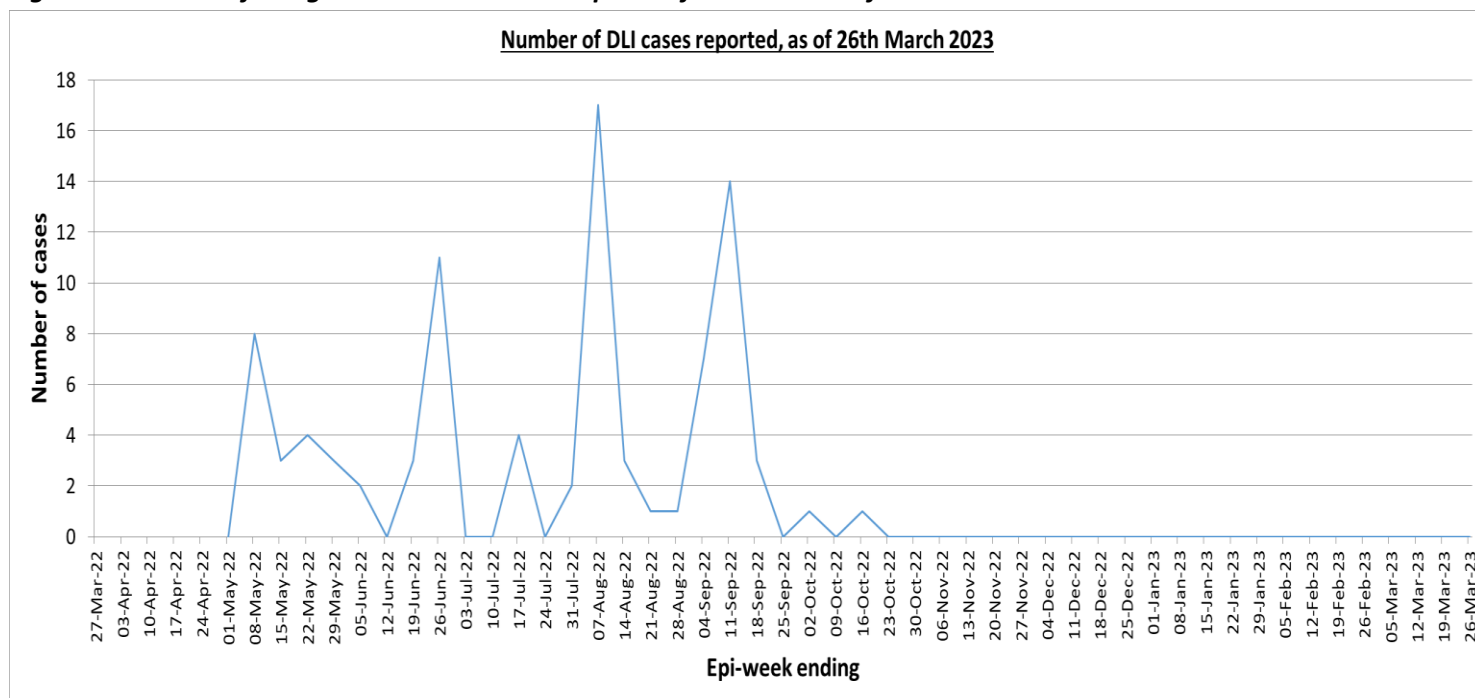
- Nausea or vomiting
- Muscle or joint pain
- Severe headache or pain behind the eyes
- Rash
- bleeding

Alert threshold: twice the average number of cases seen in the previous two weeks

Epi-weeks	Epi-week 11: 13/03/23-19/03/23	Epi-week 12: 20/03/23-26/03/23
Total cases reported	0	0
Moving Average	0	0
Threshold	0	0

- No DLI cases have been notified since epi-week 41 (epi-week ending 16th October 2022).
- Trend remains below threshold for triggering an investigation.

Figure 6. Number of Dengue-Like Illness cases reported from all health facilities



Since October 2022, there have been zero reported cases of DLI. This syndrome is still monitored under the Syndromic Surveillance System.

For prevention and control of Dengue, use personal protective equipment such as repellents and mosquito nets. Also, eliminate any mosquito breeding grounds around the houses.

COVID-19 SITUATIONAL UPDATE

SAMOA COVID-19 SITUATION	Number of cases
Total of new COVID-19 positive cases over the last 7 days (both PCR and rapid antigen test - RAT)	2
Positivity rate for COVID-19 testing in the previous week	0.009%
Cumulative number of COVID-19 positive cases (border and community cases)	16,737
Cumulative number of COVID-19 related deaths since community transmission detected in March 17, 2022	31