

Current major event

Pertussis situation update in Yemen

As of epidemiological week 30, the Ministry of Public Health and Population reported 1302 suspected Pertussis cases and three associated deaths (CFR 0.23%) from 13 (57%) governorates. The most affected governorates are Sa'ada (38% of cases) and Amran (12%).

Editorial note

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is an acute respiratory tract infection caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*. After an incubation period of nine to 10 days, the clinical symptoms of the disease start with a catarrhal phase followed by paroxysmal cough and ending with persistent cough and whooping. Pneumonia is a relatively common complication, with the rare possibility of seizures and brain disease. The cough and whooping are characteristic of the diseases and make the clinical diagnosis easy to establish.

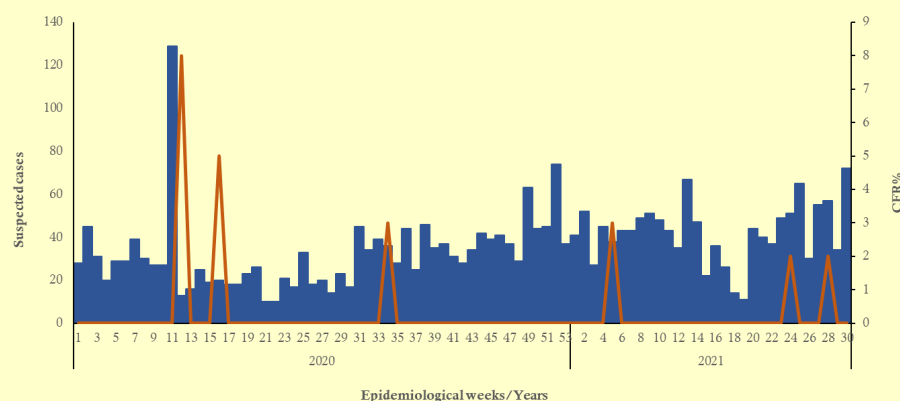
Pertussis spreads easily from person to person mainly through droplets produced during coughing or sneezing. The disease is most dangerous in infants, and is a significant cause of disease and death in this age group.

People with pertussis are most contagious up to around three weeks after the cough begins, and many children who contract the infection have coughing spells that last four to eight weeks. Antibiotics are used to treat the infection.

Since epidemiological week 1 of 2020, Yemen has been experiencing a continuous outbreak of pertussis and 13 out of 23 governorates were affected over that time period. From week 1 of 2020 to week 30 of 2021, a total of 3013 suspected cases and 6 associated deaths were reported (CFR: 0.2%) (see graph).

During 2021, a total of 1302 suspected cases and three associated deaths (CFR 0.2%) were reported from 13 out of 23 governorates till week 30. The most affected governorates are Sa'ada (500 cases representing 38% of total), Amran (154; 12%) and Taiz (131; 10%), which together represent 60% of the total reported cases (see table). Males make up 52% of reported cases. The most affected age group are those under 5 years at 71% (925 cases) followed by those 5–9 years at 22% (290 cases). Over 75% of suspected cases were

Suspected pertussis cases in Yemen, week 1, 2020 to week 30, 2021



Suspected pertussis cases and deaths in Yemen (weeks 1–30 2021)

Governorate	Suspected cases	Deaths	CFR%
Sa'adah	500	0	0%
Amran	154	0	0%
Taiz	131	1	1%
Amana	96	1	1%
Sanaa governorate	86	0	0%
Al-Baidha	77	0	0%
Al-Hodaïdah	71	0	0%
Al-Jawf	69	0	0%
Al-Mahweet	50	0	0%
Dhamar	39	1	3%
Hajjah	20	0	0%
Rayma	7	0	0%
Ibb	2	0	0%
Grand total	1302	3	0.23%

unvaccinated.

There is an urgent need to have short and long term plans to improve routine immunization, surveillance, contact tracing and case management, as well as conducting a disease burden study to assess the impact of child immunization.

WHO recommends vaccinating against pertussis using a 3-dose primary series, with the first dose administered at 6 weeks of age. Subsequent doses should be given 4–8 weeks apart. The series should be completed by the age of 6 months. For those who have not completed the schedule, the vaccine may be given later than 6 months at the earliest opportunity.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

COVID-19 in 22 EMR countries

Current public health events of concern [cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): 2019–2021

Afghanistan	[154 094 (7169), 4.7%]
Bahrain	[273 622 (1388), 0.5%]
Djibouti	[11 845 (157), 1.3%]
Egypt	[292 476 (16 860), 5.8%]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	[5 275 567 (113 824), 2.2%]
Iraq	[1 947 211 (21 445), 1.1%]
Jordan	[806 501 (10 542), 1.3%]
Kuwait	[410 734 (2430), 0.6%]
Lebanon	[612 713 (8181), 1.3%]
Libya	[323 930 (4427), 1.4%]
Morocco	[902 694 (13 488), 1.5%]
occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)	[397 573 (4067), 1%]
Oman	[303 036 (4087), 1.3%]
Pakistan	[1 204 520 (26 720), 2.2%]
Qatar	[234 509 (604), 0.3%]
Saudi Arabia	[545 912 (8617), 1.6%]
Somalia	[18 373 (1023), 5.6%]
Sudan	[37 951 (2829), 7.5%]
Syrian Arab Republic	[29 358 (2071), 7.1%]
Tunisia	[685 799 (24 244), 3.5%]
United Arab Emirates	[728 266 (2062), 0.3%]
Yemen	[8358 (1569), 18.8%]