

Ministry of Health, Wellness, Human Services and Gender Relations, Saint Lucia

Primary Health Care (Community Health Nursing Service)

Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI)

Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) Vaccination Coverage Survey

Terms of Reference for Coordinator

Background

The Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) commenced in Saint Lucia in 1977 and committed to procuring its vaccines through the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) EPI Revolving Fund. The government provides the budget for all the implementation components of the EPI.

Immunization is delivered primarily at the Maternal and Child Health clinics through 36 Primary Care facilities by the Community Health Nurses of Family Nurse Practitioners in the public sector. There has been a well-established school vaccination program where children are vaccinated at the schools they attend integrated with other health interventions. Immunization is also offered at six private physician offices. One private hospital procures a limited supply of vaccines by individual order mainly for adults.

Measles Mumps Rubella vaccines are administered to children at 1 year and a booster dose at 4 - 5 years prior to school entry. Vaccination coverage of MMR1 has been 95% and above, whilst the reported coverage MMR2 has been between 60% to 80% for the past ten years.

In 2011 Saint Lucia completed the verification and documentation of measles, rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS) elimination in keeping with PAHO's Directing Council Resolution CSP27.R2 of 2007. Consequently, countries are urged to maintain high MMR vaccination coverage of 95% and above, for two doses, in every community and district, and to improve surveillance for the detection and management of cases and outbreaks of these diseases in a timely fashion.

The primary purpose of this survey is to determine the coverage of MMR1 and MMR2 among children born in 2004 to 2009 in Grade K through 5 and Special needs schools and as a secondary objective MMR1 for children 12 -36 months.

Objectives

- 1) Assess MMR2 vaccination coverage by area (A and B, see below), by region, sex, grade and cohort
- 2) Assess MMR2 vaccination timeliness
- 3) Assess vaccination status with other vaccines recommended for children <5 years of age

- 4) Assess factors related to incomplete vaccination schedules
- 5) Determine the main reasons parents or guardians give for not having their children up-to-date with their vaccination schedule
- 6) Assess the proportion of children being vaccinated in the private sector
- 7) Assess health passport retention, completeness and quality
- 8) Assess the knowledge and attitudes of parents and guardians regarding vaccines and immunization services
- 9) Assess the knowledge and attitudes of school principals and selected teachers regarding immunization requirements for school entry
- 10) Compare parental/guardian recall with documented MMR2 vaccination (health passport or clinic record)
- 11) Compare MMR2 vaccination information in the health passport vs. clinic record for selected situations (e.g.. Doses given outside the recommended age, particularly earlier than 4 years of age).
- 12) Assess vaccination status for all age appropriate antigens in children aged 12-36 months of selected homes

The country will be grouped into two segments by regions with similar socioeconomic status, and surveys conducted in both segments (approximately ___ children in each survey).

Individuals not currently employed in the health sector will be selected and trained to conduct interviews of caregivers of selected children in their homes and Public Health Nursing Supervisors will obtain listings of children for participant selection and conduct interviews with principals at the schools. Photos of vaccination records will be taken and transcription of records will also be necessary for validation of vaccination at Wellness Centres. Interviewing teams will be supervised by an assigned Public Health Nursing Supervisor (PHNS).

Tasks for Coordinator

- 1) Coordinate the submission of the final protocol for ethical review
- 2) Developing the survey Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)
- 3) Meet with the EPI manager and technical survey team when necessary to discuss issues pertinent to the implementation of the survey
- 4) Supervise and coordinate all activities relating to the implementation of the survey within the Health Regions and schools
- 5) Participate in the selection of the members of the survey implementation team
- 6) Finalize the questionnaires after the conduction of the pilot test (in April)
- 7) Lead the training of supervisors and interviewers, creating the post training grades
- 8) Liaise with members of the steering or technical committee on matters relating to the implementation of the survey
- 9) Oversee field work, data entry, and data cleaning

- 10) Support data analyses
- 11) In coordination with PAHO, produce a final report of the survey with print and electronic copies for MOH and PAHO
- 12) Present the report at a dissemination meeting with stakeholders

Skills, Knowledge, Experience and Qualifications Required

- A university degree in Education, Health Management or related field
- A sound knowledge of Research methodology and data analysis
- Proficiency in the development and presentation of Microsoft Office
- Be knowledgeable of the Health Regions, their location, and schools within the health Regions in St. Lucia
- Have an understanding of the diversity- geographical and socioeconomic conditions of the population
- Knowledge of the school system in Saint Lucia
- Excellent report writing and presentation skills
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- To familiarize his/herself with the vaccination process and vaccine schedule
- Demonstrate understanding of key vaccination concepts

Deliverables

- SOP for the conduction of the survey including the field aspect and data management
- SOP for interviewers
- SOP for the selection of participants (in coordination with the Statistics Department and PAHO)
- Training plan for interviewers and supervisors
- Interim reports on the progress of the survey
- Draft (Preliminary) report of the survey
- Final report of the survey in both print and electronic format

Time Frame

Start date: April 2015

End date: November 2015

Reporting

The coordinator will report to the Principal Nursing Officer/ EPI manager and PAHO on realization of the agreed deliverables.