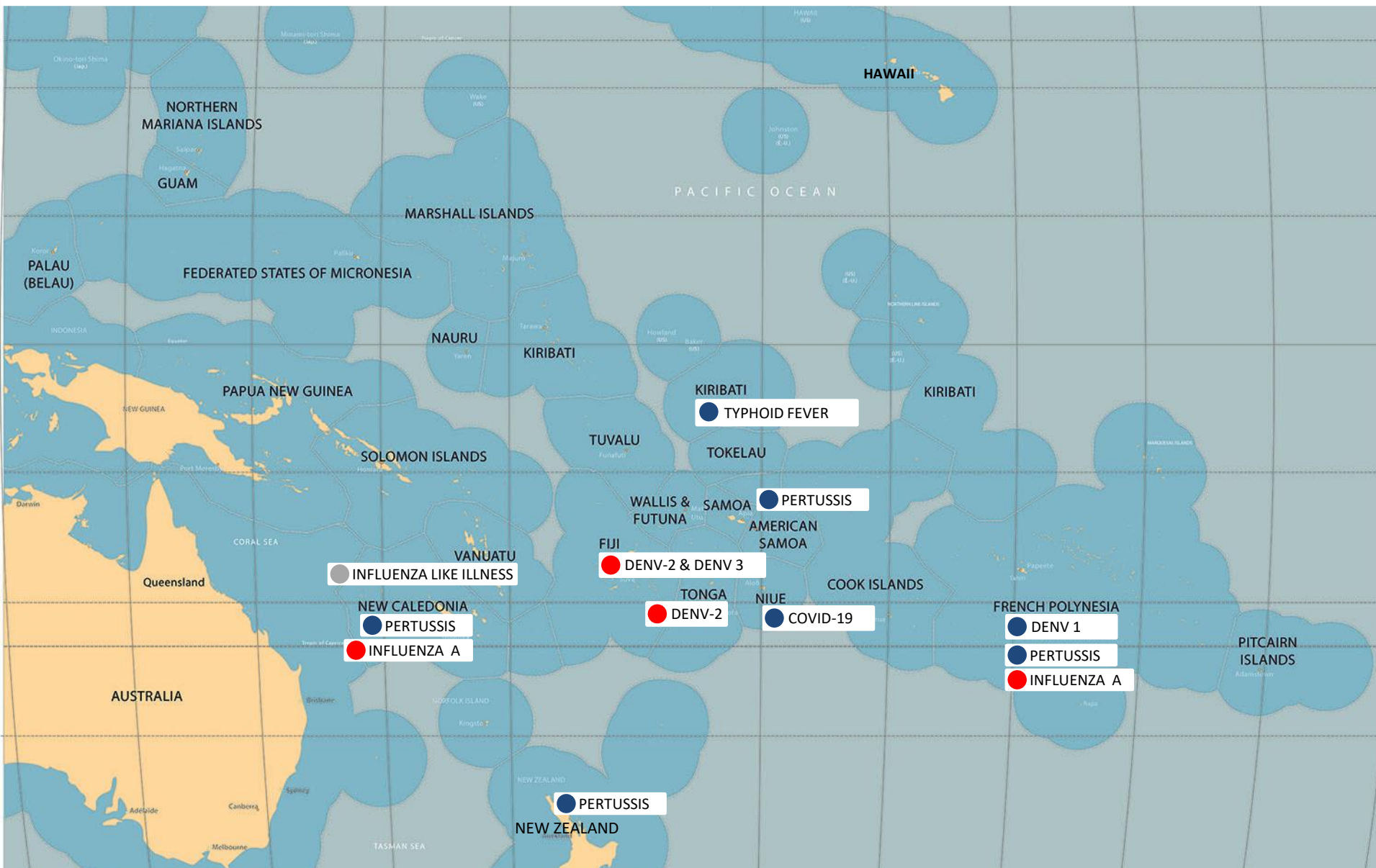


Epidemic and emerging disease alerts in the Pacific as of 04 March 2025



- Legend**
- Red circle: Cases reported are increasing or peaking
 - Blue circle: Cases reported are decreasing or circulation is ongoing.
 - Grey circle: Awaiting confirmation of aetiology.
 - Star: 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/



Pacific Community
 Communauté du Pacifique
 For the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN)

Highlights/updates since the last map was sent on PacNet on 25 February 2025:

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- **Niue:** As of 03 March 2025, Niue's Department of Health reported five active COVID-19 cases, two from the previous day and three newly confirmed cases. Health authorities urge residents to remain vigilant, test if symptomatic, and minimise contact if positive. Preventive measures are strongly recommended to reduce community transmission. As the Department of Health continues to monitor the situation, **the COVID-19 alert level has been downgraded from red to blue.** – Source: *Personal exchanges with country focal person on 03 March 2025.*

Dengue

- **Tonga:** As of 04 March 2025, the Ministry of Health reported thirty new dengue cases in the past 24 hours, bringing the total confirmed cases to 129, primarily affecting 10-19-year-olds. Ten patients are currently hospitalised, all reported to be in stable condition, with no deaths reported so far. Authorities continue mosquito control and public awareness efforts, urging residents to eliminate breeding sites, use protective measures, and seek medical attention for severe symptoms. The serotype that is responsible for this current outbreak is Dengue Virus Type 2 (DENV-2) identified by the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory (VIDRL), Melbourne Australia. **The red alert for DENV-2 is maintained.** – Source: *Dengue Fever Outbreak, Situation report #13 (04 March 2025) shared on PacNet on 04 March 2025*
- **French Polynesia:** In EpiWeek 08, 67 new cases (53 confirmed, 14 probable) were reported, including residents of Tahiti, Moorea, Bora Bora, Huahine, Raiatea Hiva-Oa and one visitor. The total number of reported cases is 1,155 (1,057 confirmed cases and 98 probable cases) since November 27 2023. In EpiWeek 08, one new hospitalisation was reported. The incidence decreased but the positivity rate increased (39% compared to 31% the previous week) compared to the previous week. Since the beginning of the epidemic, no severe cases or deaths have been reported. Since July 2024, Dengue Virus Type 1 (DENV-1) has been the predominant serotype in the country, representing 100% of the serotyped samples since week 51/2024. Among all the positive cases for which the age is known, 42% are under 20 years old and the median age is 26 years. **The blue alert for DENV-1 is maintained.** Source: *Bulletin de surveillance sanitaire de Polynésie française n°7 - 2025 shared with PPHSN Coordinating Body focal point on 04 March 2025*

Influenza

- **French Polynesia:** In EpiWeek 08, 75 new influenza cases (68 type A, 2 type B) were reported, out of 237 test results submitted. Among these cases, there were 29 hospitalisations including one in intensive care unit. Two deaths were reported among individuals tested in EpiWeek 08. The presence of influenza viruses A(H1N1) and A(H3N2) has been confirmed. **The red alert for influenza A is maintained.** – Source: *Bulletin de surveillance sanitaire de Polynésie française n°7 - 2025 shared with PPHSN Coordinating Body focal point on 04 March 2025.*

Pertussis / Whooping cough

- **French Polynesia:** Since June 14, 2024, 674 confirmed cases of pertussis have been reported. In EpiWeek 08, nine new cases were reported. Among these, eight cases were from Tahiti and 1 from Tubuai. Pertussis activity continues in EpiWeek 08. However, the number of reported cases and positivity rates show a downward trend. No new hospitalisations were reported in EpiWeek 08, and one death was reported in EpiWeek 46 of 2024 in an infant. **The blue alert is maintained.** – Source: *Bulletin de surveillance sanitaire de Polynésie française n°7 - 2025 shared with PPHSN Coordinating Body focal point on 04 March 2025.*
- **New Caledonia:** As of 28 February 2025, 208 cases of pertussis have been reported since April 2024, out of 1,331 samples tested. In 2025, 37 new cases have been reported with 32 cases recorded in January and 5 cases in February. The most recent case was reported on 22 February 2025. **The blue alert is maintained.** – Source: [Coqueluche | Direction des Affaires Sanitaires et Sociales de Nouvelle-Calédonie](#) accessed on 04 March 2025.
- **New Zealand:** In EpiWeek 08 (week ending February 21, 2025), weekly pertussis cases in New Zealand decreased to 95 from 100 in EpiWeek 07, bringing the total reported cases since the beginning of 2025 to 751. According to the latest report from the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR), 407 pertussis cases (302 confirmed and 105 probable) were reported between 25 January and 21 February 2025, compared to 388 cases in the preceding four weeks. The number of hospitalisations remained stable compared to the prior four-week period (45 hospitalisations in this reporting period). No deaths were reported. Since the start of the national epidemic on 19 October 2024, 1,839 confirmed, probable and suspect cases have been notified. Of these, 162 cases (8.8%) have required hospitalisation with one reported death, with 78 (55.7%) of the 140 cases in infants under 1 year hospitalised. **The blue alert is maintained.** – Sources: [Pertussis dashboard](#) and [Pertussis report 25 January–21 February 2025](#)

accessed on 04 March 2025.

Other Information:

Gastroenteritis

- **Palau:** As of 02 March, Palau's Ministry of Health and Human services recorded 69 cases of Gastroenteritis (41 in week 08). The number of cases exceeds the threshold (30 cases/week). The majority of samples tested positive for Norovirus (83%). Through their enteric pathogen surveillance Palau ministry of Health recorded 2 additional pathogens one Enteropathogenic *E. coli* and one Enterotoxigenic *E. coli*. – Source: *Ministry of Health & Human Services Syndromic Surveillance EpiWeek 09, March 03, 2025. Situation Report, Gastroenteritis Outbreak, Epi Week 5: January 30 – February 05, 2023, shared to PPHSN focal point on 03 March 2024.*

Influenza-like illness and Influenza

- **Wallis and Futuna:** As of 28 February, in Futuna, consultations and influenza-like illness (ILI) cases have increased significantly since EpiWeek 07, with 124 ILI cases reported in EpiWeek 08 compared to 103 the previous week. Nine Influenza A cases have been confirmed since EpiWeek 07 (four in EpiWeek 8), along with four Influenza B cases since EpiWeek 06 (three in EpiWeek 07). No COVID-19 cases have been reported in Futuna. Authorities recommend vaccination for high-risk groups, reinforcement of preventive measures such as hand hygiene and mask-wearing and strengthened epidemiological surveillance. In contrast, the situation in Wallis has shown a decline in consultations, ILI cases, and paracetamol consumption since EpiWeek 07. Three confirmed cases of Influenza A were reported in EpiWeek 08, along with four confirmed cases of Influenza B. – Source: *Point de situation épidémiologique à Wallis et Futuna au 28/02/2024; Co-circulation SARS-CoV-2/Rhinovirus/VRS/Grippe A shared to PPHSN focal point on 03 March 2024.*

Japanese encephalitis

- **Australia:** Since December 2024, six human cases of Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) have been reported in Australia, marking the first diagnosed infections since the 2021-2022 outbreak, with a recent fatality in a Sydney man in his 70s. JEV spreads through mosquito bites, and while most infections are asymptomatic, severe cases can lead to brain inflammation (encephalitis) and death, though such cases remain rare. Health authorities urge people at risk to take precautions, including mosquito bite prevention and vaccination, as JEV has been detected in mosquitoes and animals across multiple Australian states. JEV infection is preventable with vaccination, States and territories provide free JEV vaccination to eligible individuals in high-risk areas. – Source: [Protect yourself from Japanese encephalitis virus | Australian Centre for Disease Control](#) accessed on 04 March 2025.

Measles

- **Australia, Victoria:** Two new locally acquired measles cases in Victoria indicate community transmission, with exposures reported in Greater Bendigo and Melbourne. This brings the total number of measles cases in Victoria to eight in 2025, with unvaccinated individuals, infants, immunocompromised people, and certain adults at higher risk. Health authorities warn that international travel poses an additional risk, as measles outbreaks are ongoing in multiple regions worldwide. – Source: [Local outbreak of measles in Victoria | health.vic.gov.au](#) accessed on 04 March 2025.