

Health Surveillance: Information for Action in the 21st Century

View from Ministry of Health

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Outline

".....Systematic ongoing collection collation and analysis of data for public health purposes and timely dissemination of public health information for assessment and response as necessary" (WHO)

- What's the role of Ministry of Health?
- Horizon scanning
- If we've learnt anything.....
- The 21st Century is NOW



Role of Ministry of Health

- **National collection systems**
- **Operational and policy responses – Health Act 1956, 21DHBs, cross-government communication**
- **Urgent responses – local, national, international**

Internationally

- obligations under International Health Regulations
- mutual reliance - Pacific, WHO

Nationally

- **Surveillance and response in Communicable Disease, Environmental Health, Non-Communicable Disease**
 - Case notification, syndromic surveillance, regular & ad hoc surveys, analysis of other data sets, health risk x outcome
 - Formal & informal networks for early advice



Role of Ministry of Health



What's new or emerging?

- **New tools** – GIS, Health Tracker, e-data extraction from GP systems, web & telephone surveillance
- **Environ Hlth** new indicator sets, serum surveys, ↑ profile for environmental exposures & poisons
- **CD** new and re-emerging infectious diseases (MRSA, TB, avian flu, swine flu etc)



Lessons

- **Focus on purpose** of surveillance – data analysis
conclusions action
- **Existing surveillance** much more robust than ad hoc ones developed for ‘urgent’ need
- **Review and prioritise** systems, data (eg Review of ID surveillance, Review of Chemical Injury surveillance)
- Retain capacity for unexpected issues
- Risks don’t respect boundaries- we have to work together across agencies (government, academic, commercial) and across countries (Pacific Surveillance mtg)
- Invest in working together plan & ‘do it’



21st Century is NOW



- Modern legislative framework, flexible all-risks approach
- Preventive action informed by surveillance of risks and outcomes
- Think outside circle – what existing data collections an we use? (eg Google –Flu)

