Vaccine Guidelines Series

This series is the gold standard for hands-on, highly practical field guides for use by national immunization programs in their battle against vaccine-preventable diseases. The Pan American Health Organization crafted the six guides in response to requests from national immunization program managers across the Americas; they represent the collected lessons learned in immunization by PAHO’s Member Countries.

Each guide describes the clinical and epidemiological aspects of a specific disease and offers targeted strategies for its prevention and control. The polio and measles field guides are updates of previous guidelines, which now include critical new strategies and technology. The field guides for the elimination of yellow fever, the elimination of rubella and congenital rubella syndrome, and the use of the pentavalent vaccine to control diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, Haemophilus influenza B, and hepatitis B break new ground. The guidelines could not come at a better time—many countries are launching initiatives to eliminate rubella, and immunization programs are incorporating or sustaining the use of the pentavalent vaccine.

After an unprecedented effort to field-test these guides over the last two years, we are confident that they will become an indispensable tool for immunization program managers and health workers at all levels of the health system—from a country’s ministry of health to the smallest, most remote clinic.

Control of Yellow Fever: Field Guide

Control of Yellow Fever: Field Guide was designed by the Pan American Health Organization to offer health workers at different levels of the health care system and different programs in the schools of health sciences the tools to control jungle yellow fever and prevent its reurbanization in the Americas. It emphasizes clinical and epidemiological aspects of the disease, along with prevention and control strategies. It also offers practical exercises on clinical cases and outbreaks for use in training health workers, especially local personnel in enzootic areas. The field guide covers prevention, proper case management, and the improvement of epidemiological surveillance.

The prevention and control measures described in this guide are based on the recommendations of the PAHO/WHO Technical Advisory Group on Vaccine-preventable Diseases, which urge countries to put plans into action to combat yellow fever. The main recommendations include vaccination of all residents of enzootic areas, introduction of the vaccine in the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) to maintain high coverage in countries with enzootic areas, and the vaccination of all travelers to these areas (migrants, ecotourists, etc.).

Although a great deal of progress has been made in yellow fever prevention and control, the countries must continue to adopt the recommended measures to prevent cases and outbreaks in historically enzootic areas and the reurbanization of the disease.

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As a way to sustain the success achieved in the elimination of neonatal tetanus in the Americas, the Pan American Health Organization has put together this practical guide that offers a unique approach to strategies that have made these achievements possible. This publication, developed and written by medical experts in this area, provides up-to-date information and describes innovative field techniques that can be adapted and applied throughout the world.

Elimination of Neonatal Tetanus: Field Guide highlights progress in surveillance to identify and monitor high-risk areas as well as immunization activities geared especially toward women of childbearing age who live in those areas. These activities complement measures such as proper care in childbirth and the puerperium and the administration of the triple vaccine against diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus (DPT) to infants and children, and of tetanus and diphtheria toxoid (TD/Td) to schoolchildren and pregnant women. A detailed clinical description, diagrams, illustrations, and latest statistical data on neonatal tetanus make this manual easy to use.

The book offers physicians, nurses, health promoters, students and other personnel working to eliminate this disease at the national, state, and local levels, a progressive guide for organizing and implementing control and elimination activities. It will also be very useful for health professionals working in areas where the disease has already been eliminated.

Elimination of Neonatal Tetanus – Field Guide

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