

Activity: 7-1-7 and outbreaks in the news

Scenario set: Typhoid

Instructions

- On your own, **read** through the following news article(s).
- In your group, **discuss** applying the 7-1-7 approach to the situation described in the article.
 - How could using 7-1-7 in real-time have been helpful in the early phase of this outbreak response?
 - At which government level(s) might 7-1-7 be useful to apply for this outbreak (e.g. national level, subnational, multiple subnational areas) and why?
 - How could 7-1-7 findings from this outbreak be used to inform actions + planning?
- Use your imagination and/or experience to answer if the article does not have enough information.
- In plenary, briefly **summarize** the article and your discussion.

News Article #1

Over 20 residents in Barili, Cebu suffer from typhoid fever

GMA Regional TV | By Fe Marie Dumaboc | 01 February 2025

Over 20 residents in Barili town, south Cebu Province suffered from typhoid fever.

The chairman of Barangay Gunting, Crisiolo Superales Jr., confirmed that residents exhibited high fever, vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach pains. Others suffered from high fever that persisted for about four days. Superales said that at first they had to persuade residents to seek treatment at the town infirmary.

According to staff members at Marlon F. Garcia Infirmary, admission of residents with typhoid fever, a life-threatening infection caused by Salmonella typhi bacteria and spread through contaminated water and food, started on January 20, 2025. The infirmary logged at least 27 cases of typhoid fever. The youngest patient is about four years old. Of the 27 cases, two were referred to hospitals in Carcar City and Talisay City. It was learned that one of them was already discharged.

As of this writing, there are eight patients recuperating from typhoid fever at the infirmary. Superales said that testing for typhoid fever is offered free of charge at the infirmary. He, himself, also tested positive of typhoid fever on January 24, 2025, and that he has fully recovered. No casualties were reported, which made Superales and his council thankful.

To pad further patient count, Superales and other barangay officials encouraged residents who have experienced the symptoms to seek medical check-up immediately. Superales added that Barili Mayor Pablo John Garcia IV has already ordered an investigation on the cause of the incident...

...in a post on his official social media account, he disclosed that an investigation by the Barili Primary Care Facility (Rural Health Unit) is ongoing to establish the source of contamination. Water sources were checked, as well as houses without toilet facilities, and the surroundings that are supposedly cleaned up regularly. The Barili Primary Care Facility has started distribution of water purification tablets to residents. The Local Government Unit of Barili has also initiated delivery of chlorinated water to ensure residents have safe water supply.

Superales said that to avert similar cases, other residents in Barangay Gunting were advised to boil water for drinking and for cooking purposes.

The original article can be accessed at:

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/regions/934797/over-20-residents-in-barili-cebu-suffer-from-typhoid-fever/story>

News Article #2

Typhoid fever spreads across Negros Occidental, leaves 2 dead, 80 ill

Rappler | By Ambo Delilan | 05 February 2025

Typhoid fever has spread across 27 of 31 cities and towns in Negros Occidental, killing two elderly people and infecting 80 others in January, the provincial health office said on Tuesday, February 4.

Dr. Girlie Pinongan, the provincial health officer, said the fatalities, aged 62 and 79, were from Victorias City and Isabela town.

Kabankalan City and Hinoba-an town, both in southern Negros Occidental, recorded the highest number of cases, with 16 and 13 infections, respectively.

The provincial health office recorded a 100% increase in typhoid fever cases in January 2025, with 80 infections compared to 40 in the same month in 2024.

The disease, caused by Salmonella typhi bacteria, is typically contracted through contaminated food and water. Typhoid fever symptoms typically appear 8 to 14 days after infection, though cases can remain undetected for up to 30 days, health officials said.

Incidentally, some areas in Negros Occidental have also been struggling with drinking water supplies due to sulfuric contamination linked to Kanlaon Volcano's 2024 eruptions, exacerbating concerns about the spread of typhoid fever.

Typhoid fever is more common during the rainy season, but officials said two deaths in January alone were alarming.

Dr. Girlie Pinongan, the provincial health officer, urged residents to avoid drinking untreated water, thoroughly cook food, and consume meals within four hours of preparation. She also warned against eating unsanitary and street food...

...With vaccine access still limited, the DOH urged the public to maintain proper hygiene, consume safe food, and drink clean water to prevent infection...

The original article can be accessed at: <https://www.rappler.com/philippines/visayas/typhoid-fever-spreads-negros-occidental/>