

Abstract

Measles Outbreak-Khywan, Huth District, Amran Governorate, Yemen, March, 2017

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Abstract

Background: On March 3, 2017, cases with fever and skin rash were reported in Khywan, Huth district, Amran by electronic disease early warning system (eDEWS) coordinator. A team from Y-FETP was sent to investigate the problem.

Objective: To confirm the existence of outbreak and recommend control measures.

Methods: We conducted active house to house- case search. Suspected case was any person with fever and skin rash at any age in Khywan area, Huth district, Amran governorate, from 5 February to 5 March 2017. Data analysis was performed by Epi Info version 7.2.

Results: Results 32 cases met the standard case definition, the index case was reported in 5 Feb. 2017, the outbreak continued till 5 March with the peak of cases in 3 March 2017 (6 cases). The percentage of females was 53%. The highest percent was among the age group 1-<5 years with the attack rate 21/1000 of population. The percent of non-vaccinated cases was 97%. Reasons for non-vaccination were: lack of outreach vaccination services (39%), absence of vaccine in the nearby health center (39%), and vaccination refusal (22%). All cases had fever and skin rash, 97% of cases had cough and conjunctivitis. About 13% of cases were admitted in Huth hospital due to pneumoniae as a complication of measles.

Conclusions: Existence of Measles outbreak in Khywan area, Huth district, Amran governorate was confirmed. Urgent measles immunization campaign with ongoing routine and outreach immunization services are recommended to increase vaccination coverage.

(*iproc 2018;4(1):e10591*) doi:[10.2196/10591](https://doi.org/10.2196/10591)

Edited by Y Khader; This is a non-peer-reviewed article.submitted 29.03.18; accepted 29.03.18; published 29. 03.18

Please cite as:

Mayad M, Albakhshi W

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iproc 2018;4(1):e10591

URL: <http://www.iproc.org/2018/1/e10591/>

doi: [10.2196/10591](https://doi.org/10.2196/10591)

PMID:

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