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Surveillance integrating Phylogenetics and Epidemiology for Elimination of Disease: Evaluation of Rabies Control in the Philippines

N.R. Chng, M.E. Miranda, K. Hampson, J. Maestro, R. Biek, K. Brunker, B. Quiambo, D. Manalo, J.P. Esguerra, P. Johnson, P. Craig, S. Wyke

Background

Rabies is endemic in the Philippines where it causes 200-250 deaths each year. The national control programme has reduced rabies incidence, but use of life-saving post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is extremely costly and surveillance (case detection) is not sufficient to verify or maintain freedom from rabies

The Philippines

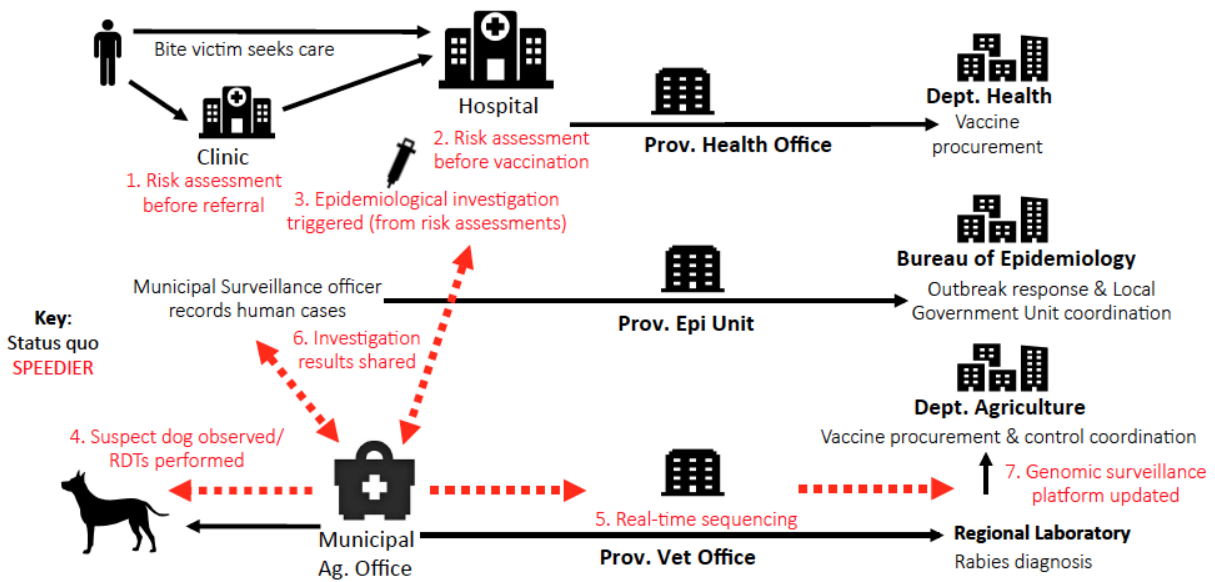
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Provinces:
Romblon,
Mindoro
Oriental



SPEEDIER aims to:

- Introduce revised surveillance protocols (**Integrated Bite Case Management – IBCM**):
 - To increase case detection
 - To improve PEP use
 - To benefit from state-of-the-art technology (mobile apps, portable sequencing)
 - To guide the national control programme
- Evaluate the process of implementation, the influence of context, and mechanisms of action on outcomes
- Develop a replicable package for scaling up IBCM using best practice and a proven cost-effective template for verifying and sustaining rabies freedom

Integrated Bite Case Management



Implementation Activities

- Train human and animal health workers to deliver IBCM
- Conduct trial
- Translate data to stakeholders for scaling up
- Develop a genomic surveillance platform for communication risks of rabies spread



Methods

A pragmatic stepped-wedge RDT, with embedded process evaluation, of rationalized use of PEP implemented over 2 years, in ten 2-month steps across 3 provinces: **Romblon, Mindoro Occidental and Mindoro Oriental**. The comparator is existing practice for dog bite management.

Expected Outcomes

- Health** - Increased identification of bite victims requiring PEP & reduced deaths
- Economic** - Reduced costs to providers & patients
- Surveillance** - Increased & earlier detection of animal rabies cases
 - Reduced costs
 - Improved data (to respond to & monitor outbreaks)
 - Established outbreak response strategy
 - Disseminated best practice for replication
 - Established rabies status & verified freedom from provinces where achieved

