

Happy New Year to all.

Weather:

EKEPY expressed understanding over disruption to medical care at various sites due to poor weather and dangerous driving conditions. However full coverage is expected from now on. Medical actors were advised to procure any necessary equipment to avoid further disruptions if the weather were to deteriorate again.

Many camps are without any running water due to frozen water pipes, including Elpida, where there have been two recent Hepatitis A cases, raising risks to public health. Medical actors were advised to coordinate with WASH coordinators to ensure timely cleaning of facilities.

Influenza vaccination:

Vaccines are expected to be delivered by next week. Expedient administration is important once they are here, as we are already in influenza season and increased activity is being noted both in the general population and in at least one camp. Where there is no Red Cross or MdM presence Greek State Regional Health Authority teams will administer the vaccines, following coordination with the medical actors present at the site. Only high risk individuals will be vaccinated for now.

Vaccination of children:

Medical actors please submit lists of school aged children (5-15 years of age) in their care with documented immunisation status to Mrs Machaira of MoMP at emachaira@mathra.gr.

Monitoring and documenting vaccination needs for under 5 year-olds and communicating them to KEELPNO should be a continuous endeavour.

Non-urgent medical transportation

Actors were kindly asked to communicate any changes to their budget and plans for such transportation in 2017 to UNHCR. Every effort should be made to cover existing gaps on their own, as it is still uncertain to what extent UNHCR will be able to continue any non-urgent transportation scheme for medical purposes.

In this context the need was noted for better coordination with UNHCR's ART team and other actors involved in moving PoCs from camps to other settings, so that individuals with issues requiring frequent follow-up are not moved too far from appropriate health venues.

Mobile health unit/clinics

There is no current legislation governing registration and licensing of such mobile units. Although there is work being done at ministry level towards passing such legislation, this will not take place before summer at the soonest. Any mobile clinics currently in operation are doing so with the tolerance of the Greek State. There is no issue with mobile health teams, who carry their equipment to different sites by car/van, but provide care to PoCs in the context of established "clinics" at the camps or other sites, as issues of record keeping, medical refuse and sharps disposal etc are already settled in those cases.

Coverage gaps:

A persisting gap exists for Grevena hotels. Actors were invited to try to find ways to fill this gap, since it can not be done adequately by the Greek National Health System. Also as camps are emptying, medical actors were invited to communicate to EKEPY what extra coverage they might be able to provide.

Other matters:

- Actors moving PoCs from camps, should give medical teams adequate notice, min 1 working day, so that patients can have their medical records and an adequate supply of chronic medications with them. Also booked hospital or other secondary care appointments can be cancelled or rescheduled in a timely manner.
- MSF reported that there have been incidents when PoCs who were arrested by police, were not given their psychiatric medications (which are controlled substances in Greece), despite showing medical/psychiatric certification of their diagnoses. This has not been reported to have happened with other PoCs who were receiving chronic therapy for medical disorders.
- Hepatitis A vaccines requested by Team Rubicon for Elpida camp are expected to be delivered at the same time as influenza vaccines and to be administered by the corresponding Regional Health Authority team.
- As Mr Klimanoglou will not be available for a few days, only very urgent requests to facilitate appointments to be addressed to Dr Leptokaridou.

Action points

- Influenza vaccination of high risk PoCs ASAP once vaccines have been received.
- Actors to submit school age children's immunisation status to Mrs Machaira, MoMP
- Actors to communicate non-urgent medical transportation plans for 2017 to UNHCR, Angeliki Kosmatopoulou, kosmatop@unhcr.org before the next meeting.
- Availability to cover Grevena and general availability to be communicated to EKEPY (please copy UNHCR).
- UNHCR to communicate with ART team and other actors moving PoCs from camps the need for adequate notice.
- EKEPY to communicate with police regarding administration of chronic psychiatric medications to PoCs while in custody.

Next meeting will be in two weeks. There will be a ceremonial "Vasilopita cutting"