Measles – rarely seen among physicians, vaccination coverage decreasing, especially in some regions, high risk of importation

Before the outbreak (December 2017 – February 2018) - preparation

Encouraging vaccinators to compensate missed immunizations, guidelines in case of measles occurrence, numerous media communications, press conference and meeting with vaccinators in Dubrovnik-Neretva county (DNC) beginning of 2018.

Start of the outbreak – response and control


During the outbreak/crisis – maintain trust

June 7th 2018: Ministry of Health meeting
June 8th 2018: two outbreak control teams set up at CIPH and sent to Dubrovnik
June 12th 2018: circular letter to all health institutions and to all kindergartens in DNC, but also to all health institutions in Croatia

Communication toward public, physicians and media on daily basis

After the outbreak - evaluation

23 cases in Croatia during 2018; 16 in Dubrovnik-Neretva County.
2 importations in DNC resulted in an outbreak; 6 importations in other parts of Croatia did not.
Large public attention and pressure caused by several factors (timing/place) resulted in massive involvement of health sector.
MPR vaccine consumption increased 10x in 2018 in comparison to 2017, highest increase in June 2018.

Conclusion

Before 2018 measles outbreak involving 16 cases and affecting one Croatian county, Croatia experienced 2014-15 measles outbreak with 220 cases detected in most northern Croatian counties. A solid preparation, early initiation of the risk communication involving key stakeholders contributed greatly to successful containment of 2018 outbreak. Risk communication is an integral part of outbreak control measures.