

and delivered directly to the affected farms.

Further measures taken during the week of 10-14 February, after the escalation of the number of affected properties, were:

- an information sheet was produced and distributed to all families on affected properties;

- penicillin prophylaxis and surveillance of the laboratory workers by the local medical officer of health was instituted;
- public meetings organised by the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment were attended by public health officers, and human health

information was presented at these meetings.

On 14 February, there were no new cattle deaths, and immunisation of all cattle in the affected area was almost completed.

## Notices to readers

### *The Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network*

The Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHS Network) is an affiliation of member countries and territories of the South Pacific Commission and other official bodies such as regional organisations and universities. The aim of the Network is to enhance public health surveillance and response capabilities among Pacific island nations. It was formally established at the Pacific Island Meeting on Public Health Surveillance in Noumea, New Caledonia in December 1996.

The PPHS Network has a Coordinating Body presently composed of representatives from five Pacific island countries and territories (Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands and Western Samoa) and five international, regional and training institutions (Australian National University/ National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, South Pacific Commission, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, University of Hawaii and World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific). The current focal point of the Coordinating Body is at the South Pacific Commission Community Health Programme. Its immediate objective is to establish a

supportive framework for Pacific island countries to enhance their public health surveillance capabilities. Among other strategies, this includes the development of an early warning system for outbreaks of disease and ensuring a national response and international collaboration to control outbreaks.

For further information on the PPHS Network contact Dr Yvan Souares, Epidemiologist, or Dr Tom Kiedrynski, Notifiable Disease Specialist, both at the South Pacific Commission, Noumea, New Caledonia. Telephone (687) 260143, Facsimile (687) 263818 or email: Yvan@spc.org.nc or Tom@spc.org.nc.

### *WHO International Travel and Health Vaccination Requirements and Health Advice, 1997 Edition*

The 1997 edition of International Travel and Health has just been published by the World Health Organization in English and French. This booklet is intended for national health administrations, practising physicians, tourist agencies, shipping companies, airline operators, and other bodies who are called upon to give health advice to travellers.

In addition to summarising the vaccination requirements of individual countries, the booklet indicates the main areas where malaria transmission occurs and where *Plasmodium falciparum* is resistant to drugs. The recommended chemoprophylactic regimen is also given for each country with malarious areas.

Other chapters cover certain health hazards to which the traveller may be exposed, and indicate the areas in which these hazards are most likely to occur. The booklet also recommends a number of precautions that travellers should take when visiting unfamiliar places.

World Health Organization, 1997; 106 pages (available in English and French); ISBN 92 4 158022 4; Order No. 1189700.