

Guatemala declares dengue health emergency

August 31 2023



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

Guatemala on Thursday declared a national health emergency in the face of a dengue outbreak that has killed 22 and infected thousands so far this year.

Health Minister Francisco Coma announced the measure that would

remain in effect for three months and would entail widespread fumigation to eradicate mosquitos that carry the disease.

According to health ministry data, more than 12,200 cases of dengue have been reported so far this year, more than double the number in the corresponding period of 2022. There have been 22 deaths.

Civil protection official Walter Monroy said that with the approach of the rainy season, there will be more standing water for mosquitos to breed in.

"The importance of this intervention and this interagency coordination is to prevent current cases from increasing," he said of the state of emergency.

Guatemala recorded its highest-ever number of yearly cases in 2019, with more than 50,000.

Dengue is a disease endemic to [tropical areas](#) that causes high fevers, headaches, nausea, vomiting, muscle pain and, in the most serious cases, bleeding that can lead to death.

The World Health Organization said in April that dengue and other diseases caused by mosquito-borne viruses are spreading faster and further due to climate change.

© 2023 AFP

Citation: Guatemala declares dengue health emergency (2023, August 31) retrieved 10 May 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-08-guatemala-declares-dengue-health-emergency.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private

study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.