



International Surveillance of Swine Influenza A (H1N1)

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International Status:

WHO Influenza A(H1N1)-update 48

[Figures in brackets are from the WHO update at 06:00 GMT 11 June 2009]

As of 06:00 GMT, 12 June 2009, 74 [74] countries have officially reported 29,669 [28,774] cases of influenza A(H1N1) infection, including 145 [144] deaths. (Next WHO update due 06:00 GMT, 15 June 2009)

Mexico has reported 6,241 [6,241] laboratory confirmed human cases of infection, including 108 [108] deaths. The United States has reported 13,217 [13,217] laboratory confirmed human cases, including 27 [27] deaths. Canada has reported 2,978 [2,446] laboratory confirmed human cases, including 4 [4] deaths. Costa Rica has reported 104 [104] laboratory confirmed human cases, including 1 [1] death. Chile has reported 1,694 [1,694] laboratory confirmed human cases, including 2 [2] deaths. Dominican Republic has reported 91 [91] cases, including 1 [1] death. Columbia is reporting 35 [35] cases of confirmed influenza A(H1N1) infection, and 1 [1] death.

Guatemala is reporting 74 cases [60] cases of confirmed influenza A(H1N1) infection, and this figure now includes one death.

The following countries have reported laboratory confirmed cases with no deaths - Argentina 343 [256], Australia 1307 [1307], Austria 7 [7] Bahamas 1 [1], Bahrain 1 [1], Barbados 3 [3], Belgium 14 [14], Bolivia 5 [5], Brazil 52 [40], Bulgaria 2 [2], Cayman Islands, UKOT 2 [2], China 188 [174], Cuba 6 [5], Cyprus 1 [1], Czech Republic 4 [4], Denmark 11 [10], Dominica 1 [1], Ecuador 67 [67] Egypt 10 [10], El Salvador 69 [69], Estonia 4 [4], Finland 4 [4], France 73 [73], Germany 95 [95], Greece 7 [7], Honduras 89 [89], Hungary 4 [4], Iceland 4 [3], India 9 [9], Ireland 12 [12], Israel 68 [68], Italy 56 [54], Jamaica 11 [10], Japan 549 [518], Korea, Republic of 53 [53], Kuwait 18 [18], Lebanon 8 [8], Luxembourg 1 [1], Malaysia 5 [5], Netherlands 35 [30], New Zealand 27 [23], Nicaragua 56 [45], Norway 13 [13], Panama 221 [221], Paraguay 25 [25], Peru 79 [64] Philippines 77 [74], Poland 7 [7], Portugal 2 [2], Romania 11 [11], Russia 3 [3], Saudi Arabia 1 [1], Singapore 18 [18], Slovakia 3 [3], Spain 488 [357] Sweden 19 [19], Switzerland 20 [20], Thailand 8 [8], Trinidad and Tobago 4 [2], Turkey 10 [10], Ukraine 1 [1], United Arab Emirates 1 [1], United Kingdom 822 [822], Uruguay 36 [24], Venezuela 25 [13], Viet Nam 23 [16], .

WHO data includes New Zealand data up to 12 June 2009 GMT.

WHO Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan, (11 June GMT) issued an announcement that the WHO had decided to raise the level of influenza pandemic alert from phase 5 to phase 6. Designation of this phase indicates that a global pandemic is underway and that it is no longer possible to contain the virus in a particular geographical area.

WHO Phase 6 is characterised by community level outbreaks in at least one other country in a different WHO region (from the source country). It indicates there is sustained human to human, community level transmission but it also acknowledges that at this time the influenza A(H1N1) is a moderate disease. The WHO recognises that globally there is good reason to believe that the pandemic, at least in its early stages, will be of moderate severity but that, as we know from experience, the severity of the pandemic can vary from one country to another. The WHO will continue to monitor the situation quite closely.

At this stage the H1N1 influenza 09 virus is causing a spectrum of illness. While some deaths have occurred, and some people have needed treatment in hospital, most people have had a mild illness and recovered after a few days at home. The WHO is concerned, however, about the unusual occurrence of occasionally severe disease in otherwise healthy young adults and will continue to monitor the situation quite closely.

The WHO encourages individual countries to undertake 'course adjustment' according to their local circumstances, that is to tailor their pandemic response measures to their local circumstances.

Despite the heightened pandemic level, the WHO is clear that there should be no border closures as there is no evidence that these measures stop the spread of the disease and there should be no travel restrictions.

The WHO recommends that all countries now place greater emphasis on providing care with a decreased emphasis on stopping the spread of the virus.

Current Influenza Pandemic Global Severity Assessment

On 9 June 2009 WHO met to discuss the current influenza pandemic global severity assessment. To provide context and guidance to countries on the current situation following WHO's decision to declare phase 6, WHO has provided an initial global assessment of this pandemic's severity.

At this time, WHO considers the overall severity of the pandemic to be moderate. This assessment is based on the clinical and epidemiological information available to WHO to date, as well as input from its Member States on the pandemic's impact on their health systems and more generally on their social and economic functioning. More specifically, this assessment reflects that:

1. Most people recover from infection without the need for hospitalization or medical care.
2. Overall, national levels of clinically severe or fatal cases respiratory illness appear similar to levels seen during local seasonal influenza periods-- although in some local areas and institutions, high levels of disease have occurred.
3. Overall, hospitals and health care systems in most countries generally have been able to cope with the numbers of people seeking care -- although in some localities, some facilities and systems have been stressed.

This assessment is also made with the understanding and concern that the current patterns of serious cases and fatalities are occurring primarily among young persons, including the previously healthy and those with pre-existing medical conditions or pregnancy. Moreover, large outbreaks of disease have not yet been reported in many countries, and the full clinical spectrum of disease has yet to be described.

These considerations are important and WHO stresses that close monitoring and timely and regular sharing of this information with WHO during the pandemic period is essential for WHO to make changes in future severity assessments if needed.

Discussion

Based on historical patterns, the severity of pandemics can change considerably over time and differ by location or population. Such changes in severity may reflect: a) changes in the virus, b) underlying vulnerabilities c) limitations in health system capacity, or d) some combination of these. At this time, the pandemic is early in its evolution and many countries have not yet been substantially affected. Moreover, the virus may evolve and change its pathogenicity in the future.

WHO will continue to assess the pandemic's global severity and will update its assessments on a regular basis through the pandemic period.

Based on the advice of the Emergency Committee, the Director-General determined that the WHO's

current advice against travel restrictions and border closures is appropriate. The production of seasonal influenza vaccine will continue at this time, subject to re-evaluation as the situation evolves.

New Zealand's travel advisory information is posted on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Safe Travel website: www.safetravel.govt.nz. New Zealanders travelling or living overseas are encouraged to register their details on "Safe Travel". The public is being advised against all tourist and non-essential travel to Mexico due to the number of Influenza A (H1N1) cases. Travellers to Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Panama, Spain, the UK and the US are advised that there are a significant number of Influenza A (H1N1) cases in these countries and they should conform with any restrictions and instructions issued by the local authorities to contain the spread of Influenza A (H1N1) and take precautions to avoid contracting the illness.

Australian Situation [Figures in brackets are from 1230 AEST 14 June]

As at 0500 AEST 15 June 2009, in Australia, there are 1,542 [1,515] laboratory confirmed cases of influenza A (H1N1). Victoria has 1,011 [1,011] of Australia's confirmed cases. All Australian states and territories now have at least one confirmed case. Australia is no longer reporting suspected cases. (Note that these numbers are higher than the WHO figures because this information is more up to date).

During the Australian Health Protection Committee meeting on 5 June, members agreed that contact tracing on international flights be considered only for flights where more than one case of confirmed or probable H1N1 Influenza is identified.

There are currently six people in hospital around Australia with H1N1 Influenza 09. Four of these are in Victoria and two in South Australia.

The Australian Health Protection Committee (AHPC) and the Chief Medical Officer, Professor Jim Bishop, raised the pandemic response to allow MODIFIED SUSTAIN activities for Victoria on 3 June 2009. Australia's national pandemic alert level remains at 'contain' for the other states and territories after it was initially raised on 22 May 2009.

Wikipedia reports as at 15 June 2009 there are now 36,465 laboratory confirmed cases of influenza A(H1N1) across 80 countries with 182 deaths across nine countries.

Media reports indicate the first swine flu death in the United Kingdom

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/8099832.stm

Guidance and Advice

- The Ministry of Health advises people who think they may have Influenza A(H1N1) to call their doctors or the national healthline as opposed to going to hospitals or medical centres in an effort to minimise the spread of infection in waiting rooms.
<http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/influenza-a-h1n1-update-sixtyeight-100609>
- MOH pandemic Influenza resources
<http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/pandemicinfluenza-resources>
- CDC Influenza A(H1N1) flu clinical and public health guidance documents
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/>
- Ministry of Education guidance for educational institutes and parents
<http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/influenza-a-h1n1-education>
- WHO Influenza A(H1N1) patient care checklist
http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/swineflu/ah1n1_checklist.pdf

Current Travel Advice

- WHO continues to recommend no restrictions on travel and no border closures (Press release 12 June 2009)
http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2009/h1n1_pandemic_phase6_20090611/en/index.html
- Travellers are advised not to travel while ill and those that develop symptoms following travel to seek medical attention as per national guidelines.,
http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/guidance/public_health/travel_advice/en/index.html
- MOH advises travellers who become ill with in seven days of returning from travel to seek medical attention or call the free health line. (Latest update 29 May 2009)
[http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/9005/\\$File/travel-health-notice-290509.pdf](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/9005/$File/travel-health-notice-290509.pdf)

Information Sources

WHO <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/updates/en/index.html>

WPRO http://www.wpro.who.int/media_centre/news/

ECDC http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/Health_topics/novel_influenza_virus/2009_Outbreak/

CDC <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/update.htm>

DOHA

http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/healthswine_influenza-index.htm

NZ MOH <http://www.moh.govt.nz/influenza-a-h1n1>

Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_swine_flu_outbreak_by_country