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Tuesday, May 12, 2009
6:00 PM, EDT**

EOC SITUATION REPORT #18 Influenza A(H1N1)

Status of Influenza A(H1N1) in the Americas

- Cuba reported its first confirmed case, in Provincia Matanzas.
- Confirmed cases reported in other countries in the Americas:
 - o USA, 3,009 confirmed cases with 3 deaths;
 - o Mexico has reported confirmed 2,282 cases, 58 deaths;
 - o Canada, 358 confirmed cases with 1 death;
 - o Panama, 16 confirmed cases;
 - o Costa Rica, 8 confirmed case with 1 death;
 - o Brazil, 8 confirmed cases;
 - o Colombia, 6 confirmed case;
 - o El Salvador, 4 confirmed cases;
 - o Guatemala, 3 confirmed case.
 - o Argentina, 1 confirmed case.
- The World Health Organization maintains pandemic alert of [Phase 5](#). There is no evidence of sustained community level human-to-human transmission outside of the Americas.



Photos: Pan American Health Organization, regional office of the World Health Organization

Status of Influenza A(H1N1) in other Regions

- 30 countries have officially reported cases of influenza A(H1N1) as follows:
 - o The following countries have reported laboratory confirmed cases with no deaths - Australia (1), Austria (1), China (2, comprising 1 in China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and 1 in mainland China), Denmark (1), France (13), Germany (12), Ireland (1), Israel (7), Italy (9), Japan (4), Netherlands (3), New Zealand (7), Norway (2), Poland (1), Portugal (1), Republic of Korea (3), Spain (95), Sweden (2), Switzerland (1) and the United Kingdom (55).

PAHO/WHO Response

- Dr. Mirta Roses, the Director of PAHO, and the regional director for the Americas of WHO, will attend the World Health Assembly in Geneva, beginning 18 May. Although the agenda for this year's WHA was set many months ago, influenza A(H1N1) is sure to be an important topic. The WHA is the decision-making body of WHO. It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States.
- To date, PAHO/WHO has deployed 29 experts to Mexico to provide support to health authorities.

- Oseltamivir shipments continue to arrive in Member Countries.
- In a WHO [press conference](#) today, Dr. Nikki Shindo, a medical officer for the WHO, announced that the WHO will soon publish clinical management guidance to help doctors, nurses, and other people caring for patients who have or will be affected by this virus. The WHO is working closely with the Global Influenza Network to monitor the seasonal flu viruses circulating and provide the best option for medications.

Recommendations

- PAHO/WHO recommends that countries continue to review their national influenza pandemic preparedness plans and address any gaps identified.
- For those health care facilities in countries where cases of influenza A(H1N1) have **NOT** yet been reported, please refer to [these general recommendations](#) from Pan American Health Organization Office of the Assistant Director Health Systems and Services Area.

Resources

- Today, WHO [published an article](#) on assessing the severity of an influenza pandemic. The report highlights the many factors that can influence the overall severity of a pandemic's impact, including: the properties of the virus, population vulnerability, subsequent waves of spread, capacity to respond, and the assessment of the current situation. Some interesting findings are:
 - Influenza A(H1N1) appears to be more contagious than seasonal influenza.
 - In terms of population vulnerability, the tendency of the H1N1 virus to cause more severe and lethal infections in people with underlying conditions is of particular concern.
 - Outside Mexico, nearly all cases of illness, and all deaths, have been detected in people with underlying chronic conditions.
- In Central America, a hand washing initiative was presented to members of the task force of the Council of Ministries of Health for Central America and the Dominican Republic (COMISCA). [Click here for more hand washing resources](#).
- [Pan American Health Organization](#) website.
- [World Health Organization](#) website.
- For constant updates on the influenza A(H1N1) situation, check the [PAHO](#) and [WHO](#) channels in Twitter.

The PAHO/WHO Emergency Operations Center Situation Report will no longer be published on a daily basis unless the situation requires heightened attention.
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