



Update New virus *Influenza A (H1N1)*



Regional Report (11 June 2009 – 23 h GMT; 18 h EST) Vol. 6, No. 46

The data and information of this report are updated daily and are available at: http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1&lang=en Data can change as new notifications from countries are received.

The information is obtained from official websites of the Ministries of Health of the countries of the Americas and information submitted by the International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Points.

Summary of the current situation

As of 11 June 2009, **25,463 confirmed cases** of the new virus *Influenza A (H1N1)* infection, including **145 deaths**, have been notified in **26 countries** of the Americas: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Panama, Peru, United States, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. (Figure 1)

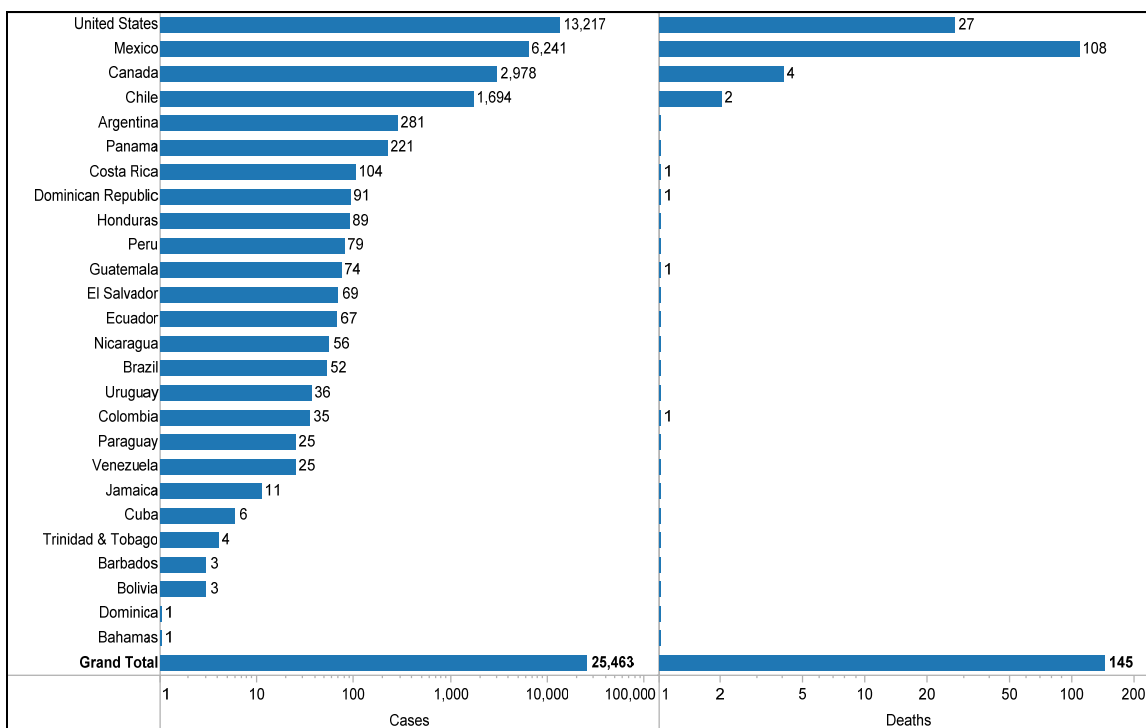
In the Americas Region, there were **637** additional **confirmed cases** compared to the previous day. **Guatemala** notified its **first death** caused by the new *Influenza A (H1N1)* virus.

WHO have reached *Influenza A (H1N1)* pandemic alert to Phase 6

WHO declared on June 11, 2009 that have reached influenza pandemic alert **phase 6** by the virus *Influenza A (H1N1)*—a worldwide pandemic is under way.

There is indisputable evidence of sustained community spread of this new virus in several countries across WHO regions.

Figure 1. Number of confirmed cases and deaths by the new virus *Influenza A (H1N1)*
Countries of the Americas - Updated to 11 June 2009



Source: Ministries of Health of the countries of the Americas.

WHO has raised the level of influenza pandemic alert to phase 6

Since the end of April 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO), have been monitoring the spread and characteristics of a novel *influenza A* (H1N1) virus. Based on extensive discussions with leading influenza experts, virologists, public health officials, and advice from the Emergency Committee established under the International Health Regulations (IHR), there is indisputable evidence of sustained community spread of this new virus in several countries across WHO regions.

In consequence, WHO declared on **June 11, 2009** that we have reached influenza pandemic alert **phase 6**--that a worldwide pandemic is under way.

Thus far, the evidence indicates that there is good reason to believe that this pandemic, at least in the early days, will be of moderate severity. 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.

WHO plays a critical role in helping countries respond to this pandemic and will continue to implement their responsibilities as mandated by the International Health Regulations (2005). The WHO are being called upon to provide advice to national authorities, the UN Country Team and UN sister agencies, and other partners on the nature and response of the epidemic. Over the coming months, the situation will continue to evolve rapidly. The latest situation and recommendations can be found at the following web site <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html> and <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>

Source: From the message of Dr. Margaret Chan, WHO General Director. June 10, 2009. Geneva.

Phase 5 is characterized by human-to-human spread of the virus into at least two countries in one WHO region. While most countries will not be affected at this stage, the declaration of Phase 5 is a strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of the planned mitigation measures is short.

ACTUAL PHASE (June 11, 2009)

Phase 6, the pandemic phase, is characterized by community level outbreaks in at least one other country in a different WHO region in addition to the criteria defined in **Phase 5**. Designation of this phase will indicate that a global pandemic is under way

Source: WHO. Current WHO phase of pandemic alert.

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/phase/en/index.html

For further information visit the PAHO portal for the new Influenza virus A (H1N1):

http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=805&Itemid=569&lang=en

Influenza A (H1N1). Region of the Americas. **11 June 2009 (23 h GMT; 18 h EST)**

