



## Regional Update

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

(June 7, 2010 - 17 h GMT; 12 h EST)

The information contained within this update is obtained from data provided by Ministries of Health of Member States and National Influenza Centers through reports sent to Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) or updates on their web pages.

### I- Evolution of the pandemic

#### **North America**

In the United States<sup>1</sup>, the proportion of outpatient consultations for influenza-like illness (ILI) has remained below the national baseline for twenty-one consecutive weeks. All sub-national surveillance regions reported the proportion of outpatient visits for ILI to be below their region-specific baseline. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was below the epidemic threshold. One influenza-associated pediatric death was reported and was associated with pandemic virus. This death occurred in October 2009.

Mexico reported regional influenza activity, a decreasing trend in acute respiratory disease, low/moderate intensity of acute respiratory disease and low impact of acute respiratory disease on health care services.

#### **Caribbean**

Jamaica reported widespread influenza activity, Cuba reported regional activity and Dominica reported no activity. Jamaica reported a decreasing trend in acute respiratory disease, while Cuba and Dominica reported unchanged trends. All these countries reported low/moderate intensity of acute respiratory disease and low impact of acute respiratory disease on health care services.

#### **Central America**

Costa Rica reported widespread influenza activity, Nicaragua reported regional activity, Honduras reported localized activity, and El Salvador and Panama reported no influenza activity. All these countries reported decreasing or unchanged trends in acute respiratory disease, low/moderate intensity of acute respiratory disease and low impact of acute respiratory disease on health care services.

In El Salvador<sup>2</sup>, in EW 21, the number of pneumonia cases and acute respiratory infections decreased 8.2% and 20.7% respectively as compared to the previous week.

#### **Weekly Summary**

- In North America, acute respiratory disease activity remained stable and is lower than expected in most areas.
- The Caribbean countries, reported decreasing or unchanged trends in acute respiratory disease.
- Central American countries reported decreasing or unchanged trends in acute respiratory disease
- In South American countries, Chile and Colombia reported unchanged and decreasing trends in acute respiratory disease respectively, while Brazil and Venezuela reported increasing trends.
- From EW 1 to 21, 2010 in Colombia, Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico and Uruguay, the pandemic virus predominated. In Venezuela, seasonal influenza predominated since EW 16. Argentina and Chile reported the predominance of respiratory syncytial virus.
- 13 new confirmed deaths in 4 countries were reported; in total there have been 8,423 cumulative confirmed deaths.

## ***South America***

### **Andean**

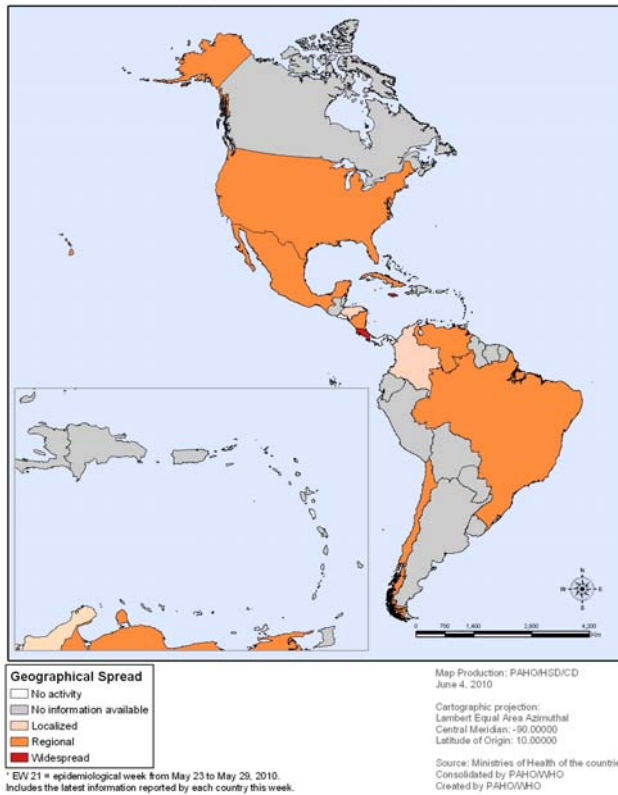
Venezuela reported regional influenza activity and Colombia reported localized activity. Colombia reported a decreasing trend in acute respiratory disease, while Venezuela reported an increasing trend. Low/moderate intensity of acute respiratory disease and low impact of acute respiratory disease on health care services were reported by both countries.

### **Southern Cone**

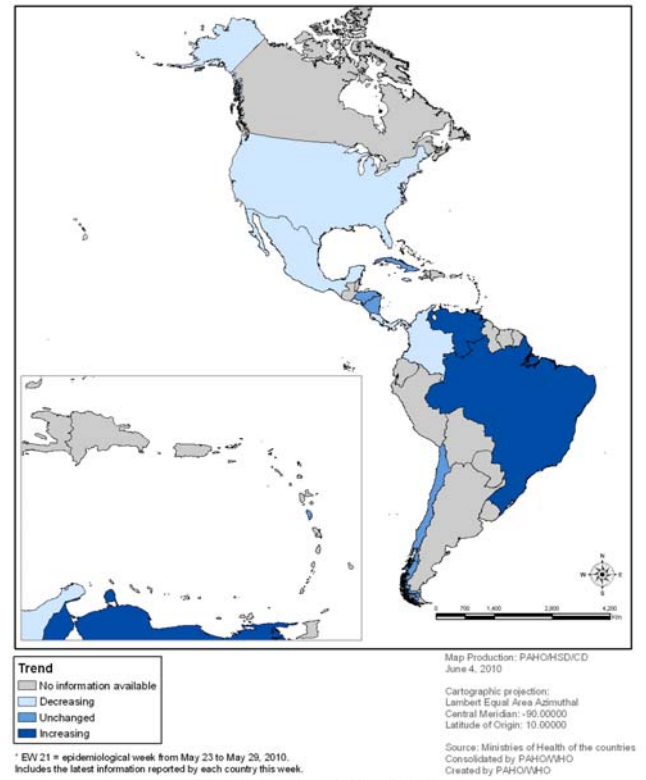
Brazil and Chile reported regional influenza activity. Chile reported an unchanged trend in acute respiratory disease while Brazil reported an increasing trend. Both countries reported low/moderate intensity of acute respiratory disease and low impact of acute respiratory disease on health care services.

In Argentina<sup>3</sup> and Chile<sup>4</sup>, the national ILI rates were below the levels observed for the same period in previous years.

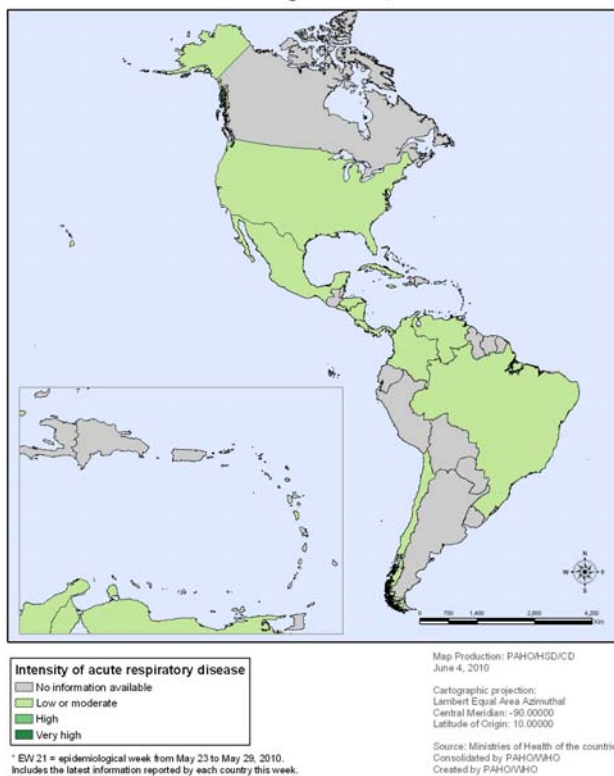
**Map 1. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009,  
Geographical Spread by Country.  
Americas Region. EW 21, 2010\*.**



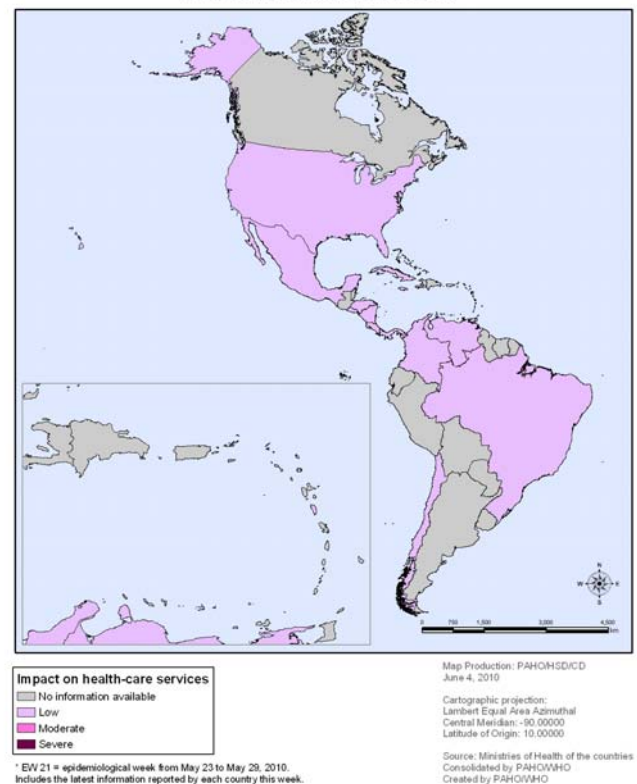
**Map 2. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009,  
Trend of respiratory disease activity compared to the previous week.  
Americas Region. EW 21, 2010\*.**



**Map 3. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009,  
Intensity of Acute Respiratory Disease in the Population.  
Americas Region. EW 21, 2010\*.**



**Map 4. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009,  
Impact of Acute Respiratory Disease on Health-Care Services.  
Americas Region. EW 21, 2010\*.**



## II- Description of hospitalizations and deaths among confirmed cases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009

A table containing the number of deaths reported to PAHO is included in Annex 2.

The ratio of males to females among hospitalized cases was approximately one (Table 1). Hospitalizations were mainly in young adults. Underlying comorbidities were present in 53% of hospitalized cases.

**Table 1: Description of hospitalizations and severe cases in countries with data reported this week**

	Chile	Costa Rica <sup>5</sup>
<b>Reporting period</b>	2009 – May 22, 2010	April 24, 2009 – May 22, 2010
<b>Type of cases reported</b>	Hospitalized, confirmed	Hospitalized, confirmed
<b>Number of cases</b>	1,631	541
<b>Percentage of women</b>	52*	54.9
<b>Age</b>	Median 32 years, highest incidence in age group < 5 years*	-
<b>Percent with underlying co-morbidities</b>	53*	-
<b>Co-morbidities most frequently reported (%)</b>	Asthma 17% Hypertension 10% Diabetes 8% COPD 7%*	Asthma 25.5 % Diabetes 13.6% Obesity 14% COPD 8% Cardiopathy 7%
<b>Percent pregnant among women of child-bearing age</b>	-	6.1**

\* Information available on 1,622 cases from 2009

\*\* The denominator was all hospitalizations as information was not provided about women of child-bearing age

Overall, approximately half of deceased cases were among women (Table 2). The percentage of cases with underlying co-morbidities varied from 61 to 77%.

**Table 2: Description of deaths among confirmed cases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in countries with data reported this week**

	Chile	Mexico	Peru
<b>Reporting period</b>	2009-May 22, 2010	2009-May 24, 2010	2009 – May 31, 2010
<b>Number of confirmed deaths</b>	150	1,235	226
<b>Percentage of women</b>	47	47.1	52
<b>Age</b>	Median 44 years	Highest percentage (70.1%) in 20-54 year age group	Median 38
<b>Percent with underlying co-morbidities</b>	70.6	60.6	77.4
<b>Co-morbidities most frequently reported (%)</b>	-	-	Metabolic (29.5%), Cardiovascular (24.3 %), Respiratory (15.6 %), Neurologic (10.9%)
<b>Percent pregnant among women of child-bearing age</b>	1.4*	-	14.5*

\* The denominator used was all women as information was not provided about women of child-bearing age.

### III- Viral circulation

The Tables 3 and 4, and the graphs below are contributions from National Influenza Centers and influenza laboratories from the Region.

**Table 3: Viral circulation in countries with data reported.**

Country	Time Period 2010	# Samples Tested	% Positive Samples	% Influenza A	% Influenza B	% RSV	% Parainfluenza	% Adenovirus	% Other Viruses
Chile	EW 1-EW 20	5.036	10.5	11.9	0.0	58.9	12.9	16.3	0.0
Colombia	EW 1-EW 20	4.427	11.5	33.2	2.9	6.9	3.5	1.2	52.3
Cuba	EW 1-EW 21	6024	24.4	49.4	1.3	1.9	8.8	1.2	37.5
Dominican Rep	EW 1-EW 21	388	26.3	1.0	5.9	5.9	51.0	36.3	0.0
El Salvador	EW 1-EW 21	447	5.4	41.7	25.0	0.0	20.8	12.5	0.0
Jamaica	EW 1-EW 21	388	4.9	68.4	5.3	0.0	5.3	21.1	0.0
Mexico	EW 1-EW 20	13350	24.1	88.2	0.1	2.1	0.8	0.2	8.6
Panama	EW 1-EW 21	393	13.2	17.3	15.4	25.0	32.7	9.6	0.0
Uruguay	EW 1-EW 21	257	17.1	70.5	0.0	0.0	4.5	25.0	0.0
Venezuela	EW 16-EW 21	173	34.7	78.3	0.0	1.7	3.3	0.0	16.7

**Table 4: Viral circulation in countries with data reported this week.**

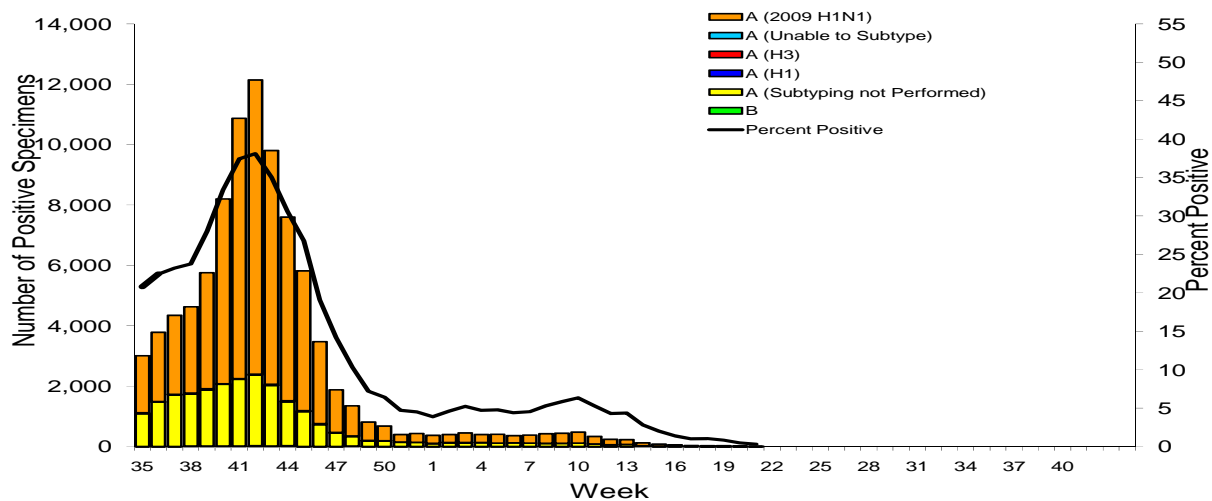
Country	EW 2010	# Samples Tested	% Positive Samples	% Influenza A	% Influenza B	% RSV	% Parainfluenza	% Adenovirus	% Other Viruses
Chile	EW 20	537	23.8	4.7	0.0	82.0	9.4	3.9	0.0
Colombia	EW 20	105	1.9	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0
Cuba	EW 21	277	29.2	51.9	3.7	3.7	12.3	3.7	24.7
Dominican Rep	EW 21	16	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0	0.0
El Salvador	EW 21	46	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Jamaica	EW 21	9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mexico	EW 20	113	11.5	53.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	46.2
Panama	EW 21	5	40.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0
Uruguay	EW 21	25	52.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Venezuela	EW 21	15	33.3	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

## North America

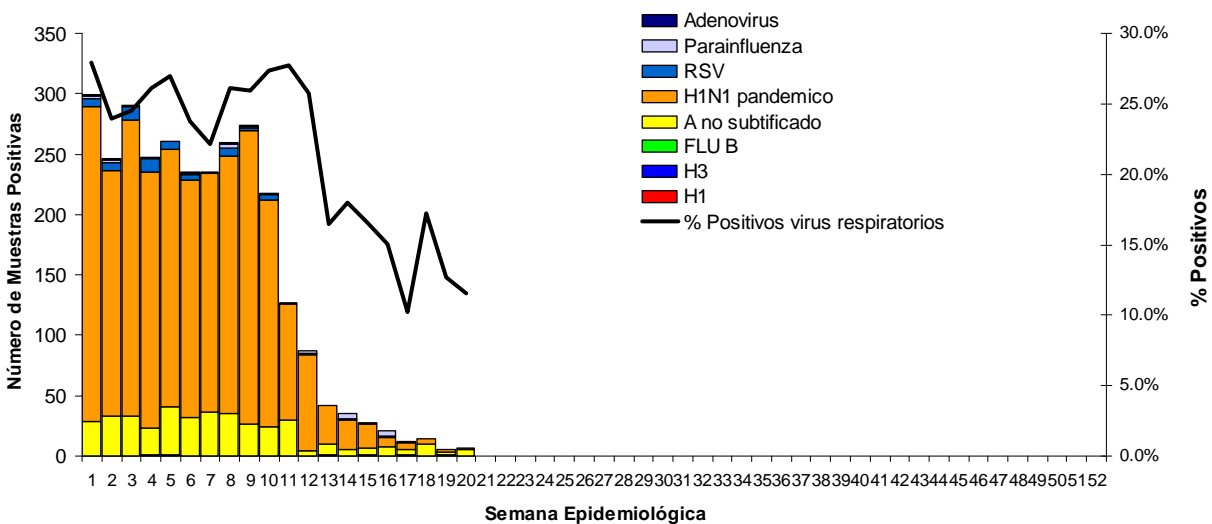
In the United States, circulation of pandemic influenza viruses predominated until the end of 2009. In EW 21, one influenza B virus was reported, and two samples tested positive for influenza A. In 2010, in Mexico the pandemic virus predominated among circulating influenza viruses, however the number of pandemic influenza infections decreased in the last weeks.

### United States. Distribution respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW, 2009-2010 influenza season.

#### Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. WHO/NREVSS Collaborating Laboratories, National Summary, 2009-10



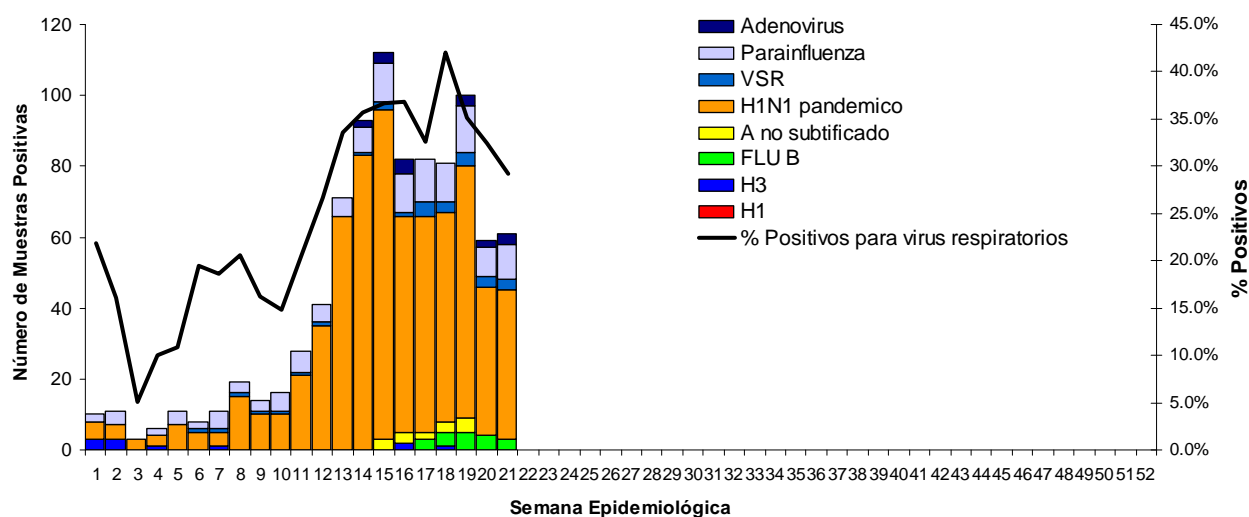
### Mexico. Distribution respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW, 2009-2010 influenza season.



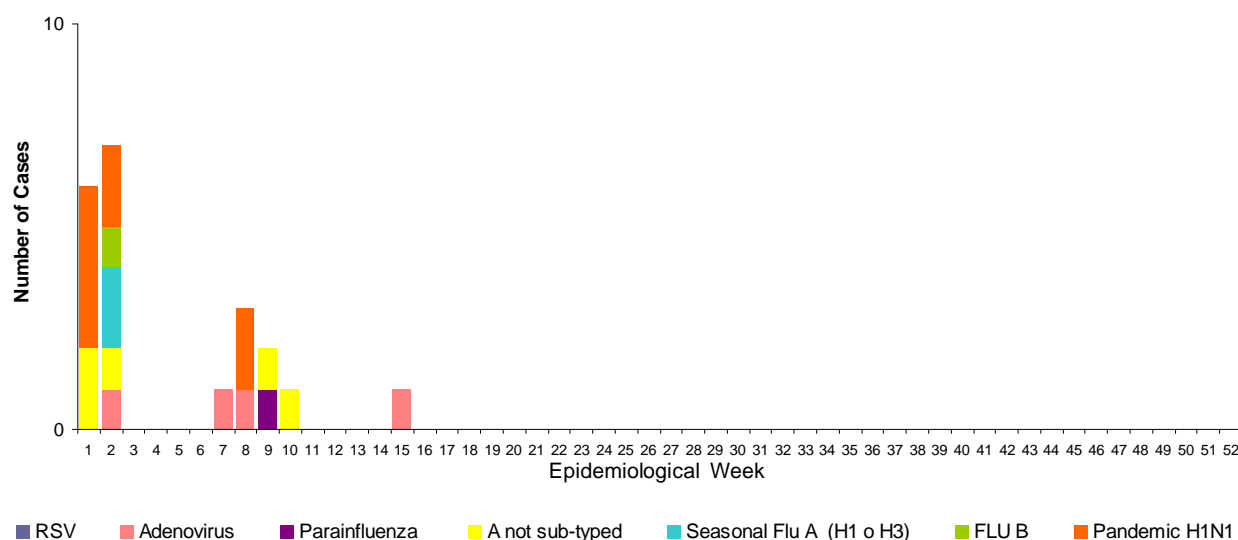
## Caribbean

The Caribbean sub-region presents more variability in the circulation of respiratory viruses. While in Cuba there is a clear predominance of pandemic influenza virus, Jamaica has detected an irregular pattern of respiratory viruses circulation. Dominican Republic has detected the predominance of parainfluenza viruses and adenovirus. While this difference could represent differing viral circulation patterns, it could also be a result of differing sampling strategies.

### Cuba. Distribution respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW, 2009-2010 influenza season.



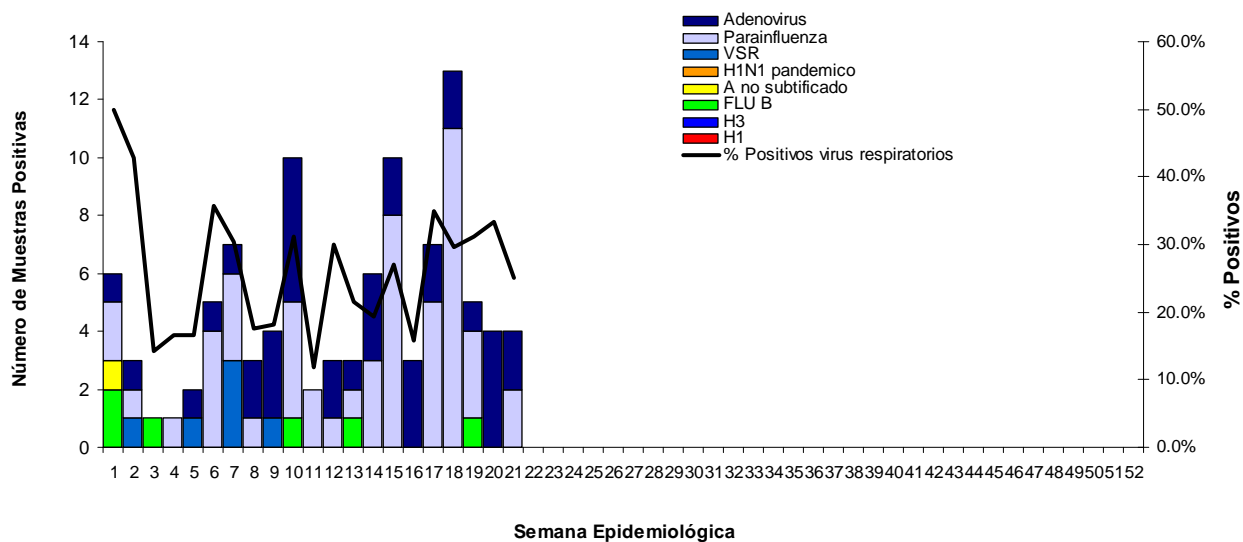
### Jamaica. Distribution respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW, 2009-2010 influenza season \*.



\* Percentage of positive tests for respiratory virus was not showed due to small number of samples tested



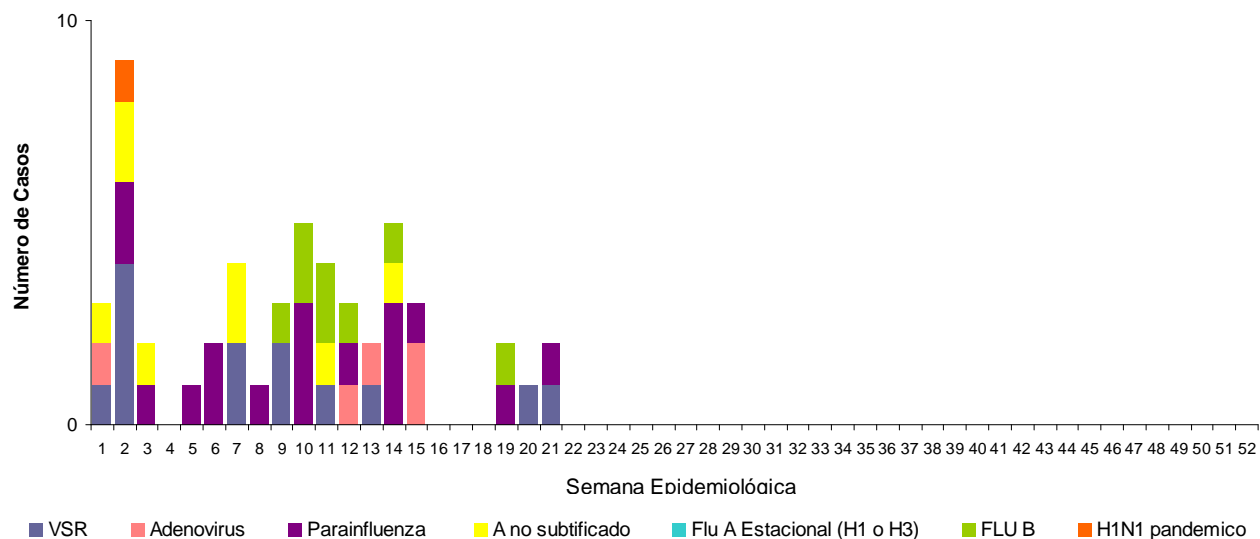
**Dominican Republic. Distribution respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW, 2009-2010 influenza season.**



**Central America**

Panama reported circulation of parainfluenza, respiratory syncytial virus, influenza A, and influenza B viruses in 2010.

**Panama. Distribution respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW, 2009-2010 influenza season<sup>†</sup>.**



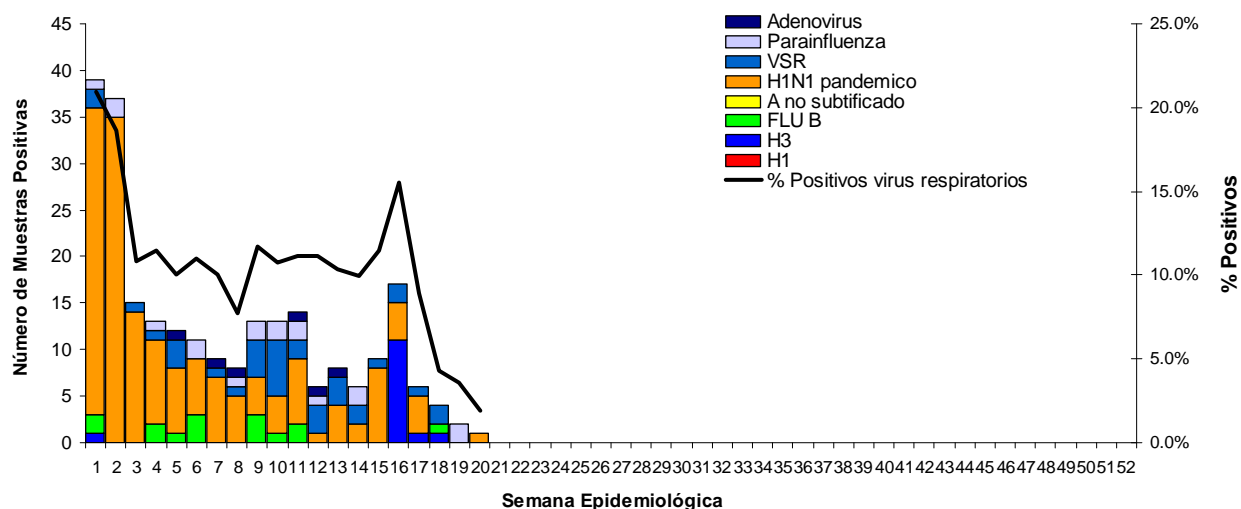
<sup>†</sup> Percentage of positive tests for respiratory virus was not showed due to small number of samples tested

## South America

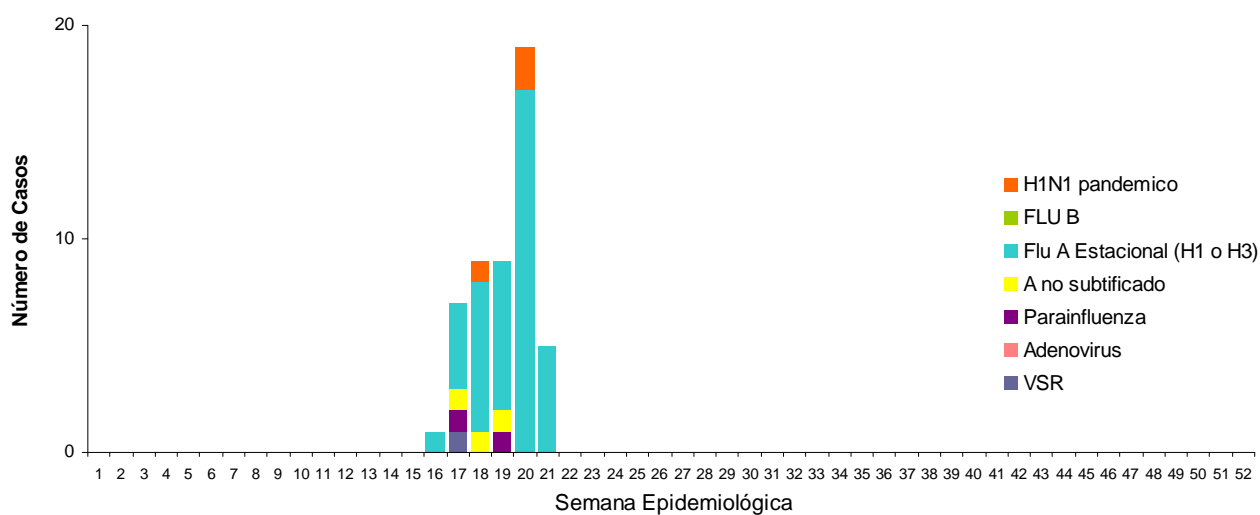
### Andean

Colombia reported primarily circulation of pandemic virus for the first few weeks of 2010, but recently, has detected circulation of seasonal influenza, parainfluenza and influenza B as well. In Venezuela, from EW 16 to EW 21 seasonal influenza predominated and very little pandemic virus has been identified.

#### Colombia. Distribution respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW, 2009-2010 influenza season.



#### Venezuela. Distribution respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW, 2009-2010 influenza season<sup>‡</sup>.

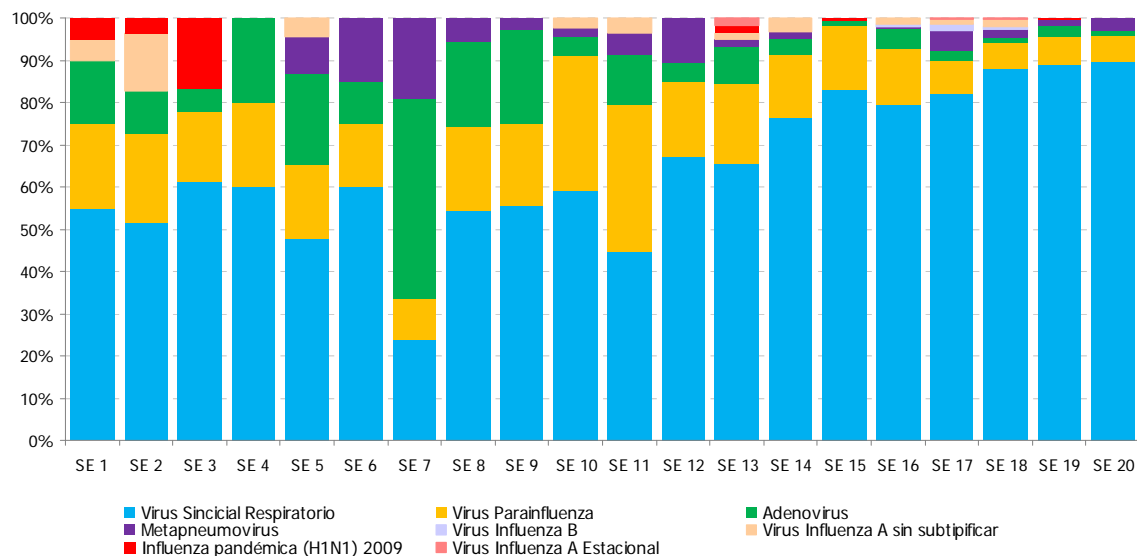


<sup>‡</sup> Percentage of positive tests for respiratory virus was not showed due to small number of samples tested

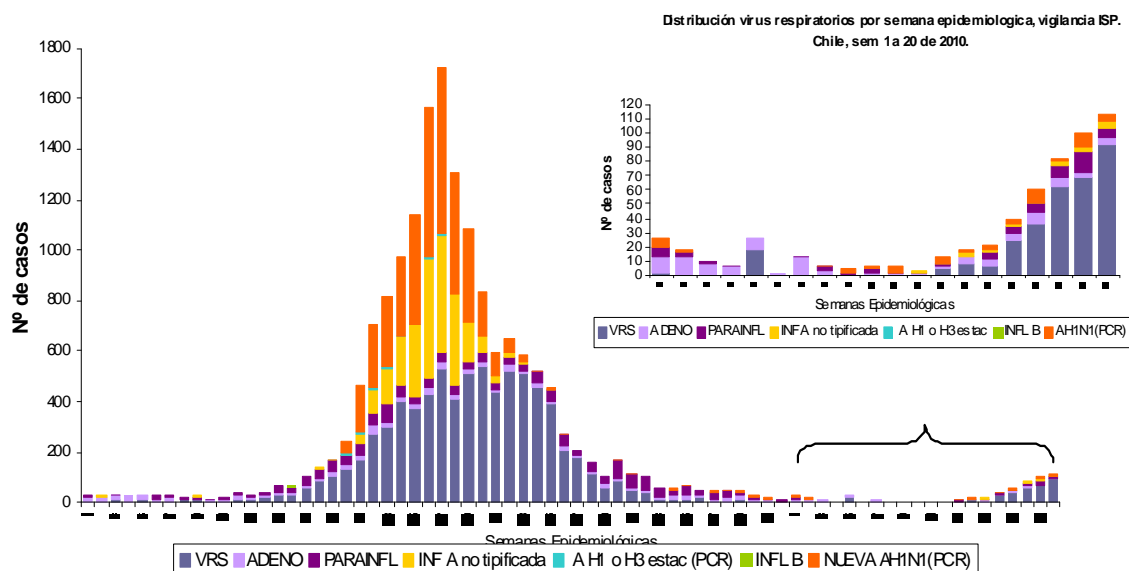
## Southern Cone

In Argentina and Chile, from EW 1 to EW 20, the predominant virus circulating was respiratory syncytial virus, but parainfluenza virus and adenovirus were also detected. In Uruguay, from EW 10 to EW 21, pandemic H1N1 virus was predominant.

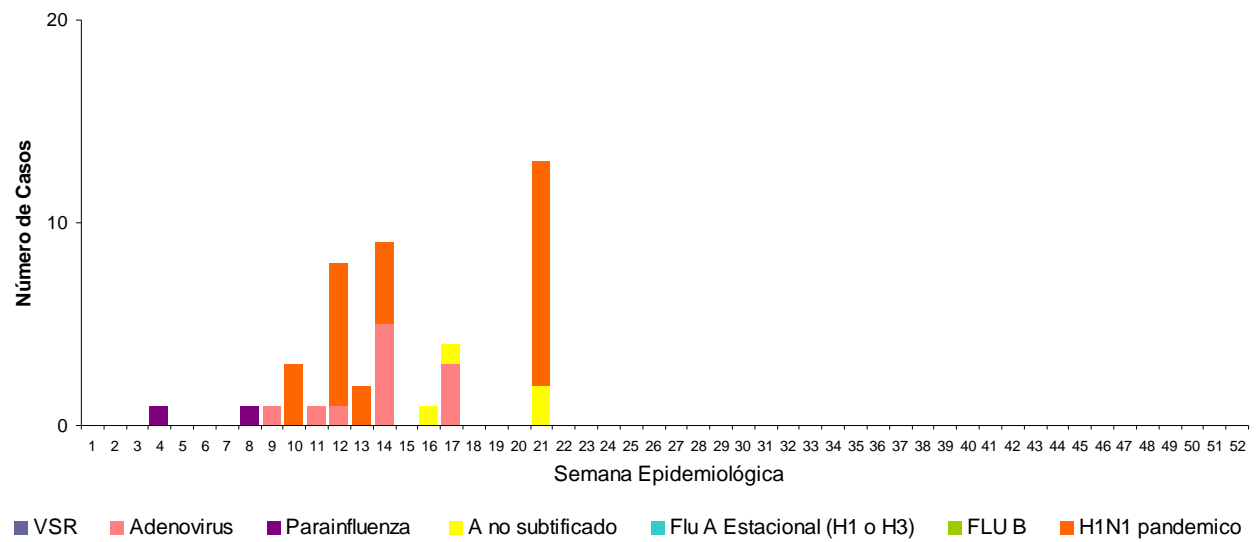
### Argentina. Distribution respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW, 2009-2010 influenza season.



### Chile. Distribution respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW, 2009-2010 influenza season.



**Uruguay. Distribution respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW, 2009-2010 influenza season<sup>§</sup>.**



<sup>§</sup> Percentage of positive tests for respiratory virus was not showed due to small number of samples tested

## IV- Topics

### WHO Director-General statement following the eighth meeting of the Emergency Committee

The WHO Emergency Committee held its eighth meeting on 1 June 2010 and expressed the view that while pandemic activity continues, the period of most intense activity appears to have passed for many parts of the world. Nevertheless, it is important for countries to remain vigilant, which includes attention to all necessary public health measures for disease control and influenza virus and disease surveillance.

Following the advice of the Emergency Committee, the WHO Director-General determined that while the period of most intense pandemic activity has passed, pandemic disease is expected to continue to occur and that a further meeting of the Emergency Committee to reassess the epidemiological situation would be convened by mid July 2010, when information from the winter influenza season in the Southern Hemisphere will be available.

Available at: [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/8th\\_meeting\\_ihr/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/8th_meeting_ihr/en/index.html)

**Annex 1: Weekly monitoring of pandemic epidemiological indicators for countries that provided updated information—Region of the Americas, Epidemiologic Week 21, 2010**

Country	Geographic spread	Trend	Intensity	Impact on Health Care Services	EW
Antigua and Barbuda					
Argentina					
Bahamas					
Barbados					
Belize					
Bolivia					
Brazil	Regional	Increasing	Low/moderate	Low	21
Canada					
Chile	Regional	Unchanged	Low/moderate	Low	20
Colombia	Localized	Decreasing	Low/moderate	Low	21
Costa Rica	Widespread	Decreasing	Low/moderate	Low	20
Cuba	Regional	Unchanged	Low/moderate	Low	21
Dominica	No activity	Unchanged	Low/moderate	Low	21
Dominican Republic					
Ecuador					
El Salvador	No activity	Decreasing	Low/moderate	Low	21
Grenada					
Guatemala					
Guyana					
Haiti					
Honduras	Localized	Unchanged	Low/moderate	Low	21
Jamaica	Widespread	Decreasing	Low/moderate	Low	21
Mexico	Regional	Decreasing	Low/moderate	Low	21
Nicaragua	Regional	Unchanged	Low/moderate	Low	21
Panama	No activity	Decreasing	Low/moderate	Low	21
Paraguay					
Peru					
Saint Kitts and Nevis					
Saint Lucia					
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines					
Suriname					
Trinidad and Tobago					
United States of America	Regional	Decreasing	Low/moderate	Low	21
Uruguay					
Venezuela	Regional	Increasing	Low/moderate	Low	21

**Annex 2: Number of deaths confirmed for the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus Region of the Americas.  
As of June 4, 2010 (17 h GMT; 12 h EST).**

**Source:** Ministries of Health of the countries in the Region.

Country	Cumulative number of deaths	New deaths reported. (since May 28, 2010, 12 h EST)
<b>Southern Cone</b>		
Argentina	626	
Brazil	2,115	
Chile	153	0
Paraguay	47	
Uruguay	20	
<b>Andean Area</b>		
Bolivia	59	0
Colombia	243	4
Ecuador	129	
Peru	226	0
Venezuela	136	1
<b>Caribbean Countries</b>		
Antigua & Barbuda	0	
Bahamas	1	
Barbados	3	
Cuba	83	
Dominica	0	
Dominican Republic	23	
Grenada	0	
Guyana	0	
Haiti	0	
Jamaica	7	0
Saint Kitts & Nevis	2	
Saint Lucia	1	
Saint Vincent & Grenadines	0	
Suriname	2	
Trinidad & Tobago	5	
<b>Central America</b>		
Belize	0	
Costa Rica	61	1
El Salvador	33	0
Guatemala	26	
Honduras	18	
Nicaragua	11	0
Panama	12	0
<b>North America</b>		
Canada*	428	
Mexico	1,235	7
United States**	2,718	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,423</b>	<b>13</b>

\* As of April 24, 2010, pandemic-associated death reporting was discontinued.

\*\*These deaths include both laboratory-confirmed pandemic (H1N1) 2009 and other influenza associated deaths through April 3, 2010.  
As of April 3, 2010, influenza-associated death reporting through AHDRA was discontinued.

As of **June 4, 2010**, a total of **8,423 deaths** have been reported among the confirmed cases in **28 countries** of the Region. In addition to the figures displayed in **Annex 2**, the following overseas territories have confirmed deaths of pandemic (H1N1) 2009: United Kingdom Overseas Territories; Cayman Islands (1 death); French Overseas Communities: Guadeloupe (5 deaths), French Guiana (1 death) and Martinique (1 death).

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- 1.- US Surveillance Summary. Week 21. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
  - 2.- Vigilancia Epidemiológica de Influenza y otros virus respiratorios de importancia para la salud pública. EW 21. [http://www.mspas.gob.sv/virus\\_gripeA\\_H1N1/pdf/boletines/boletin\\_prensa212010.pdf](http://www.mspas.gob.sv/virus_gripeA_H1N1/pdf/boletines/boletin_prensa212010.pdf)
  - 3.- Vigilancia de Infecciones Respiratorias Agudas en Argentina. Ministerio de Salud de la Republica de Argentina. EW 21, May 27, 2010. [http://www.msal.gov.ar/archivos/ParteRespiratorias27-05-2010\\_conBronquiolitis.pdf](http://www.msal.gov.ar/archivos/ParteRespiratorias27-05-2010_conBronquiolitis.pdf)
  - 4.- Influenza Pandémica (H1N1) 2009. Reporte de Situación. May 28. [www.pandemia.cl](http://www.pandemia.cl)
  - 5.- Boletín Semanal de Vigilancia de la Salud Semana Epidemiológica 20. Dirección de Vigilancia de la Salud Ministerio de Salud de Costa Rica