



Regional Update

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

(February 1, 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 Canada, in EW 03 the national influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate decreased slightly when compared to the previous week, and remained below the historical average. The overall number of hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and deaths associated with the pandemic virus remained low, as compared to the levels seen in October and November 2009. A total of eleven oseltamivir-resistant isolates have been reported since April 2009.

In Mexico, from EW 01 to EW 02 there was a 10% increase in the number ILI and severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) cases.

In the United States, the proportion of outpatient consultations for ILI decreased slightly in EW 03, remaining below the national baseline for three consecutive weeks. Two out of ten sub-national surveillance regions reported the proportion of outpatient visits for ILI equal to their region-specific baseline, while the others reported activity to be below the region specific baseline. Laboratory-confirmed influenza hospitalization rates remained stable, but high, especially in children 0–4 years of age. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was above the epidemic threshold. A total of five influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported, of which four were associated with the pandemic virus. A total of 54 oseltamivir-resistant isolates have been detected since April 2009.

Caribbean

These countries reported variable spread of influenza. Dominica and Saint Lucia continued to report no influenza activity this week. Bahamas, Barbados and Jamaica reported in EW 2 a regional influenza activity while Dominican Republic reported widespread. All these countries reported decreasing or unchanged trends compared to the previous week. Low/moderate intensity of acute respiratory disease and low impact on health care systems was reported by these countries.

Weekly Summary

- In North America, acute respiratory disease activity continued to decrease and is lower than expected in most areas
- In the Caribbean, all countries reported unchanged and decreasing trends in acute respiratory disease
- Central American countries reported decreasing trends in acute respiratory disease except Guatemala, which reported an increasing trend
- South American countries reported mostly decreasing or unchanged trends of acute respiratory disease
- In North America, a median of 100% of subtyped influenza A viruses were pandemic (H1N1) 2009
- 95 new confirmed deaths in 7 countries were reported; in total there have been 7,261 cumulative confirmed deaths

Central America

Influenza activity was reported as widespread in Costa Rica and Panama, and with no activity in El Salvador and Guatemala. Most of the countries reported decreasing trends, low/moderate intensity and low impact in the health care services, except Guatemala which reported increasing trends of acute respiratory disease, high intensity and moderate impact on health care services.

South America

Andean

These countries reported variable spread of influenza. Colombia (EW 03), Ecuador (EW 02) and Peru (EW 02) reported widespread influenza activity, Venezuela (EW 03) reported regional and Bolivia (EW 03) reported no activity. Acute respiratory disease trends were described as decreasing or unchanged in this sub-region. The intensity of acute respiratory disease and the impact of acute respiratory disease on health-care services were reported as low or moderate for these countries.

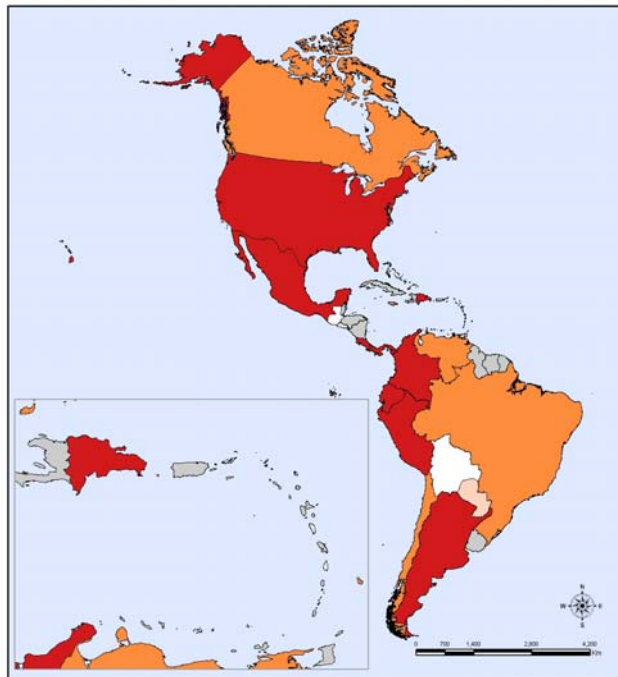
In Peru (EW 02), the number of pneumonia cases has decreased compared to the previous week, especially in age groups: 5-9 years and older ≥ 60 years.

Southern Cone

Influenza activity was reported as widespread in Argentina, regional in Brazil and Chile, and localized in Paraguay. The trends of acute respiratory disease were reported as unchanging in Argentina and Chile and decreasing in Brazil. High intensity of acute respiratory disease was reported by Paraguay and low/moderate by Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

Paraguay (EW 03) reported decreasing trend of influenza activity. The number of consultations for ILI and SARI decreased 11.3% and 10.9% respectively as compared to EW 02.

**Map 1. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009,
Geographical Spread by Country.
Americas Region. EW 3, 2010*.**



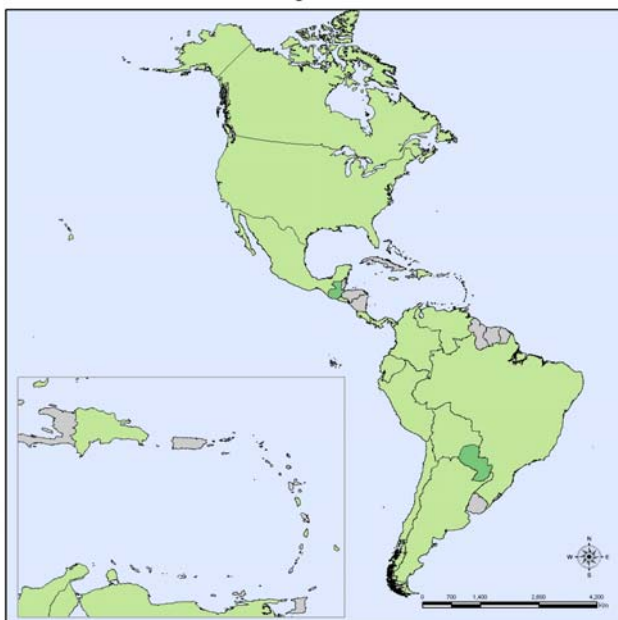
Map Production: PAHO/MSD/ICD
January 29, 2010
Cartographic projection:
Lambert Equal Area Azimuthal
Central Meridian: -90.00000
Latitude of Origin: 10.00000
Source: Ministries of Health of the countries
Consolidated by PAHO/WHO
Created by PAHO/WHO
* EW 3 = epidemiological week from January 17 to January 23, 2010.
Includes the latest information reported by each country this week.

**Map 3. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009,
Trend of respiratory disease activity compared to the previous week.
Americas Region. EW 3, 2010*.**



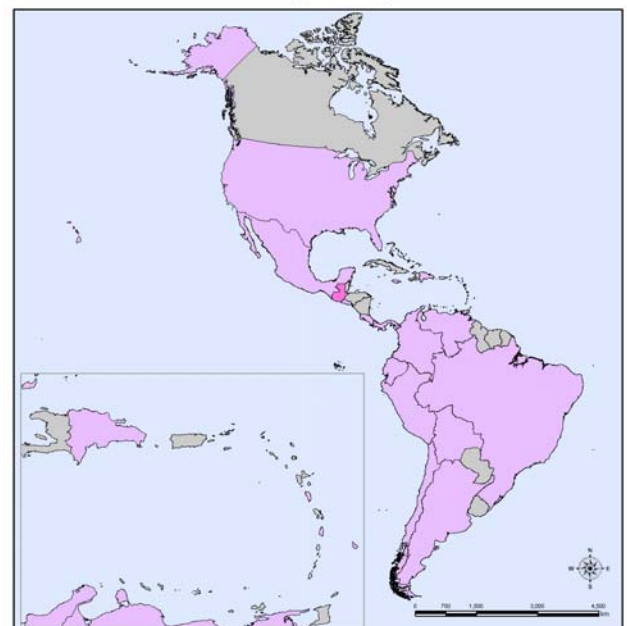
Map Production: PAHO/MSD/ICD
January 29, 2010
Cartographic projection:
Lambert Equal Area Azimuthal
Central Meridian: -90.00000
Latitude of Origin: 10.00000
Source: Ministries of Health of the countries
Consolidated by PAHO/WHO
Created by PAHO/WHO
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**Map 3. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009,
Intensity of Acute Respiratory Disease in the Population.
Americas Region. EW 3, 2010*.**



Map Production: PAHO/MSD/ICD
January 29, 2010
Cartographic projection:
Lambert Equal Area Azimuthal
Central Meridian: -90.00000
Latitude of Origin: 10.00000
Source: Ministries of Health of the countries
Consolidated by PAHO/WHO
Created by PAHO/WHO
* EW 3 = epidemiological week from January 17 to January 23, 2010.
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**Map 4. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009,
Impact of Acute Respiratory Disease on Health-Care Services.
Americas Region. EW 3, 2010*.**



Map Production: PAHO/MSD/ICD
January 29, 2010
Cartographic projection:
Lambert Equal Area Azimuthal
Central Meridian: -90.00000
Latitude of Origin: 10.00000
Source: Ministries of Health of the countries
Consolidated by PAHO/WHO
Created by PAHO/WHO
* EW 3 = epidemiological week from January 17 to January 23, 2010.
Includes the latest information reported by each country this week.

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 highest in children and young adults. Underlying comorbidities were present in approximately 50% of hospitalized cases.

Table 1: Description of hospitalizations and severe cases—selected countries

	Argentina	Canada	Chile	Paraguay
Reporting period	Until EW 2	April 12, 2009–January 23, 2010	Until January 26, 2010	Until EW 03, 2010
Type of cases reported	Hospitalized	Hospitalized, confirmed	Severe, confirmed	Severe, confirmed
Number of cases	14,105	8,160	1,622	170
Percentage of women	-	50	52	55
Age	Most affected age group: 0–4 years (incidence 76/ 100,000 pop)	Median 28 years	Median 33 years, highest incidence in age group < 1 year (76/100,000 hab), 1–4 years (21/100,000 hab)	Median 23
Percent with underlying co-morbidities	-	51.2	53	-
Co-morbidities most frequently reported (%)	-		Asthma (17.6%), arterial hypertension (15.4%), diabetes (12.5%), COPD (8.5%), obesity (4.3%)	-
Percent pregnant among women of child-bearing age	-	20.5*	5.6**	-

* Percent of pregnant women among women 15 to 44 years of age

** Percent of pregnant women among all women

Overall, approximately half of deceased cases were among women (Table 2). The percentage of cases with underlying co-morbidities varied from 60 to 75%.

Table 2: Description of deaths among confirmed cases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in selected countries

	Argentina	Canada	Chile	Colombia	Mexico	Paraguay	Peru
Reporting period	Until EW 2	April 12, 2009–January 23, 2010	Until January 26, 2010	Until EW 03, 2010	Until January 25, 2010	Until EW 03, 2010	Until January 25, 2010
Number of confirmed deaths	617	421	150	203	969	47	210
Percentage of women	No gender differences	49.6	47	-	49	43	52
Age	Highest rate in 50–59 year age group	Median 53 years	Mean 44 years	Highest percentage: 77.8% in 15–65 year age group	Highest percentage (70%) in 20–55 year age group	Median 37 years	Mean: 37.7 years, Highest percentage (18.3%) in 50–59 year age group
Percent with underlying co-morbidities	-	74.9	71	-	60.2	74	75.2
Co-morbidities most frequently reported (%)	-	-	-	-	-	Chronic Cardiopathy (20%), metabolic (17%), immunologic (12%), neurologic (8%)	Metabolic (22.8%), cardiovascular (19.5%), respiratory (12.4%), neurologic (8.6%)
Percent pregnant among women of child-bearing age	-	10*	4.2*	-	-	12**	-

* Percent of pregnant women among women 15 to 44 years of age

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

III- Viral circulation

For the purpose of this analysis, only countries which reported data on influenza A subtypes were considered. We excluded from the calculations of the percentages, results from samples of influenza A that were not subtyped or were unsubtypeable.

Currently, in North America, pandemic (H1N1) 2009 continues to predominate among circulating subtyped influenza A viruses in the Region (Table 3).

Table 3: Relative circulation of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 for selected countries—last EW available

Country	Epidemiologic Week	Percentage of pandemic (H1N1) 2009*
Canada	03	100
USA	03	100
MEDIAN percentage pandemic (H1N1) 2009		100

*Percentage of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus = Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus / All subtyped influenza A viruses

Table 4: Cumulative relative circulation of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 for selected countries

Country	Epidemiologic Week	Percentage of pandemic (H1N1) 2009
Canada	August 30, 2009 – January 23, 2010	99.8

*Percentage of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus = Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus / All subtyped influenza A viruses

Annex 1: Weekly monitoring of pandemic epidemiological indicators for countries that provided updated information—Region of the Americas, Epidemiologic Week 03, 2010

Country	Geographic spread	Trend	Intensity	Impact on Health Care Services	EW
Antigua and Barbuda					
Argentina	Widespread	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	2
Bahamas	Regional	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	2
Barbados	Regional	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	2
Belize					
Bolivia	No activity	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	3
Brazil	Regional	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	3
Canada	Regional	Unchanged	Low or moderate		3
Chile	Regional	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	3
Colombia	Widespread	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	3
Costa Rica	Widespread	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	2
Cuba					
Dominica	No activity	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	3
Dominican Republic	Widespread	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	3
Ecuador	Widespread	NIA	Low or moderate	Low	2
El Salvador	No activity	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	3
Grenada					
Guatemala	No activity	Increasing	High	Moderate	3
Guyana					
Haiti					
Honduras					
Jamaica	Regional	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	2
Mexico	Widespread	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	3
Nicaragua					
Panama	Widespread	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	3
Paraguay	Localized	Decreasing	High		3
Peru	Widespread	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	2
Saint Kitts and Nevis					
Saint Lucia	No activity	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	3
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines					
Suriname					
Trinidad and Tobago					
United States of America	Widespread	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	3
Uruguay					
Venezuela	Regional	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	3

NIA = No information available

**Annex 2: Number of deaths confirmed for the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus
Region of the Americas. Updated as of January 29, 2010 (17 h GMT; 12 h EST).**

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

Country	Cumulative number of deaths	New deaths (since Jan 22, 2010, 12 h EST)
Southern Cone		
Argentina	617	0
Brazil	1,632	
Chile	153	
Paraguay	47	0
Uruguay	20	
Andean Area		
Bolivia	59	0
Colombia	203	2
Ecuador	117	0
Peru	210	
Venezuela	132	3
Caribbean Countries		
Antigua & Barbuda	0	0
Bahamas	1	0
Barbados	3	0
Cuba	53	
Dominica	0	0
Dominican Republic	23	
Grenada	0	0
Guyana	0	0
Haiti	0	
Jamaica	7	0
Saint Kitts & Nevis	2	1
Saint Lucia	1	0
Saint Vincent & Grenadines	0	0
Suriname	2	0
Trinidad & Tobago	5	0
Central America		
Belize	0	0
Costa Rica	47	0
El Salvador	33	2
Guatemala	18	
Honduras	16	
Nicaragua	11	
Panama	11	
North America		
Canada	426	4
Mexico	969	38
United States	2,443	45
TOTAL	7,261	95

As of **29 January, 2010**, a total of **7,261 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).