



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 08 the national influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate was similar to the previous week and was still below the historical average. Thirty-two hospitalized cases and one death were reported retrospectively this week. A total of 13 oseltamivir-resistant isolates have been reported since April 2009.

In Mexico, from EW 06 to EW 07 there was a slight increase in the number ILI and severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) cases.

In the United States, the proportion of outpatient consultations for ILI has remained below the national baseline for eight consecutive weeks. Two of ten sub-national surveillance regions reported the proportion of outpatient visits for ILI to be above their 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 below the epidemic threshold. A total of 60 oseltamivir-resistant isolates have been detected since April 2009.

Caribbean

Barbados, Dominican Republic and Jamaica reported widespread influenza activity, Cuba reported regional influenza activity and Dominica reported no activity. These countries reported unchanged or decreasing trends in acute respiratory disease except Jamaica which 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 these countries.

Weekly Summary

- In North America, acute respiratory disease activity remained stable and is lower than expected in most areas.
- In the Caribbean, Jamaica reported an increasing trend in acute respiratory disease.
- Central American countries reported decreasing or unchanged trends in acute respiratory disease, except Nicaragua which reported an increasing trend.
- South American countries reported decreasing or unchanged trends in acute respiratory disease except in Brazil which reported an increasing trend.
- In North America and Colombia, a median of 99.8% of subtyped influenza A viruses were pandemic (H1N1) 2009.
- 37 new confirmed deaths in 5 countries were reported; in total there have been 7,576 cumulative confirmed deaths.

Central America

Guatemala and El Salvador reported no influenza activity while Nicaragua reported regional activity. El Salvador and Guatemala reported unchanged or decreasing trends in acute respiratory diseases while Nicaragua reported an increasing trend. These countries reported low/moderate intensity of acute respiratory disease and low impact of acute respiratory disease on the health care services.

Honduras reported several outbreaks in schools in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula in the last 3 weeks.

South America

Andean

Ecuador reported widespread influenza activity, Peru reported regional activity and Bolivia reported no activity. These countries reported unchanged or decreasing trends in acute respiratory disease and low/moderate intensity of acute respiratory disease. Peru and Bolivia reported low impact of acute respiratory disease on health care services while Ecuador reported moderate impact.

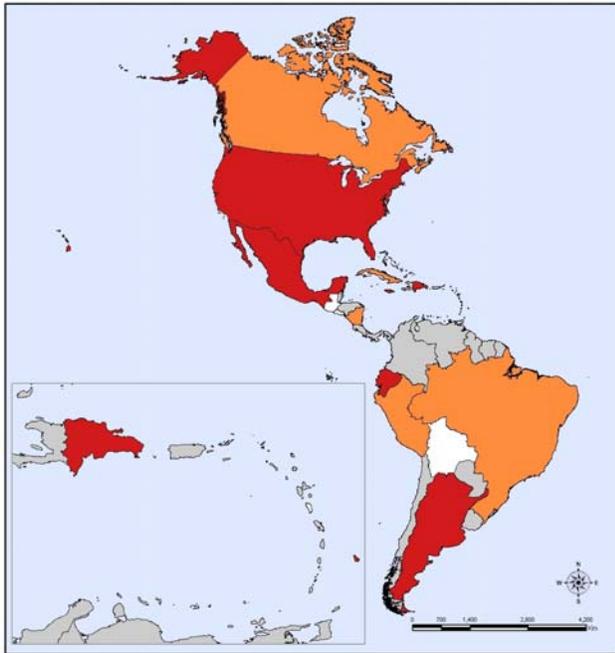
Peru reported a slight increase of pneumonia cases in the southern regions.

Southern Cone

Influenza activity was reported as widespread in Argentina and regional in Brazil. Argentina reported unchanged trend in acute respiratory disease while Brazil reported an increasing trend. Low/moderate intensity of acute respiratory disease and low impact of acute respiratory disease on the health care services were reported by both countries.

Argentina reported a low incidence of ILI this week (0.1 per 100,000 population).

Map 1. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009, Geographical Spread by Country. Americas Region. EW 8, 2010*.



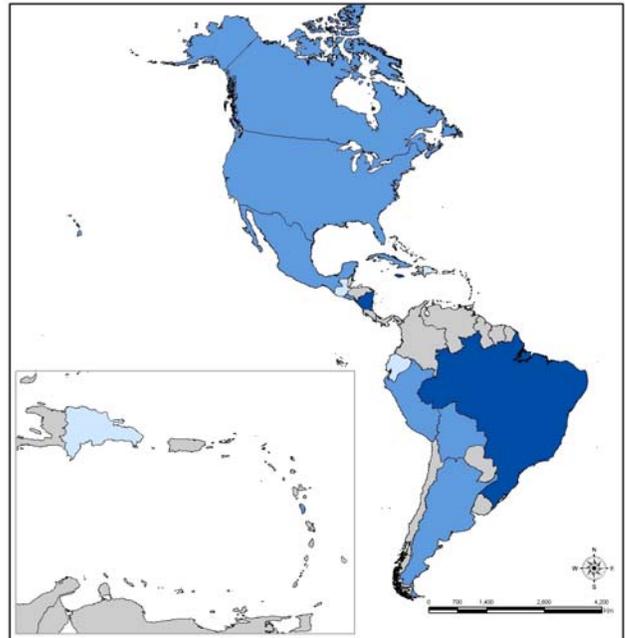
Geographical Spread

- No activity
- No information available
- Localized
- Regional
- Widespread

Map Production: PAHO/HS/DICD
March 5, 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 8 = epidemiological week from February 21 to February 27, 2010. Includes the latest information reported by each country this week.

Map 2. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009, Trend of respiratory disease activity compared to the previous week. Americas Region. EW 8, 2010*.



Trend

- No information available
- Decreasing
- Unchanged
- Increasing

Map Production: PAHO/HS/DICD
March 5, 2010
Cartographic projection:
Lambert Equal Area Azimuthal
Central Meridian: -90.00000
Latitude of Origin: 10.00000
Source: Ministries of Health of the countries
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* EW 8 = epidemiological week from February 21 to February 27, 2010. Includes the latest information reported by each country this week.

Map 3. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009, Intensity of Acute Respiratory Disease in the Population. Americas Region. EW 8, 2010*.



Intensity of acute respiratory disease

- No information available
- Low or moderate
- High
- Very high

Map Production: PAHO/HS/DICD
March 5, 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 8 = epidemiological week from February 21 to February 27, 2010. Includes the latest information reported by each country this week.

Map 4. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009, Impact of Acute Respiratory Disease on Health-Care Services. Americas Region. EW 8, 2010*.



Impact on health-care services

- No information available
- Low
- Moderate
- Severe

Map Production: PAHO/HS/DICD
March 5, 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 8 = epidemiological week from February 21 to February 27, 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 55% - 83.3% of hospitalized cases.

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

	Argentina	Canada	Costa Rica
Reporting period	Until EW 7	April 12, 2009–February 27, 2010	Until EW 6
Type of cases reported	Hospitalized	Hospitalized, confirmed	Hospitalized, confirmed
Number of cases	14,160	8,221	435
Percentage of women	-	50	56.3%
Age	Most affected age group: 0–4 years (incidence 76.4/ 100,000 population)	Median 29 years	Mean 42.3 years
Percent with underlying co-morbidities	-	55.3	83.3%
Co-morbidities most frequently reported (%)	-	Chronic respiratory disease (36.7%), diabetes (15.2%), immunosuppression (15.2%)	Asthma (22.6%), diabetes (14%), obesity (12.8%), chronic respiratory disease (7.5%)
Percent pregnant among women of child-bearing age	-	20.2*	6.5%**

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

** The denominator used was all hospitalized cases 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 60 to 82%.

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

	Argentina	Canada	Mexico	Peru
Reporting period	Until EW 7	April 12, 2009– February 27, 2010	Until March 3, 2010	Until February 22, 2010
Number of confirmed deaths	626	424	1,093	217
Percentage of women	No gender differences	49.8	48.4	52.0%
Age	Highest rate in 50–59 year age group	Median 53 years	Highest percentage (69.5%) in 20–54 year age group	Mean 37.5 years
Percent with underlying co-morbidities	-	81.9	60.4	77.4
Co-morbidities most frequently reported (%)	-	Chronic respiratory disease (51.3%), chronic heart disease (35.5%), immunosuppression (34.7%)	-	Metabolic (22.6%), Cardiovascular (19.4%), Respiratory (12%)
Percent pregnant among women of child-bearing age	-	8*	-	7.8**

* 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 and Colombia 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	08	100
Colombia	05	100
USA	08	99.5
MEDIAN percentage pandemic (H1N1) 2009		99.8

*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	Time Period	Percentage of pandemic (H1N1) 2009*
Canada	August 30, 2009– February 27, 2010	99.8
Colombia	EW 21, 2009-EW 5, 2010	80.6
MEDIAN percentage pandemic (H1N1) 2009		88.6

*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 08, 2010

Country	Geographic spread	Trend	Intensity	Impact on Health Care Services	EW
Antigua and Barbuda					
Argentina	Widespread	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	7
Bahamas					
Barbados	Widespread	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	7
Belize					
Bolivia	No activity	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	8
Brazil	Regional	Increasing	Low or moderate	Low	8
Canada	Regional	Unchanged	Low or moderate	NIA	8
Chile					
Colombia					
Costa Rica					
Cuba	Regional	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	7
Dominica	No activity	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	8
Dominican Republic	Widespread	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	8
Ecuador	Widespread	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Moderate	8
El Salvador	No activity	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	8
Grenada					
Guatemala	No activity	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	8
Guyana					
Haiti					
Honduras					
Jamaica	Widespread	Increasing	Low or moderate	Low	7
Mexico	Widespread	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	8
Nicaragua	Regional	Increasing	Low or moderate	Low	7
Panama					
Paraguay					
Peru	Regional	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	8
Saint Kitts and Nevis					
Saint Lucia					
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines					
Suriname					
Trinidad and Tobago					
United States of America	Widespread	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	8
Uruguay					
Venezuela					

NIA: No information Available

**Annex 2: Number of deaths confirmed for the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus
Region of the Americas. Updated as of March 5, 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 Feb 26, 2010, 12 h EST)
Southern Cone		
Argentina	626	0
Brazil	1,632	
Chile	155	
Paraguay	47	
Uruguay	20	
Andean Area		
Bolivia	59	0
Colombia	205	
Ecuador	120	0
Peru	217	0
Venezuela	133	
Caribbean Countries		
Antigua & Barbuda	0	
Bahamas	1	
Barbados	3	
Cuba	54	1*
Dominica	0	
Dominican Republic	23	0
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	
Central America		
Belize	0	
Costa Rica	50	3
El Salvador	33	0
Guatemala	18	0
Honduras	16	0
Nicaragua	11	0
Panama	12	0
North America		
Canada	429	1
Mexico	1,093	17
United States	2,602	15
TOTAL	7,576	37

* This death occurred in January 2010.

As of **5 March, 2010**, a total of **7,576 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).