



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 11 the national influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate was similar to the previous week and was still below the historical average. Eight hospitalized cases were reported this week. However, five of them were identified retrospectively. No new deaths were reported this week. A total of 13 oseltamivir-resistant isolates have been reported since April 2009.

In Mexico, from EW 10 to EW 11 there was a 29% decrease 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 the eleventh consecutive week. Three of ten sub-national surveillance regions reported the proportion of outpatient visits for ILI to be at or above their region specific baseline. Laboratory-confirmed influenza hospitalization rates remained stable, and age group of children 0–4 years showed the highest rate. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza has been below the epidemic threshold for seven consecutive weeks. A total of 62 oseltamivir-resistant isolates have been detected since April 2009.

### **Caribbean**

In countries providing these data<sup>1</sup> SARI hospitalization incidence decreased in the last three weeks, and remained much lower than the peak levels seen in EW 40 and 41. From EW 1 to EW 10, two hospitalizations associated with the pandemic virus and no deaths were reported.

Barbados reported widespread influenza activity while Dominica reported no influenza activity this week. Barbados reported an increasing trend in acute respiratory disease while Dominica reported an unchanged trend. Low/moderate intensity of acute respiratory disease and low impact of acute respiratory disease on health care services were reported by these countries.

### **Central America**

Guatemala and Nicaragua reported regional influenza activity while Panama reported no influenza activity. Guatemala reported increasing trends in acute respiratory diseases while Nicaragua and Panama reported decreasing trends. All these countries reported low/moderate intensity and low impact of acute respiratory disease on the health care services.

### **Weekly Summary**

- In North America, acute respiratory disease activity remained stable and is lower than expected in most areas.
- In the Caribbean, Barbados reported an increasing trend in acute respiratory disease.
- In Central American, Guatemala reported an increasing trend in acute respiratory disease.
- In South America, Bolivia and Peru reported increasing trends in acute respiratory disease.
- In North America, a median of 99.4% of all subtyped influenza A viruses were pandemic (H1N1) 2009.
- 83 new confirmed deaths in 4 countries were reported; in total there have been 8,175 cumulative confirmed deaths.

<sup>1</sup> Participating CAREC member countries, which include, Barbados, Bahamas, Dominica, Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago, were assessed together

In Honduras, epidemiological and virological investigation of several ILI outbreaks in schools revealed multiple etiologies, including low levels of pandemic influenza.

## **South America**

### **Andean**

Influenza activity was reported as regional in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. Bolivia and Peru reported increasing trends in acute respiratory disease, while Ecuador reported a decreasing trend. These countries reported low/moderate intensity of acute respiratory disease and low impact of acute respiratory disease on health care services.

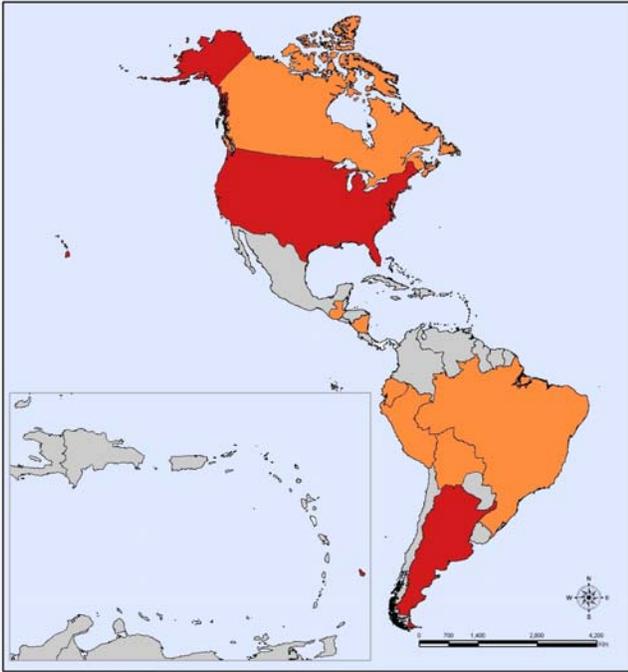
### **Southern Cone**

Argentina reported widespread influenza activity while Brazil reported regional activity. Both countries reported unchanged trends in acute respiratory disease. These countries reported low/moderate intensity of acute respiratory disease and low impact of acute respiratory disease on health care services.

In Brazil, according to the "Informe Técnico Mensal de Influenza, March 2010", from EW 1 to EW 10, 2010, the Northern Region had the highest percentage of confirmed cases of the country (61.2%). Out of all deaths reported during this period (n=36), 41.7% (n=15) had underlying comorbidities. Of all deaths, 77.8% (n=28) were female, 64.3% (n=18) of these were women of child-bearing age (15-49 years) and among these child-bearing age women, 61.1% (n=11) were pregnant.

[http://portal.saude.gov.br/portal/saude/profissional/area.cfm?id\\_area=1650](http://portal.saude.gov.br/portal/saude/profissional/area.cfm?id_area=1650)

**Map 1. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009,  
Geographical Spread by Country.  
Americas Region. EW 11, 2010\*.**



**Geographical Spread**  
 No activity  
 No information available  
 Localized  
 Regional  
 Widespread

Map Production: PAHO/MSD/CDC  
 March 26, 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 11 = epidemiological week from March 14 to March 20, 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 11, 2010\*.**



**Trend**  
 No information available  
 Decreasing  
 Unchanged  
 Increasing

Map Production: PAHO/MSD/CDC  
 March 26, 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 11 = epidemiological week from March 14 to March 20, 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 11, 2010\*.**



**Intensity of acute respiratory disease**  
 No information available  
 Low or moderate  
 High  
 Very high

Map Production: PAHO/MSD/CDC  
 March 26, 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 11 = epidemiological week from March 14 to March 20, 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 11, 2010\*.**



**Impact on health-care services**  
 No information available  
 Low  
 Moderate  
 Severe

Map Production: PAHO/MSD/CDC  
 March 26, 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 11 = epidemiological week from March 14 to March 20, 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 in Canada was one (Table 1). The median age among hospitalized cases was 29 years. Underlying comorbidities were present in 55% of hospitalized cases.

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

	Canada
<b>Reporting period</b>	April 12, 2009–March 20, 2010
<b>Type of cases reported</b>	Hospitalized, confirmed
<b>Number of cases</b>	8,224
<b>Percentage of women</b>	50
<b>Age</b>	Median 29 years
<b>Percent with underlying co-morbidities</b>	55.3
<b>Co-morbidities most frequently reported (%)</b>	-
<b>Percent pregnant among women of child-bearing age</b>	20.2*

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

	Canada	Mexico
<b>Reporting period</b>	April 12, 2009–March 20, 2010	Until March 24, 2010
<b>Number of confirmed deaths</b>	423	1,136
<b>Percentage of women</b>	49.6	48.1
<b>Age</b>	Median 53 years	Highest percentage (69.8%) in 20–54 year age group
<b>Percent with underlying co-morbidities</b>	81.9	60.3
<b>Co-morbidities most frequently reported (%)</b>	-	-
<b>Percent pregnant among women of child-bearing age</b>	8*	-

\* Percent of pregnant women among women 15 to 44 years of 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 <sup>#</sup>
Canada	11	100
USA	11	98.8
<b>MEDIAN percentage pandemic (H1N1) 2009</b>		<b>99.4</b>

<sup>#</sup>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 <sup>#</sup>
Canada	August 30, 2009– March 13, 2010	99.8
CAREC <sup>2</sup>	EW 1, 2010-EW 10, 2010	100
<b>MEDIAN percentage pandemic (H1N1) 2009</b>		<b>99.9</b>

<sup>#</sup>Percentage of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus = Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus / All subtyped influenza A viruses

<sup>2</sup> CAREC countries and territories include Anguilla, Antigua, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos Islands

**Annex 1: Weekly monitoring of pandemic epidemiological indicators for countries that provided updated information—Region of the Americas, Epidemiologic Week 11, 2010**

Country	Geographic spread	Trend	Intensity	Impact on Health Care Services	EW
Antigua and Barbuda					
Argentina	Widespread	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	11
Bahamas					
Barbados	Widespread	Increasing	Low or moderate	Low	10
Belize					
Bolivia	Regional	Increasing	Low or moderate	Low	11
Brazil	Regional	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	11
Canada	Regional	Unchanged	Low or moderate	NIA	11
Chile					
Colombia					
Costa Rica					
Cuba					
Dominica	No activity	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	11
Dominican Republic					
Ecuador	Regional	Decreasing	Low or moderate	NIA	11
El Salvador					
Grenada					
Guatemala	Regional	Increasing	Low or moderate	Low	11
Guyana					
Haiti					
Honduras					
Jamaica					
Mexico					
Nicaragua	Regional	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	11
Panama	No activity	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	11
Paraguay					
Peru	Regional	Increasing	Low or moderate	Low	11
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	11
Uruguay					
Venezuela					

NIA: No information Available

## Annex 2: Number of deaths confirmed for the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus Region of the Americas.

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

Country	Cumulative number of deaths	New deaths reported. (since March 19, 2010, 12 h EST)
<b>Southern Cone</b>		
Argentina	626	
Brazil	2,087*	36**
Chile	155	
Paraguay	47	
Uruguay	20	
<b>Andean Area</b>		
Bolivia	59	0
Colombia	219	
Ecuador	124	
Peru	223	6
Venezuela	133	
<b>Caribbean Countries</b>		
Antigua & Barbuda	0	0
Bahamas	1	0
Barbados	3	0
Cuba	55	
Dominica	0	0
Dominican Republic	23	
Grenada	0	0
Guyana	0	0
Haiti	0	
Jamaica	7	0
Saint Kitts & Nevis	2	0
Saint Lucia	1	0
Saint Vincent & Grenadines	0	0
Suriname	2	0
Trinidad & Tobago	5	0
<b>Central America</b>		
Belize	0	0
Costa Rica	56	
El Salvador	33	
Guatemala	18	0
Honduras	18	
Nicaragua	11	0
Panama	12	0
<b>North America</b>		
Canada	429	0
Mexico	1,136	25
United States	2,670	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,175</b>	<b>83</b>

\* These deaths were retrospectively reported as of EW 10, 2010.

\*\* These deaths were reported from EW 1, 2010 to EW 10, 2010.

As of **26 March, 2010**, a total of **8,175 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).