



# Up date New virus *Influenza A(H1N1)*



## Regional Report (14 May 2009 – 23 h GMT; 18 h EST) Vol. 6, No. 30

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](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

Up to 14 May 2009, **7,479 confirmed cases** of the new virus influenza A (H1N1) infection, including **69 deaths**, have been notified in **11 countries** of the Americas: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and the United States. (**Figure 1**). The date of the onset of symptoms of the first confirmed case was 28 March 2009 in the United States.

WHO is not recommending travel restrictions related to the outbreak of the *Influenza A(H1N1)* virus.

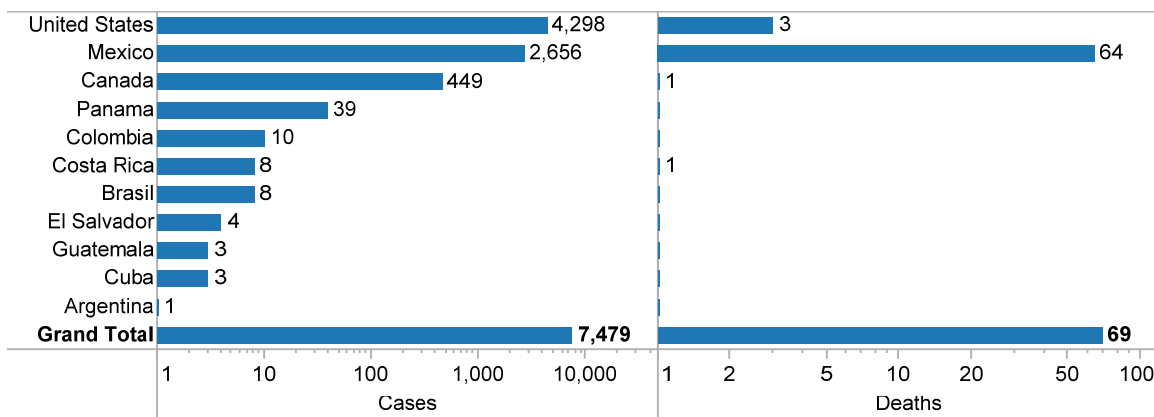
Individuals who are ill should delay travel plans and returning travelers who fall ill should seek appropriate medical care.

These recommendations are prudent measures which can limit the spread of many communicable diseases, including *Influenza*.

#### Confirmed cases from other Regions: 249 No. of Countries affected: 22

As of **06:00 GMT**, 14 May 2009, the following countries, from other Regions, have officially reported at WHO confirmed cases with no deaths: Australia (1), Austria (1), China (4), Denmark (1), Finland (2), France (14), Germany (12), Ireland (1), Israel (7), Italy (9), Japan (4), Netherlands (3), New Zealand (7), Norway (2), Poland (1), Portugal (1), Republic of Korea (3), Spain (100), Sweden (2), Switzerland (1), Thailand (2), and the United Kingdom (71).

**Figure 1.** Number of confirmed cases and deaths by the new virus influenza A (H1N1) in countries of the Americas  
Updated to 14 May 2009



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

## International Health Regulations (2005) Implementation

The International Health Regulations (2005) [IHR (2005)] are an international legal instrument that is binding on 194 countries across the globe, including all the Member States of WHO. Their **aim** is to help the international community prevent and respond to acute public health risks that have the potential to cross borders and threaten people worldwide.

The IHR (2005) requires all countries to notify WHO, through the Regional Focal Point at the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) ([ihr@paho.org](mailto:ihr@paho.org)), any event that may constitute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

The notification of cases of influenza by a new subtype such as Influenza A (H1N1) is **mandatory** because it is an unexpected event that may have a severe public health impact.

**Source:** International Health Regulations (2005). World Health Organization (WHO).

The IHR full text is available at:

[http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WH/A58/WHA58\\_3-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WH/A58/WHA58_3-en.pdf)

### National Focal Points and responsible authorities

#### Box 1: Requirements on National IHR Focal Points and WHO IHR Contact Points

Important innovations under the IHR (2005) are the requirements that notification and reporting by States Parties, as well as other urgent IHR communications, are transmitted through specific National IHR Focal Points to WHO IHR Contact Points, available on a 24 hour-a-day basis,.

The National IHR Focal Point must:

- be accessible at all times, 24 hours a day, seven days a week;
- communicate with WHO concerning:
  - o consultations, notifications, verification and assessments of public health events;
  - o public health response;
- ensure coordination with other ministries/sectors within the country; and
- notify WHO of all events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern, within 24 hours of assessment, by using a decision instrument (IHR 2005 Annex 2) that goes through the criteria for assessment and notification. Such a notification does not necessarily mean that an actual public health emergency of international concern is occurring. It is the beginning of a dialogue between the State Party and WHO in assessing and analyzing the event.

**Source:** IHR (2005)

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

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