

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.

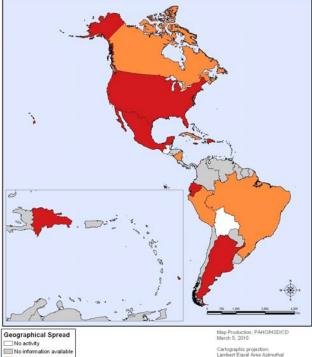
Peru reported a slight increase of pneumonia cases in the southern regions.

### Southern Cone

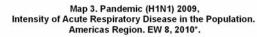
Influenza activity was reported as widespread in Argentina and regional in Brazil. Argentina reported unchanged trend in acute respiratory disease while Brazil reported an increasing trend. Low/moderate intensity of acute respiratory disease and low impact of acute respiratory disease on the health care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



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Regional
Vision Report of the second Cartographic projection: Lambert Equal Area Azimuth Central Meridian: -90.00000 Latitude of Origin: 10.00000 ce: Ministries of He alth of the lidated by PAHOWHO d by PAHOWHO Cons



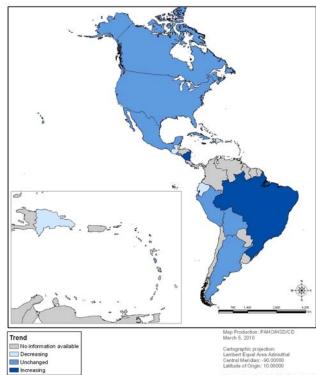


Intensity of acute respiratory disease No information availabl Low or moderate High Very high

\* EW 8 = epidemiological week from February 21 to February 27, 2010. Includes the latest information reported by each country this week.

Cartographic projection: Lambert Equal Area Azimuthal Central Meridian: -90.00000 Latibude of Origin: 10.00000

Source: Ministries of He Consolidated by PAHOA Created by PAHOAMO alth of WHO Map 2. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009, Trend of respiratory disease activity compared to the previous week. Americas Region. EW 8, 2010\*.



\* EW 8 = epidemiological week from Febru Includes the latest information reported by uary 21 to February 27, 2010. Source: Ministries of Health of the Consolidated by PAHO/WHO Created by PAHO/WHO

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



\* 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

I	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)	s (incidence 76.4/ 100,000 Median 29 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 de countries	eaths among con	firmed cases of participation of the second s	ndemic (H1N1) 2009 i	n selected

	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%), immunoppression (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

Arigua and BarbudaIII </th <th>Country</th> <th>Geographic spread</th> <th>Trend</th> <th>Intensity</th> <th>Impact on Health Care Services</th> <th>EW</th>	Country	Geographic spread	Trend	Intensity	Impact on Health Care Services	EW
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Venezuela	Uruguay					
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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	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	1	7
United States	2,602		5
TOTAL	7,576	3	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).