



Update New virus influenza A(H1N1)



Regional Report (15 May 2009 – 23 h GMT; 18 h EST)

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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 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 15 May 2009, **8,183 confirmed cases** of the new virus influenza A (H1N1) infection, including **72 deaths**, have been notified in **13 countries** of the Americas: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, **Ecuador**, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru 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 new influenza A(H1N1) virus.

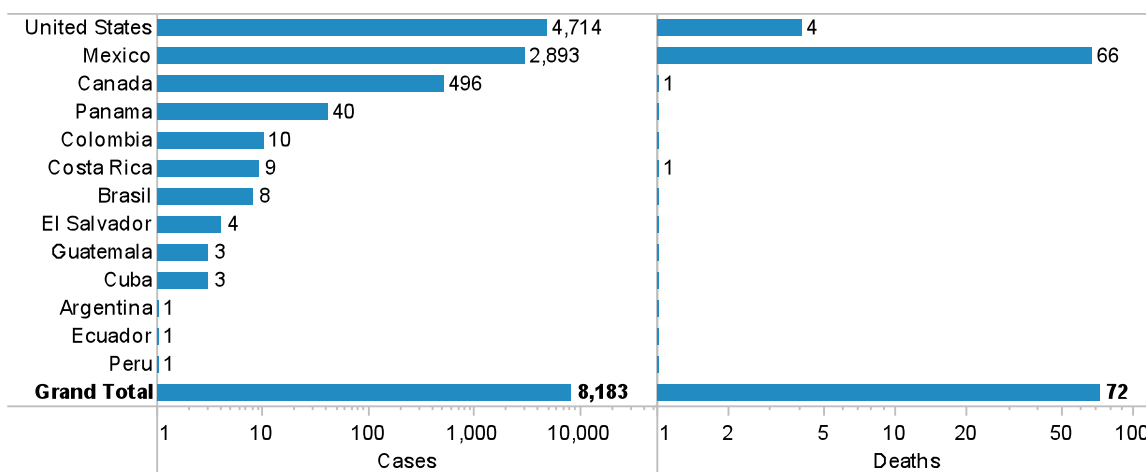
Individuals who are ill should delay travel plans and returning travelers who fall ill should seek appropriate medical care.

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

Additional countries of the Region with influenza A(H1N1) positive cases

There was a new case in **Peru**. A 27 year-old woman of Peruvian nationality, who flew from New York to Lima in 9 May 2009. She started having upper respiratory symptoms and developed a mild to moderate clinical picture, with satisfactory evolution. Another country is **Ecuador** where a patient had positive laboratory tests results in that country.

Figure 1. Number of confirmed cases and deaths by the new virus influenza A (H1N1) in countries of the Americas - Updated to 15 May 2009



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

Panama: Influenza A(H1N1) epidemic situation*

(Updated 14 May 2009)

Up to 14 May 2009 (epidemiological Week No. 19) the country has reported 40 laboratory-confirmed cases (29 in Panama Metro, 7 in San Miguelito, 3 in Western Panama and 1 in Coclé).

Public Health Measures implemented:

- Each Health Region maintains an active search of contacts, of confirmed cases and suspected cases admitted to the surveillance system. These actions are carried out by the Rapid Response Team (RRT) which evaluates the relevance of isolation, quarantine, or hospitalization of the cases.
- Active involvement of the Ministry of Health (MINSA) in the communications media.
- Expansion of the care coverage based on the extension of schedule of 7:00 a.m.. to 7:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday and weekends and holiday days of 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Follow-up to compliance of the protocols for the collection, management, and shipment of laboratory samples by Instituto Conmemorativo Gorgas de Estudios de Salud.
- Implementation of guidelines of cases, voluntary isolation and surveillance of the clinical-treatment evolution.
- Ministry of Health coordinates with Instituto de Deportes de Panama, mass gathering activities.
- Coordination with " Instituto de Acueductos y Alcantarillados Nacionales" (IDAAN) to guarantee drinking water supply to the population, mainly in areas with greater presence of positive cases of influenza A(H1N1).

Source: Ministry of Health of Panama.

Table 1. Characteristics and symptoms of the 40 patients confirmed with the virus of Influenza A(H1N1). Panama. Updated to 14 May 2009

Characteristics	Value
Women-No./Total No. (%)	21/40 (53%)
Age	
• Average - years	11,5
• Range - years	<1 a 50 años
• Age group-No. Total No. (%)	
0 – 4 years	2/40 (5%)
5 – 14 years	24/40 (60%)
15 – 24 years	3/40 (7,5%)
25 – 49 years	10/40 (25%)
> 50 years	1/40 (2,5%)
Schools with cases:	3
Recent foreign travel history	3/40 (7,5%)
Most common developed symptoms:	
• Fever	32/40 (80%)
• Cough	29/31 (93,5%)
• Vomiting	15/16 (93,7%)
• Sore throat	15/27 (55,5%)
• Rhinorrhea	10/18 (55,5%)
• Diarrhea	Not present in current cases
Hospitalization-No./total with data (%)	8/24 (33,3%)
Deaths	0

Source: Ministry of Health of Panama.

* Data, characteristics and a synthesis of the epidemic in the countries of the Region will be presented as they become available

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



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