



Update New virus Influenza A (H1N1)



Regional Report (21 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 21 May 2009, **10,540 confirmed cases** of the new virus influenza A (H1N1) infection, including **86 deaths**, have been notified in **14 countries** of the Americas: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru and the United States. (Figure 1)

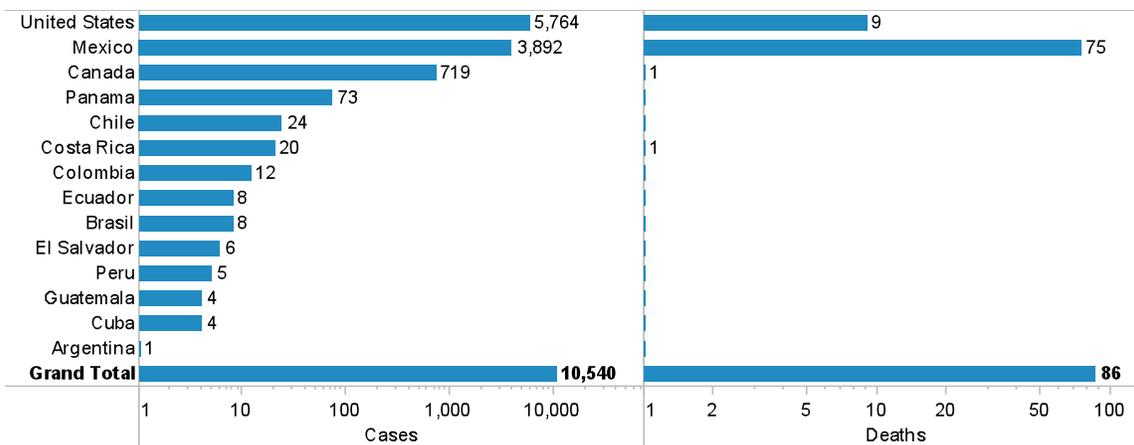
The date of the onset of symptoms of the first confirmed case was 28 March 2009 in the United States.

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

The new virus influenza A (H1N1) is sensitive in vitro to **Oseltamivir**. However, it should be emphasized that the knowledge of the safety and efficacy of this drug comes from the experience in the treatment of seasonal influenza.

In the event of confirmed or suspected cases of infection by the new virus influenza A (H1N1) that fulfill clinical criteria of severity, the treatment with Oseltamivir has to be initiated immediately.

Figure 1. Number of confirmed cases and deaths by the new virus influenza A (H1N1) in countries of the Americas - Updated to 21 May 2009



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

Severity and repercussions of a pandemic

The WHO is developing a framework to evaluate the severity of a pandemic in order to help national civil servants to plan their actions and assign resources efficiently).

The severity of the disease and, furthermore, the social repercussions of a pandemic will vary by country, as illustrated by the differences between Mexico and the United States. Not only can vary the severity between countries, but also between the different population groups within a country.

The forecasts about the severity and the repercussions of a pandemic have three components:

1. The properties of the virus, especially its virulence.
2. The vulnerability of the population
3. The mitigation factors (like the capacity of the health system).

Confirmed cases of new influenza A (H1N1) as officially reported to WHO by Member States to the International Health Regulations (2005)¹
(Status as of 21 Mayo 2009 06:00 GMT)

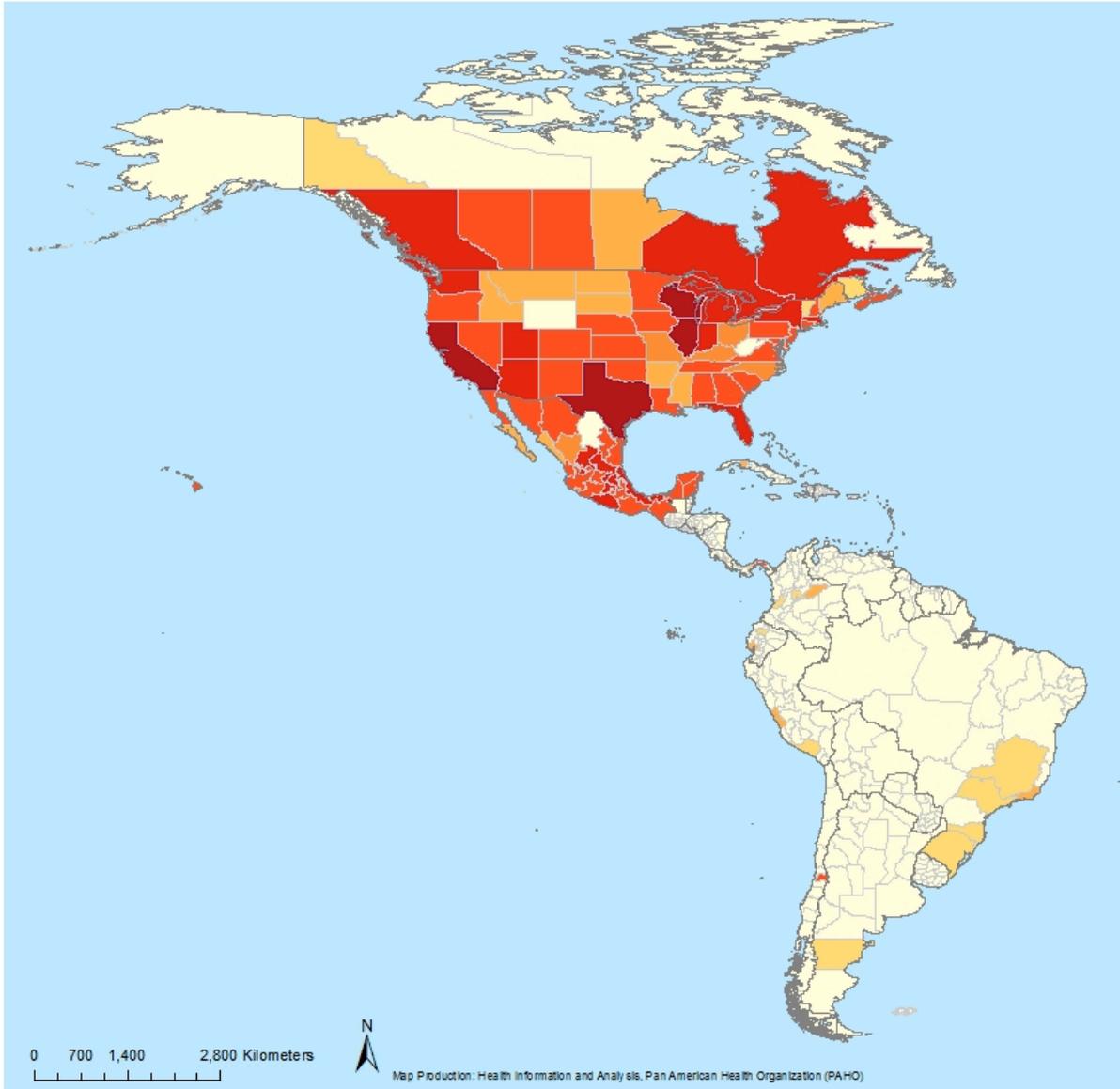
Country	Cumulative total		Newly confirmed	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Argentina	1	0	0	0
Brazil	8	0	0	0
Canada	719	1	223	0
Chile	24	0	0	0
Colombia	12	0	0	0
Costa Rica	20	1	11	0
Cuba	4	0	0	0
Ecuador	8	0	7	0
El Salvador	6	0	0	0
Guatemala	4	0	1	0
Mexico	3.892	75	151	3
Panama	73	0	4	0
Peru	5	0	0	0
United States of America	5764	9	54	2
Grand Total	10.540	86	451	5

Source: Ministries of Health of the countries of the Americas

For further information visit the PAHO new Influenza virus A (H1N1) webpage
http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=805&Itemid=569&lang=en

¹ **Note:** Cumulative and new figures are subject to revision

Influenza A (H1N1). Region of the Americas. 21 May 2009 (23 h GMT; 18 h EST)



0 700 1,400 2,800 Kilometers



Map Production: Health Information and Analysis, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

