



Regional Update

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

(March 22, 2010 - 17 h GMT; 12 h EST)

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

In Mexico, from EW 08 to EW 09 there was a 14% 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 ten consecutive weeks. One 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 61 oseltamivir-resistant isolates have been detected since April 2009.

Caribbean

Dominican Republic reported widespread influenza activity while Bahamas, Barbados and Cuba reported regional influenza activity and Dominica reported no influenza activity this week. All these countries reported unchanged or decreasing trends in acute respiratory disease. 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, El Salvador reported localized and Panama reported no influenza activity. All these countries reported increasing trends in acute respiratory diseases, low/moderate intensity and low impact of acute respiratory disease on the health care services.

In El Salvador, from EW 1 to EW10 2010, there was a 15% increase in the number of pneumonia cases compared to the same period in 2009.

Weekly Summary

- In North America, acute respiratory disease activity remained stable and is lower than expected in most areas.
- In the Caribbean, these countries reported an unchanged or decreasing trend in acute respiratory disease.
- In Central American, Panama, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador reported increasing trends in acute respiratory disease.
- In South America, Bolivia and Brazil reported increasing trends in acute respiratory disease.
- In North America, El Salvador, Colombia and Cuba, the 100% of subtyped influenza A viruses were pandemic (H1N1) 2009.
- 51 new confirmed deaths in 7 countries were reported; in total there have been 7,673 cumulative confirmed deaths.

South America

Andean

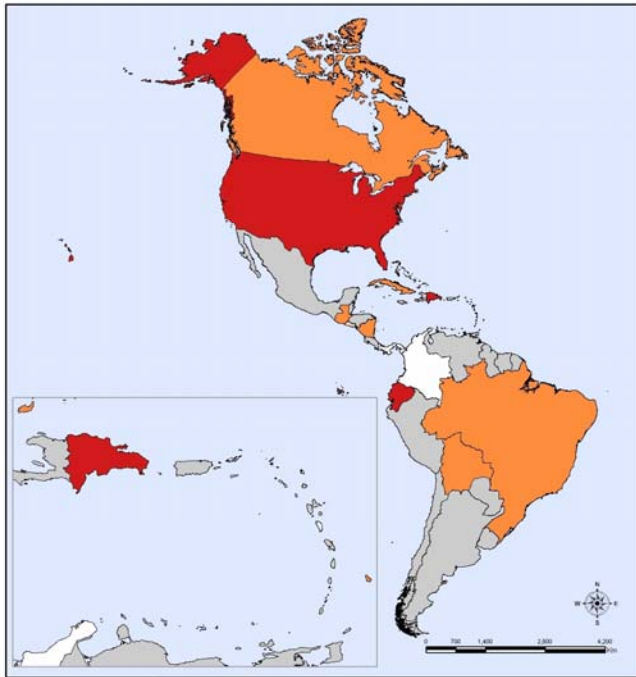
Influenza activity was reported as widespread in Ecuador and regional in Bolivia while Colombia reported no influenza activity. Bolivia reported an increasing trend in acute respiratory disease while Ecuador and Colombia reported unchanged or decreasing trends. These countries reported low/moderate intensity of acute respiratory disease and low impact of acute respiratory disease on health care services.

Southern Cone

Brazil reported regional influenza activity and an increasing trend in acute respiratory disease for three consecutive weeks. Low/moderate intensity of acute respiratory disease and low impact of acute respiratory disease on the health care services was reported by this country.

In Argentina the national ILI rate remains low as compared to the same period in the previous year; nevertheless Buenos Aires, San Juan, and San Luis reported higher rates than what was observed during the same period in the previous year.

**Map 1. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009,
Geographical Spread by Country.
Americas Region. EW 10, 2010*.**



Geographical Spread
 No activity
 No information available
 Localized
 Regional
 Widespread

Map Production: PAHO/MSD/C/D
 March 19, 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 10 = epidemiological week from March 7 to March 13, 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 10, 2010*.**



Trend
 No information available
 Decreasing
 Unchanged
 Increasing

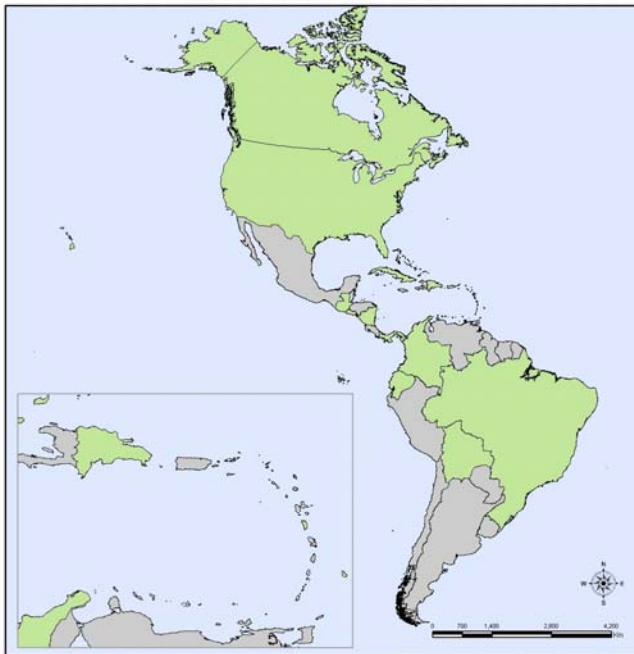
Map Production: PAHO/MSD/C/D
 March 19, 2010

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

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* EW 10 = epidemiological week from March 7 to March 13, 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 10, 2010*.**



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

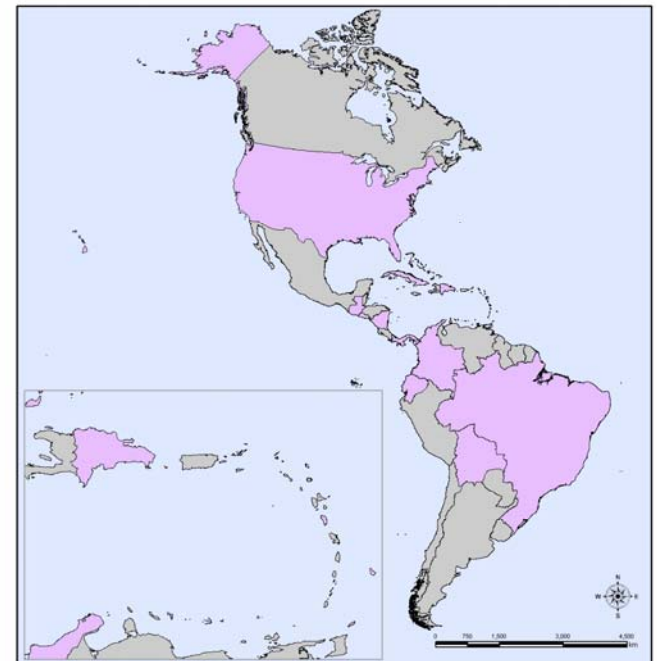
Map Production: PAHO/MSD/C/D
 March 19, 2010

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 10 = epidemiological week from March 7 to March 13, 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 10, 2010*.**



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

Map Production: PAHO/MSD/C/D
 March 19, 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 10 = epidemiological week from March 7 to March 13, 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
Reporting period	April 12, 2009–March 13, 2010
Type of cases reported	Hospitalized, confirmed
Number of cases	8,221
Percentage of women	50
Age	Median 29 years
Percent with underlying co-morbidities	55.3
Co-morbidities most frequently reported (%)	-
Percent pregnant among women of child-bearing age	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	Costa Rica	Mexico
Reporting period	April 12, 2009–March 13, 2010	Until March 16, 2010	Until March 12, 2010
Number of confirmed deaths	424	56	1,111
Percentage of women	49.8	47	48.2
Age	Median 53 years	39.3	Highest percentage (69.6%) in 20–54 year age group
Percent with underlying co-morbidities	81.9	-	60.4
Co-morbidities most frequently reported (%)	-	-	-
Percent pregnant among women of child-bearing age	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 Canada, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador and the United States 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	10	100
Colombia	07	100
Cuba	08	100
El Salvador	10	100*
USA	10	100
MEDIAN percentage pandemic (H1N1) 2009		100

[#]Percentage of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus = Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus / All subtyped influenza A viruses

* Only one sample was positive

Table 4: Cumulative relative circulation of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 for selected countries

Country	Time Period	Percentage of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 [#]
Canada	August 30, 2009– March 13, 2010	99.8
Colombia	EW 01, 2010-EW 7, 2010	98.9
Panama	EW 1, 2010 – EW 09, 2010	100*
MEDIAN percentage pandemic (H1N1) 2009		99.6

[#]Percentage of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus = Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus / All subtyped influenza A viruses

* Only one sample was positive

IV. Request for technical cooperation

Some countries of the region have been reporting an increase in acute respiratory diseases in over the last few weeks, which has been published in PAHO's weekly report and in the Event Information Site (EIS). This increase in activity has coincided with a decrease in receipt of countries' epidemiological data, which is needed to analyze and understand the pandemic situation in the Pan-American Region. Because of this, we are asking all the countries in the region for collaboration to renew forces in the collection, analysis and distribution of the epidemiological data of acute respiratory diseases. This information is essential to plan a coordinated response and to take necessary control actions to reduce the impact of another wave of the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus.

Annex 1: Weekly monitoring of pandemic epidemiological indicators for countries that provided updated information—Region of the Americas, Epidemiologic Week 10, 2010

Country	Geographic spread	Trend	Intensity	Impact on Health Care Services	EW
Antigua and Barbuda					
Argentina					
Bahamas	Regional	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	9
Barbados	Regional	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	9
Belize					
Bolivia	Regional	Increasing	Low or moderate	Low	10
Brazil	Regional	Increasing	Low or moderate	Low	10
Canada	Regional	Unchanged	Low or moderate	NIA	10
Chile					
Colombia	No activity	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	10
Costa Rica					
Cuba	Regional	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	8
Dominica	No activity	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	10
Dominican Republic	Widespread	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	10
Ecuador	Widespread	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	10
El Salvador	Localized	Increasing	Low or moderate	Low	10
Grenada					
Guatemala	Regional	Increasing	Low or moderate	Low	10
Guyana					
Haiti					
Honduras					
Jamaica					
Mexico					
Nicaragua	Regional	Increasing	Low or moderate	Low	10
Panama	No activity	Increasing	Low or moderate	Low	10
Paraguay					
Peru					
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	10
Uruguay					
Venezuela					

NIA: No information Available

**Annex 2: Number of deaths confirmed for the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus
Region of the Americas. Updated as of March 19, 2010 (17 h GMT; 12 h EST).**

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

Country	Cumulative number of deaths	New deaths reported. (since March 12, 2010, 12 h EST)
Southern Cone		
Argentina	626	
Brazil	1,632	
Chile	155	
Paraguay	47	
Uruguay	20	
Andean Area		
Bolivia	59	0
Colombia	219	14*
Ecuador	124	4
Peru	217	
Venezuela	133	
Caribbean Countries		
Antigua & Barbuda	0	
Bahamas	1	
Barbados	3	
Cuba	55	1
Dominica	0	0
Dominican Republic	23	0
Grenada	0	
Guyana	0	
Haiti	0	
Jamaica	7	
Saint Kitts & Nevis	2	
Saint Lucia	1	
Saint Vincent & Grenadines	0	
Suriname	2	
Trinidad & Tobago	5	
Central America		
Belize	0	0
Costa Rica	56	4
El Salvador	33	0
Guatemala	18	0
Honduras	18	1
Nicaragua	11	0
Panama	12	0
North America		
Canada	429	0
Mexico	1,111	8
United States	2,654	19
TOTAL	7,673	51

* These deaths were retrospectively reported since EW 32, 2009.

As of **19 March, 2010**, a total of **7,673 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).