

18th May 2009, 6.00 pm

Dear All,

Human infections of influenza A (H1N1):

Perspective from WHO/Lao P.D.R. (update 14)

NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

www.unlao.org/H1N1/influenzah1n1.asp

Highlights:

- Globally, there are **8735** confirmed human cases of influenza A (H1N1) with 53 confirmed cases from 7 countries in the Western Pacific Region
- Japan closes high schools in two prefectures while Malaysia reports its first two cases of H1N1
- **There are no known suspected or confirmed human cases of influenza A (H1N1) in Lao PDR**

Current level of influenza pandemic alert

Influenza pandemic alert remains at phase 5.

For further clarification about pandemic phases please read:

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/phase/en/index.html

Global situation

As of 10:00 GMT, 18 May 2009, 40 countries have officially reported 8735 cases of influenza A(H1N1) infection.

Mexico has reported 3103 laboratory confirmed human cases of infection, including 68 deaths. The United States has reported 4714 laboratory confirmed human cases, including 4 deaths. Canada has reported 496 laboratory confirmed human cases, including 1 death. Costa Rica has reported 9 laboratory confirmed human cases, including 1 death. No deaths are reported in the other countries

Western Pacific Region:

- Following new cases in New Zealand, Japan, China and Malaysia, the confirmed case count in the Western Pacific is 53, with no deaths. Japan has 32 cases, New Zealand 9 cases, China 6 (mainland China 3 and Hong Kong 3), The Republic of South Korea 3, Malaysia 2 and Australia 1.
- Most of the recent confirmed Japanese cases are not travel related. Hyogo and Osaka prefectures in Japan have closed all secondary schools following the latest confirmed cases in their regions. WHO is monitoring the situation closely.

Local Region

- Three cases of Influenza A (H1N1) have now been officially confirmed in mainland China. Confirmed cases remain stable in Thailand at two.
- The case of a foreign tourist in Vietnam, reported in the media last week as possibly carrying the H1N1 virus, was officially confirmed in lab tests to be *negative*.
- There are no confirmed human cases of influenza A (H1N1) in the Lao PDR.

What is the WHO Lao PDR country office doing?

WHO continues to provide technical assistance to the Governments response efforts. In addition to the numerous activities reported in previous editions, WHO has supported the National Centre for Laboratory Epidemiology (NCLE) and its staff. The new H1N1 primers - diagnostic tools which help to confirm the genetic identity of the novel influenza A H1N1 – that arrived in Laos late last week are already in use. By allowing the NCLE to confirm cases of H1N1 in-country, the speed of diagnosis has already been improved and the country's control measures bolstered.

Where to get more information

During public health emergencies, it is important to seek accurate information about the situation. For official information on this evolving situation and for technical and communication guidance for health administrators, health professionals and the general public, please click on the following links:

WHO: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>
US CDC: http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/?s_cid=swineFlu_outbreak_internal_001
France: http://www.invs.sante.fr/derniere_minute/default.asp

In Lao PDR:

For the public:

National Emerging Infectious Disease Coordination Office (NEIDCO)
Hotline Telephone: 166
UN Lao website: www.unlao.org

For technical queries:

National Centre for Laboratory and Epidemiology (NCLE)
Telephone: 021 350 209

World Health Organization - Lao PDR
Communications Officer Cathy Williams
Email*: commdiseaseinfo.lao@wpro.who.int
Telephone: 020 514-1105
Office: 021 353902-4 ext 81839

For general medical queries:

UN Dispensary Physician & Nurse



In the first instance please email:

Ivy Caballes ivy.caballes@undp.org

Ben.Burford ben.burford@undp.org

In the second instance please call: 021 267789 or 021 267788

For after hours medical emergencies for UN staff **only** please call: 020 559 9292
