

2 Jun 2009, 8.00 am

Human infections of influenza A (H1N1):

Perspective from WHO Lao P.D.R. (update 18)

NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

www.unlao.org/H1N1/influenzah1n1.asp

Highlights:

- Globally, there are **17582** confirmed human cases of influenza A (H1N1) with 99 deaths
- Vietnam reports first confirmed case of H1N1
- China reports local transmission cluster in Guangdong Province
- Candidate vaccine virus information now available on web
- **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. Sustained community level transmission has been documented only in North America.

WHO phases to undergo revision to reflect disease severity as well as geographic spread.

For further clarification about pandemic phases please read:

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

Global situation

As of 2 June 2009, 58 countries have officially reported 17,582 cases of influenza A(H1N1) infection, including 99 deaths.

Cases have been reported in Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, UK, Uruguay, USA and Vietnam. Deaths have been reported as follows: 2 in Canada; 1 in Costa Rica; 85 in Mexico; and 11 in USA.

Western Pacific and Local Region:

There continue to be no deaths in the Western Pacific and South East Asian regions. Japan has 379 cases, Australia 401, China 71, The Republic of South Korea 41, New Zealand 9 cases, Malaysia 3, The Philippines 16, and Singapore has 7 cases. Thailand has 2 confirmed cases and Vietnam now has three cases after reporting its first case over the weekend in a student in Ho Chi Minh City. He returned from the U.S. this month. Authorities are following up by contacting passengers who sat near the student on the flight from the U.S. China reported 2 instances of local-transmission with a small cluster in Guangdong.

There are no suspected or confirmed human cases of influenza A (H1N1) in Lao PDR.

What is the WHO Lao PDR country office doing?

WHO continues to provide technical assistance to the Governments response efforts. Ongoing support includes:

- WHO staff conducted surveillance training in Bokeo Province for district and provincial health officers and clinicians.
- Field epidemiology training at the National centre for Laboratory and Epidemiology (NCLE) taking place for the next 4 weeks
- The final Provincial Pandemic Planning Workshop in the south of Lao PDR taking place from 1-5 June. The workshop will involve the development of tailored provincial plans for the five southern provinces and prioritization of activities to be implemented. Once the workshop is completed, all provinces in Lao PDR will have developed tailored provincial plans.
- Information sheets for UN staff (English/Lao) and the public (Lao) for home-based care and recommended actions to be taken during in-community transmission and non-community transmission phases are being finalized prior to distribution.

Candidate Vaccine Viruses

Information is now available on the web for three candidate reassortment vaccine viruses (X-179A; NIBRG-121; IDCDC-RG15) for novel influenza A (H1 N1) vaccine development. For further information, please visit the website:

<http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/swineflu/en/index.html>

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
