

23 June 2009

SPECIAL EDITION: LAO PDR CONFIRMS SECOND PANDEMIC H1N1 2009 CASE

Human infections of Pandemic H1N1 2009 virus:

Perspective from WHO Lao P.D.R. (update 23)

Available online at: www.unlao.org/H1N1/influenzah1n1.asp

Second case of Pandemic H1N1 2009 confirmed in Lao PDR

Lao PDR's second case of Pandemic H1N1 2009 was confirmed on Sunday, 21 June 2009, by the National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology (NCLE). A sample was collected from the patient midday on 21 June and sent to NCLE for testing. The positive result was confirmed and reported to WHO later that day.

The affected person is under the care of a physician and is isolated in a hospital in Vientiane. The person recently traveled from a country with confirmed cases of Pandemic H1N1 2009 virus. The identity of the person has not been made public in accordance with government and WHO privacy rules.

As of 22 June 2009, there were 52,160 confirmed cases of Pandemic H1N1 2009 in 99 countries with 231 deaths. Amongst Lao PDR's neighbours, there are currently 589 confirmed cases in Thailand, 35 in Viet Nam, and 739 in China.

It is anticipated there will be further cases in Lao PDR in the coming weeks and months but like most other countries, that most cases will be clinically mild and may not require special treatment. People who develop signs of influenza such as fever with a cough, sore throat, runny nose or body aches are advised to contact a health professional immediately (see contact details below). This will allow early diagnosis and appropriate treatment as necessary.

What should I do to protect myself and my family?

- See a doctor if you develop symptoms of influenza-like illness that include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headaches, chills and fatigue.
- Stay home from work or school to limit contact with others.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your sleeve when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in a rubbish bin after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

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*: commndiseaseinfo.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

Embassy staff should contact their normal clinic.
