

13th May 2009, 7.00 pm

Dear All,

**Human infections of influenza A (H1N1):**

**Perspective from WHO/Lao P.D.R. (update 11)**

**Highlights:**

- Globally, there are 5728 confirmed human cases of influenza A (H1N1) with 17 confirmed cases from 5 countries in the Western Pacific Region
- Two cases now confirmed in Thailand
- WHO provides provincial Influenza A (H1N1) training in Lao PDR
- Latest case study suggests clinicians pay special attention to pregnant women with influenza A (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](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/phase/en/index.html)

**Global situation**

As of 06:00 GMT, 13 May 2009, 33 countries have officially reported 5728 cases of influenza A(H1N1) infection.

Mexico has reported 2059 laboratory confirmed human cases of infection, including 56 deaths. The United States has reported 3009 laboratory confirmed human cases, including three deaths. Canada has reported 358 laboratory confirmed human cases, including one death. Costa Rica has reported eight laboratory confirmed human cases, including one death.

The following countries have reported laboratory confirmed cases with no deaths - Argentina (1), Australia (1), Austria (1), Brazil (8), China (3, comprising 1 in China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and 2 in mainland China), Colombia (6), Cuba (1), Denmark (1), El Salvador (4), Finland (2), France (13), Germany (12), Guatemala (3), Ireland (1), Israel (7), Italy (9), Japan (4), Netherlands (3), New Zealand (7), Norway (2), Panama (29), Poland (1), Portugal (1), Republic of Korea (3), Spain (98), Sweden (2), Switzerland (1), Thailand (2), and the United Kingdom (68).

### **Western Pacific Region:**

- The confirmed case count in the Western Pacific is 17, with no deaths. New Zealand has 7 cases, Japan 4, The Republic of Korea 3, China 2 cases and Australia 1.
- The number of confirmed cases and affected countries in the region are expected to rise.
- So far the H1N1 virus hasn't caused severe illness in the majority of its victims. But this could change as it is a new virus and could yet mutate into a more severe strain so monitoring is ongoing.

### **Local Region**

- There are no known suspected or confirmed human cases of influenza A (H1N1) in the Lao PDR.
- Two cases of Influenza A (H1N1) have been officially confirmed in Thailand. It is reported that they presented to hospital on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of May respectively after returning from Mexico. They were treated with antivirals and have now recovered.

### **What is the WHO Lao PDR country office doing?**

WHO continues to provide technical assistance to the Governments response efforts including:

- A two day workshop for provincial health and hospital directors this week in surveillance and reporting; strengthening border control; case management; medical and equipment supply; communication; and collaboration and cooperation issues.
- A UN table-top simulation exercise, run with the UN Office of the Resident Coordinator, to revise the UN Country Team's Pandemic Influenza Contingencies Plan and Business Operation Continuity Plan for Lao PDR. The changes will strengthen the UN Country Office's ability to continue operating and provide quality support to the government, stakeholders and staff throughout a pandemic.
- Development of training courses for medical doctors and nurses at national and regional levels in clinical management of influenza A (H1N1) cases and infection control in hospitals
- Developing a guideline for use of antiviral treatment (Tamiflu™)

### **WHO advises ASEAN 3+**

The WHO Director General Margaret Chan and Assistant Director General Dr Koji Fukuda addressed the ASEAN 3+ meeting in Thailand on 8 May. Dr Fukuda described the current phase 5 status and implications of Phase 6, reiterated WHO's response and explained WHO's work with various advisory groups on science, epidemiology, antivirals, vaccine production issues.

### **Case study of pregnant women with influenza A (H1N1)**

American doctors have provided preliminary details of three cases of novel influenza A (H1N1) virus infection in pregnant women in the United States. It contributes to existing evidence that pregnant women are at a greater risk of complications for influenza A viruses. The US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that pregnant women with confirmed, probable or suspected novel influenza A (H1N1) virus infection should receive appropriate antiviral treatment for 5 days.

### **Influenza catches on in the media: Special CNN report for travellers**

CNN Business Traveller with Richard Quest will examine Influenza A (H1N1) from a travel perspective.

Wed May 13: 1030, 1930 CET | 1630 HK; Sat May 16: 0930, 2000 CET | 1530 HK; Sun May 17: 0630, 1930 CET | 1230 HK; Mon May 18: 1100 HK

### **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](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/?s_cid=swineFlu_outbreak_internal_001)  
**France:** [http://www.invs.sante.fr/derniere\\_minute/default.asp](http://www.invs.sante.fr/derniere_minute/default.asp)

### **In Lao PDR:**

#### ***For the public:***

National Avian and Human Influenza Coordination Office (NAHICO)  
Hotline Telephone: 166  
UN Lao website: [www.unlao.org](http://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](mailto:commdiseaseinfo.lao@wpro.who.int)  
Telephone: 020 514-1105  
Office: 021 353902-4 ext 81839

\*This is a different email address that was issued in update 2. Please use this email address should you have any queries.

#### ***For general medical queries:***

UN Dispensary Physician & Nurse

In the first instance please email:

Ivy Caballes [ivy.caballes@undp.org](mailto:ivy.caballes@undp.org)  
Ben.Burford [ben.burford@undp.org](mailto: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

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