

14th May 2009, 7.00 pm

Dear All,

Human infections of influenza A (H1N1):

Perspective from WHO/Lao P.D.R. (update 12)

NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

www.unlao.org/H1N1/influenzah1n1.asp

Highlights:

- Globally, there are **6302** confirmed human cases of influenza A (H1N1) with 19 confirmed cases from 6 countries in the Western Pacific Region
- Two cases now confirmed in mainland China
- Be alert not alarmed WHO tells donors
- Latest scientific papers available free on Lancet website
- **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 Bangkok time, 14 May 2009, 37 countries have officially reported 6203 cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection.

Mexico has reported 2282 laboratory confirmed human cases of infection, including 58 deaths. The United States has reported 3352 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 (4 cases comprising 2 in China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and 2 in mainland China), Colombia (7), Cuba (1), Denmark (1), El Salvador (4), Finland (2), France (14), 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 (71).

Western Pacific Region:

- The confirmed case count in the Western Pacific is 19, with no deaths. New Zealand has 7 cases, Japan 4, The Republic of Korea 3, China 4 (mainland China 2 and Hong Kong 2), and Australia 1.

Local Region

- Two cases of Influenza A (H1N1) have been officially confirmed in Thailand and mainland China respectively.
- There are no known suspected or 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 including:

- Communications support in the form of daily technical newsletter, weekly round up, and planned twice weekly UN-NEIDCO newsletter, press releases and speeches, public awareness materials, and drafting of policy guidelines and manuals.
- Starting today, a two day workshop on Influenza A (H1N1) for Directors of Provincial Health Offices and Provincial hospitals on surveillance and reporting; border control issues; case management; medical and equipment supply; communication; and collaboration and cooperation.
- Development of training courses for medical doctors and nurses at national and regional levels in clinical management of influenza A (H1N1) and H5N1 cases and infection control in hospitals
- Developing a guideline for use of antiviral treatment (Tamiflu™)

Be alert, not alarmed WHO tells Informal Donors Meeting

Dr Reiko Tsuyuoka, Epidemiologist for Communicable Disease Prevention and Control at WHO Lao PDR, brought donor representatives at today's informal donors meeting up to speed on latest developments in the novel influenza A (H1N1) epidemic. Acknowledging the possibility of an H1N1 outbreak in Laos, Dr Tsuyuoka encouraged people to be aware of the risks potential infections posed to organizations' staff and plan accordingly. This includes having their own contingency plans in place including examining the possibility of sourcing antivirals.

Dr Tsuyuoka's calls not to be complacent were supported by the WHO Representative in Laos today during his opening address to a workshop for provincial officials. Dr Dong Il Ahn said he "would not be surprised at all even if we have our first influenza A (H1N1) case in Laos in the very near future." Dr Ahn praised the central and provincial governments for their work last year developing the National and Provincial Pandemic Preparedness Plan for the Health Sector. He told the delegates, however, that, "what we need to do is simply gear up to put those plans into action now." He stressed that the provincial officials and healthcare workers' inputs "will be crucial in implementing the action plans and ensuring the disease is contained quickly and effectively." The workshop continues tomorrow.

H1N1 Resource Centre with free access to latest scientific papers

Medical journal The Lancet has set up a new resource centre to provide up to date information on influenza A (H1N1) for physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and healthcare professionals across the globe. It includes the latest scientific papers on the virus, free of charge, from over 30 publications. The site also includes guidelines, podcasts from conferences, media reports, Q & As and other useful technical information. Visit the resource centre at:

<http://www.thelancet.com/H1N1-flu>.

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 Avian and Human Influenza Coordination Office (NAHICO)

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
