

11th May 2009, 9.00 am

Dear All,

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

**Perspective from WHO/Lao P.D.R. (update 9)**

**Highlights:**

- Globally, there are 4380 confirmed human cases of influenza A (H1N1) with 13 cases from 5 countries in the Western Pacific Region
- Australia has 1<sup>st</sup> confirmed case
- Status of candidate vaccine virus development for the current Influenza A(H1N1) virus
- Additional Tamiflu supplies arrived for Lao Ministry of Health from WHO HQ on Saturday
- **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**

New Influenza A H1N1 was first reported from Mexico. Since 24 April 2009, 29 countries have officially reported 4380 cases of influenza A(H1N1) infection.

Mexico has reported 1626 laboratory confirmed human cases of infection, including 45 deaths. The United States has reported 2254 laboratory confirmed human cases, including two deaths. Canada has reported 280 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 (6), China, (1), China, (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) (1), Colombia (1), Denmark (1), El Salvador (2), France (12), Germany (11), Guatemala (1), Ireland (1), Israel (7), Italy (9), Japan (4), Netherlands (3), New Zealand (7), Panama (3), Poland (1), Portugal (1), Republic of Korea (3), Spain (93), Sweden (1), Switzerland (1) and the United Kingdom (39).

### **Western Pacific Region:**

- The recently identified influenza A(H1N1) virus has now been found in 6 countries/areas in the Western Pacific
- There are a total of 17 confirmed cases in the Western Pacific; there have been no deaths due to the virus in this region;
- 16 of the 17 cases have a recent history of travel to Mexico, the United States, or Canada
- The affected countries/areas in this region are: Australia (1), Hong Kong (China) (1), China (1), Republic of Korea (3), Japan (4), New Zealand (7)

### **Status of candidate vaccine virus development for the current Influenza A(H1N1) virus**

For the current influenza A(H1N1) virus, WHO Collaborating Centres for influenza (WHO CCs), Essential Regulatory Laboratories (ERLs) and other institutions are developing candidate vaccine viruses under the coordination of WHO<sup>1</sup>. Once a vaccine virus is available, WHO will announce the availability on its public website<sup>2</sup>. For general queries, please email to [GISN@who.int](mailto:GISN@who.int)

<sup>1</sup> WHO coordinates WHO CCs, National Influenza Centers and ERLs. This Network is monitoring the evolution of influenza viruses, both seasonal and those with potential to cause a pandemic, including the current influenza A(H1N1). The Network also provides recommendations and updates on diagnostics, monitors the susceptibility of emerging influenza viruses to antiviral drugs, and selects, develops and distributes vaccine viruses.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>

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

There are no known suspected or confirmed human cases of influenza A (H1N1) in Lao P.D.R.

An additional 9,240 adult treatment courses (75 mg capsules) of Tamiflu™ (oseltamivir) from the WHO Stockpile for Lao PDR Ministry of Health use in the treatment of Influenza A (H1N1) infection arrived in Vientiane Capital on Saturday evening.

WHO continues to provide technical assistance to the Governments response efforts which last week included (not updated from 9<sup>th</sup> May):

- Briefing for Lao journalists on influenza A (H1N1) held on 7 May to ensure media have a clear understanding of the topic and are fully informed of the domestic and global situation.
- Passenger screening forms developed with the assistance of WHO are being issued at the airport as of 7 May as the Lao Government has decided to conduct passenger screening in the 2 international airports, Vientiane and Luang Prabang and additionally at the Friendship Bridge.
- Daily surveillance on ILI and ARI are on going in six hospitals in Vientiane Capital.
- Development of Lao language case reporting and investigation forms for hospitals and NCLE, which were distributed to six hospitals during trainings on 8 May.
- Development of protocol for triage and handling of ILI cases in Vientiane Capital hospitals in relation to the current phase 5– agreed upon on 8 May.

### **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 \*\*

\*\*These phone numbers have been corrected from previous updates

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

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