



*The objective of the bulletin is to report new health events occurring outside and inside EpiSouth area that have potential implications on EpiSouth population. It does not aim to provide an exhaustive review of international alerts. Since 2006, The French public health Institute (InVS) is issuing an online epidemic intelligence bulletin (Bulletin hebdomadaire International - BHI). In order to limit duplication and to make this already verified information available to a larger audience, information relating to health events of interest for EpiSouth population are translated and integrated in the relevant e-web sections. Despite all verifications, WP6 team would not be responsible for potential errors. The recipient is responsible for the cautious use of this information. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is liable for the use that may be made of the information contained in this report. Data maps and commentary used in this document do not imply any opinion of EpiSouth countries or its partners on the legal status of the countries and territories shown or concerning their borders.*

### INDEX e-WEB n°65

- A(H5N1) Human influenza – None
- A(H5N1) Avian influenza – None
- “OUTSIDE” Events:
  - World – Novel influenza A(H1N1)
  - Libya – Plague
  - Mauritania– Meningitis
  - South East Asia – Dengue
  - Mauritius – Dengue
- “INSIDE” Events: None (other than A[H5N1] and A[H1N1])

Area: World	Event: A(H5N1) – Human	<u>Comments</u>
No influenza A(H5N1) human cases reported this week.		

Area: World	Event: A(H5N1) – Epizootic	<u>Comments</u>
No avian influenza outbreak reported this week.		

### **REPORT of NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURRING OUTSIDE THE EPISOUTH AREA (not occurring in one or several EpiSouth countries)**

Area: World	Event: A(H1N1) Novel influenza	<u>Comments</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since April 24, 2009, health authorities of several countries have reported human influenza cases due to a new influenza strain, called <a href="#">A(H1N1) Novel influenza virus</a>,</li> <li>• This virus is different from seasonal human A(H1N1) virus, which is responsible for seasonal influenza outbreaks and circulates widely in the world.</li> <li>• Since June 11, 2009, WHO rose the level of influenza pandemic to phase 6. At this early stage, the pandemic can be characterized globally as being moderate in severity.</li> <li>• <b>Table 1</b> and <b>Map 1</b> summarise the Novel influenza situation as of June 17, 2009 at 11:00 AM.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each country has its own case definition. Moreover, within one country, the case definition may change overtime. These two elements have to be considered in the interpretation of the number of reported cases.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Updates</a> are regularly uploaded on EpiSouth’s website, with new available elements.</li> </ul>

Area: Libya

Event: Plague

Comments

- On June 15, 2009, Libyan Health authorities reported 12 bubonic plague cases including one death, in the South of the city of Tobruk (North East coast, see Map 2).
- All cases have been diagnosed in the same neighbourhood.
- Among these cases, a family cluster has been described.
- Control measures have been implemented.
- WHO is undergoing an investigation in order to assess the situation.

Map 2. Location of Tobruk, Libya



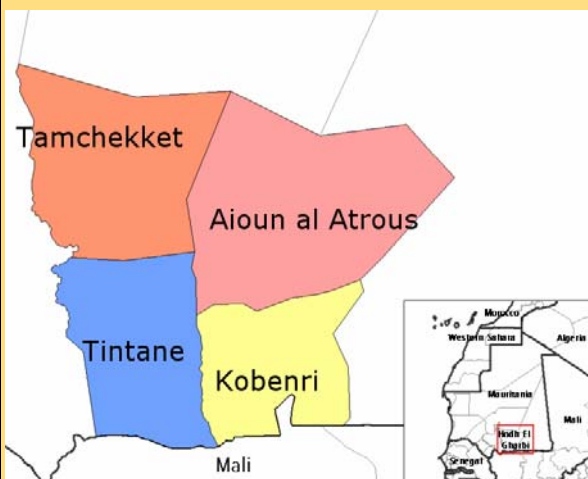
- Plague is endemic in several areas of Africa and sporadic human cases may occur in regions where plague circulates among wildlife (see [note Peste.](#)).
- In Libya the last plague cases were reported in
  - ✓ 1984: 8 cases, no death ;
  - ✓ 1977: 11 cases ( 6 deaths);
  - ✓ 1976: 19 cases ( 6 deaths).
- The last outbreak in Tobruk area occurred in 1984 and it is likely that limited transmission remained in wild rodents. This low level circulation can lead to limited outbreaks, especially among the members of a family or within a village.
- At this stage, this outbreak is very localised and its potential of evolution seems very limited.

Area : Mauritania

Event : Meningitis

Comments


- On June 11, 2009, Mauritanian health authorities reported 14 meningitis cases including
  - ✓ *N. meningitidis A* was biologically confirmed for at least 3 cases.
  - ✓ 7 deaths were reported between June 3rd and June 5th in Tintane's health centre, and meningitis has been confirmed as the cause of death for some of them.
  - ✓ On June 6, 7 cases including 3 lab confirmed cases were diagnosed in Tintane (Hodh El Gharbi region, South East),
  - ✓ Cases originated from Kobenri & Tamchekket districts (see **Map 3**).
- No new cases have been reported since.
- The health authorities have declared the alert level, but the epidemic threshold has not been reached.
- Preventive measures have been implemented and information campaigns are ongoing.



Map 3: Hodh El Gharbi region, Mauritania

- Mauritania is not included in the countries under enhanced surveillance of meningitis in the WHO African Region.
- However, it is located in the "Meningitis belt" that spreads from Senegal to Ethiopia.
- Meningitis cases are therefore not unexpected.
- These cases occur at the end of the high transmission season: from December to June, when dry climatic conditions, with sandy winds (Harmattan), increase the risk of infection.
- The occurrence of cases in other regions of Mauritania can not be excluded.

Area :	Vietnam, Philippines	Event :	Dengue	<u>Comments</u>
<p><b>Vietnam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 01/01 to 15/06/2009, 21,000 suspect dengue cases including 20 deaths were reported in Vietnam (CFR 0.09%). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The South and the Central regions have been the most affected.</li> <li>✓ The North is also affected with 80 cases reported in Hanoi.</li> <li>✓ Information on the circulating strain is not available.</li> </ul> </li> <li>In 2008, 12,064 suspect dengue cases including 5 deaths (CFR 0.05%) were reported during the first 5 months of the year (see <a href="#">e-Web n°14</a>).</li> </ul> <p><b>Philippines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 01/01/09 to 30/05/09, 21,707 suspect dengue cases including 57 deaths were reported in the Philippines (CFR 0.26%). At this stage, information on the circulating strain is not available.</li> <li>In 2008, from 01/01 to 17/05/08, 11,378 suspect cases including 127 deaths (CFR 1.1%) were reported through a hospital based surveillance network. (see <a href="#">e-Web n°14</a>).</li> <li>In 2007, from 01/01 to 17/05/2007, 8,647 suspect cases including 94 deaths, (CFR 1.1%) were reported.</li> <li>The last important dengue outbreak in the region occurred in 2007 (see <a href="#">Thematic note</a>).</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In South East Asia the transmission of dengue peaks between June and October.</li> <li>This year, cases have occurred earlier than usual and the number of reported cases is higher and still increasing compared to the same period in 2008.</li> <li>A wider outbreak cannot be excluded in 2009. This situation will therefore be followed with attention.</li> </ul>

Area :	Mauritius	Event :	Dengue	<u>Comments</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2009, up to June 12, 116 suspect dengue cases have been reported in Mauritius (see <b>Map 4</b>).</li> <li>✓ The first cases were reported in early June ;</li> <li>✓ At least 8 of these cases have been laboratory confirmed</li> <li>✓ To date, information on the strain responsible for these cases is not available.</li> <li>Specific control measures have been implemented: sensitisation of the population, destruction of breeding sites.</li> </ul> <p><b>Map 4. Mauritius, Indian Ocean</b></p> 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Ae. Albopictus</i> is present in Mauritius.</li> <li><i>Ae. Aegypti</i> was declared to be eliminated from the island in 1950.</li> <li>Limited outbreaks linked to <i>Ae. Albopictus</i> have been previously described on La Réunion Island, in Hawaiï and in Japan.</li> <li>The last outbreak occurred in 1977 and generated cases in La Reunion and other neighbouring islands of the Western Indian Ocean.</li> <li>Although the mosquitoes' breeding sites get less active during the austral summer (lower temperatures and waterfalls), the vectors remain present all year long and an evolution of the outbreak is likely.</li> </ul>

**REPORT of NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURRING INSIDE THE EPISOUTH AREA**  
**(Occurring in one or several EpiSouth countries)**

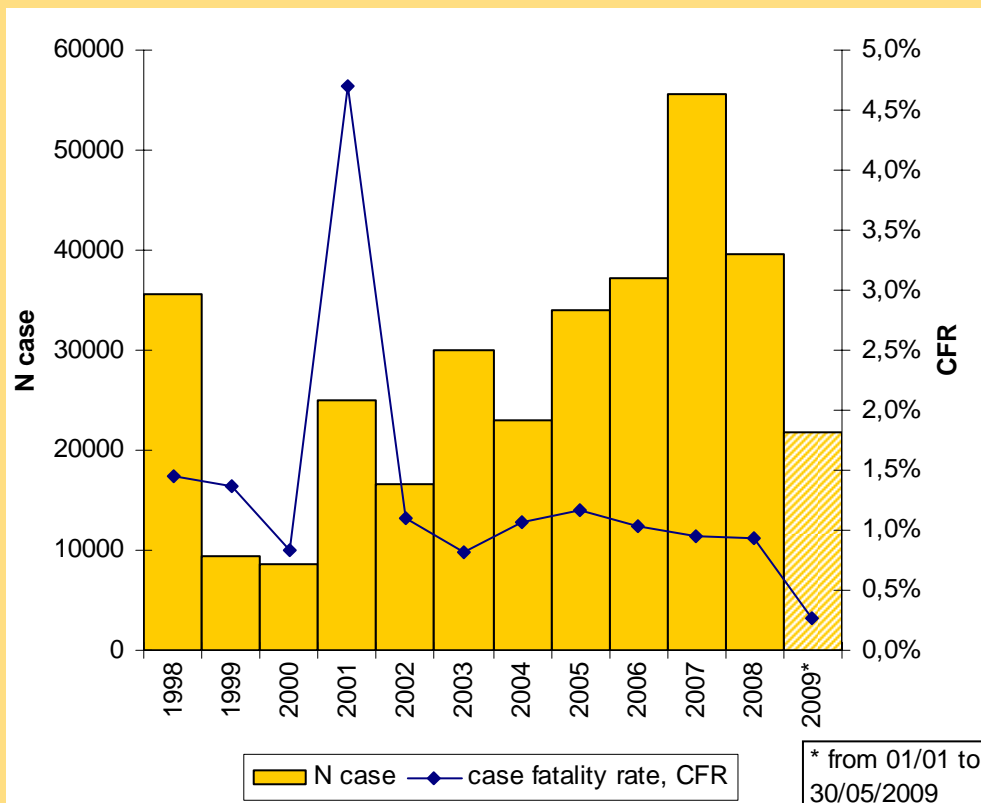
**No events reported this week**

**Table 1: Number of confirmed A(H1N1) novel influenza up to 11/06/09, 11:00 am**

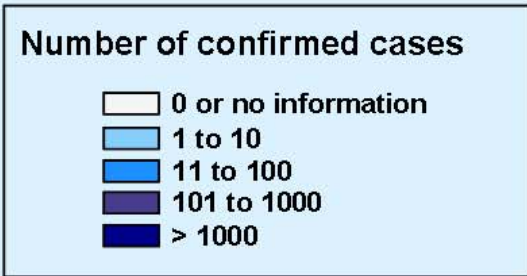
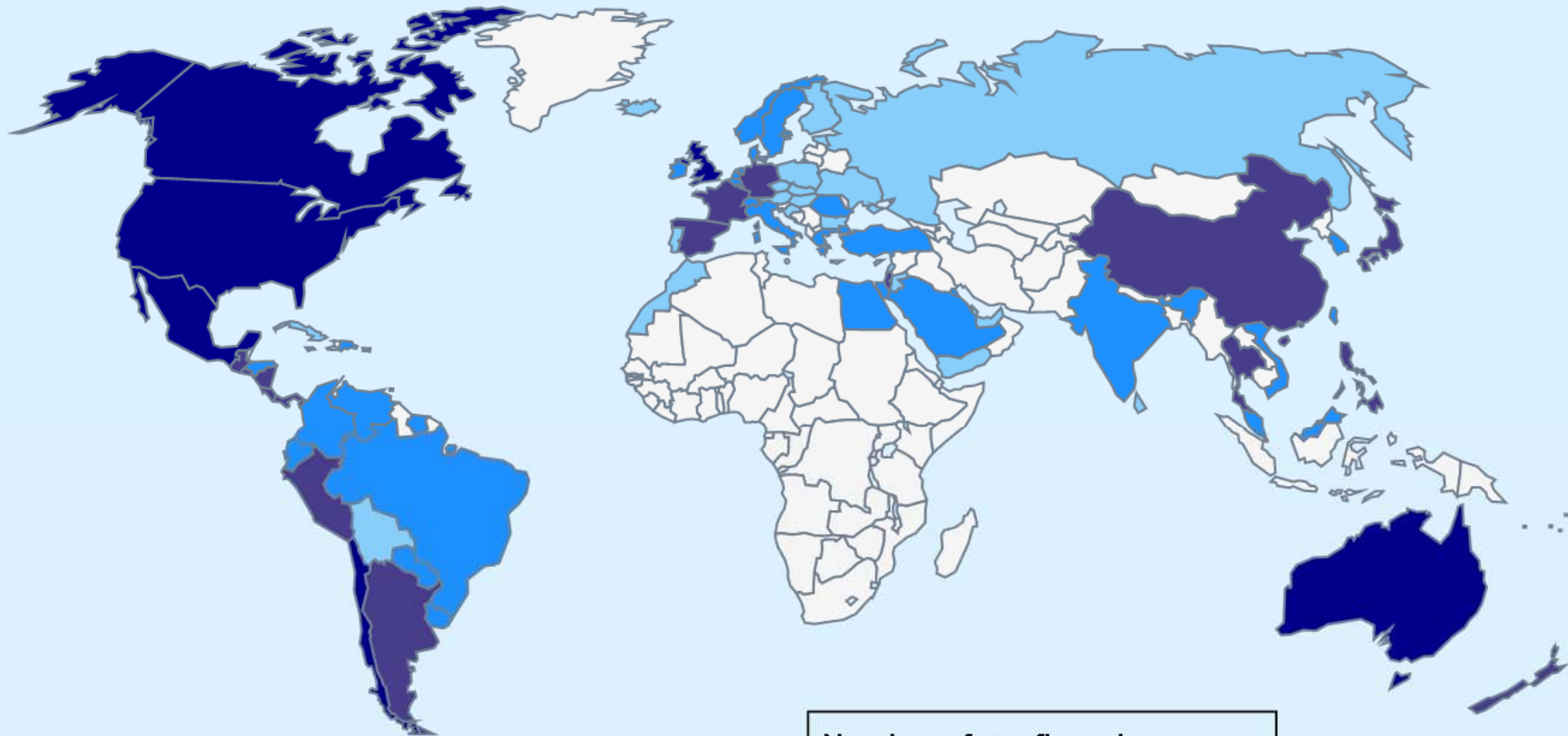
Country	A(H1N1) confirmed cases		Number of affected countries
	Total	Death	
<b>Total Americas</b>	<b>32,864</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>2,609</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Total Asia</b>	<b>1,771</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total Middle-East/ Maghreb</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Total Oceania</b>	<b>1,981</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total World</b>	<b>39,497</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>88</b>

According to case definition and national official declaration. To date, data from Canada, USA, and Mexico are not updated on a daily basis, therefore they should be interpreted carefully. French overseas territories.

**Figure 1. Number of suspect dengue cases and associated CFR, per year in The Philippines, 1998-2008 (Source : WHO)**



### Geographic distribution of confirmed A(H1N1) influenza cases, worldwide, 17/06/2009, 11:00 am



Data from PHI – MoH – WHO / Map InVS-DIT / Philcarto

