

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.

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- “OUTSIDE” Events:
  - World – Pandemic A/H1N1/2009
- “INSIDE” Events:
  - France– *Ostreopsis ovata* (toxic algae)

Area: Egypt

Event: A(H5N1) – Human

Comments

- The Egyptian health authorities reported 1 new influenza A(H5N1) human case:
- An 8 yrs old girl from Kafr El Sheik Governorate (see Map 1).
  - ✓ She presented symptoms on 24 July 2009;
  - ✓ She was hospitalised on 25 July 2009;
  - ✓ She was treated by oseltamivir and to date she is in stable condition;
  - ✓ She was exposed to sick or dead poultry prior to the disease onset.
- To date and since April 2006, Egypt has reported 82 cases including 27 deaths.

Map 1: Kafr El Sheik Governorate, Egypt



- The occurrence of human cases in Egypt is not an unexpected event.
- From 01/01/2009 and up to date, the Egyptian health authorities have reported 31 cases, versus 8 cases for the whole year 2008, 25 in 2007 and 18 in 2006.
- To date, available information do not indicate a change in the transmission of the virus.

Area: World

Event: A(H5N1) – Epizootic

Comments

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: Pandemic A/H1N1/2009

Comments

- In South America and Oceania, the outbreak continues to spread rapidly, partly because of favorable climatic conditions (Southern winter). In North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia, the epidemic continues to grow. In Africa, available data greatly underestimate the number of cases and do not allow monitoring the dynamics of the epidemic.
- As of 28/04/2009, **164,190 cases** and 1,007 deaths have been reported in 157 countries or territories (**Table 1** and **Map 3**). Most countries have stopped systematic biological confirmation of cases. Thus, this case count largely underestimates the importance of the pandemic and can no longer be considered a reliable indicator to monitor the situation.
- Therefore, we will no longer provide an international A/H1N1/2009 bulletin with detailed case counts on a weekly basis (Wednesday). However, we will continue to monitor the EpiSouth countries situation and provide data in the weekly e-WEB, as well as general comments on international trends.
- **Figure 1** describes the number of pandemic A/H1N1/2009 cases reported per week among EpiSouth countries since the beginning of the pandemic and up to 28/07/2009.
- **Table 2** summarises the pandemic A/H1N1/2009 situation among EpiSouth countries as of 30 July 2009 at 11:00 AM.


- On 16 July 2009, WHO recommended to no longer count individual cases of pandemic A/H1N1/2009 in largely affected countries and where community transmission has been established.

**Table 1. Number of confirmed pandemic A/H1N1/2009 cases up to 28/07/09, 11:00 am.**

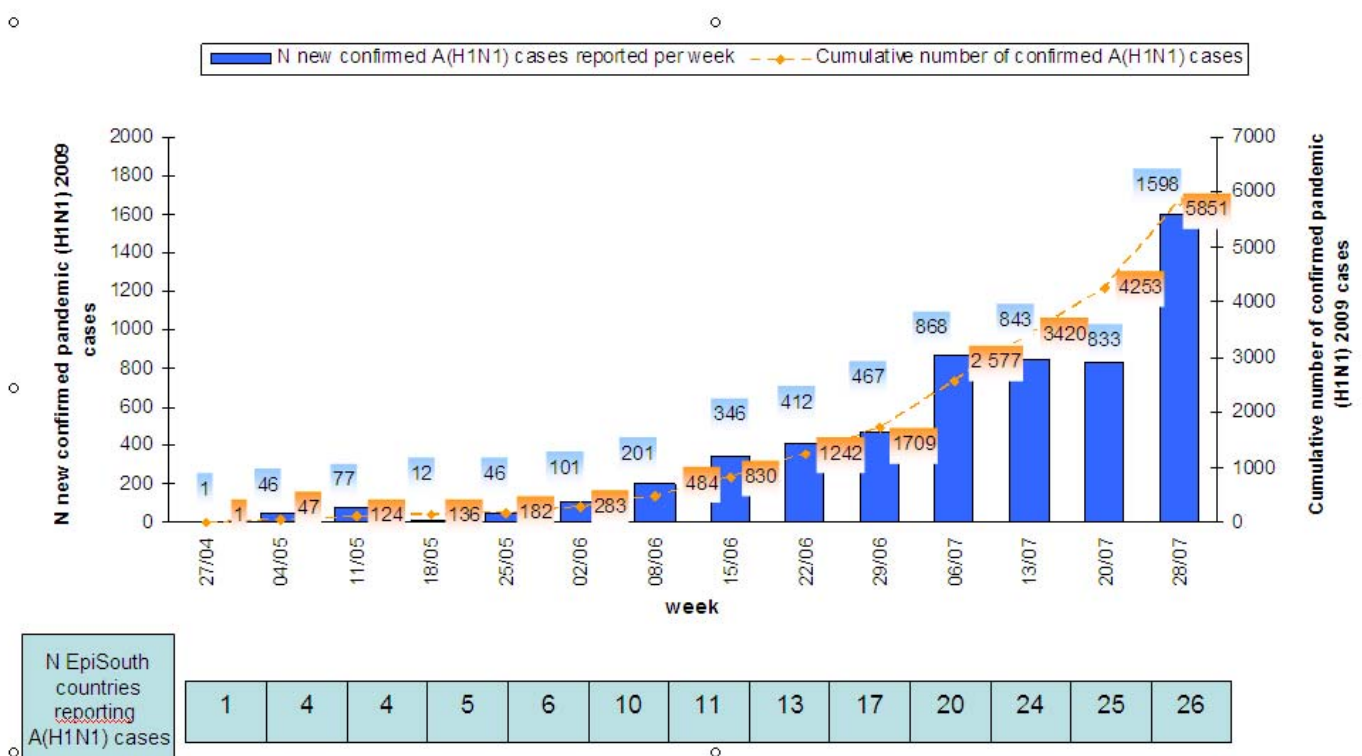
Country	Pandemic A/H1N1/2009 confirmed cases		Number of affected countries
	Total	Death	
<b>Total EpiSouth countries</b>	<b>5,851</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Total Americas</b>	<b>94,815</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Total Europe (non EpiSouth)</b>	<b>16,668</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Total Asia</b>	<b>25,851</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Total Middle-East (non EpiSouth)</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total Oceania</b>	<b>20,073</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Total Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Total World</b>	<b>164,190</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>157</b>

According to case definition and national official declaration. To date, data from countries with community transmission are not updated on a daily basis; therefore they should be interpreted carefully.

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

Area: France	Event: <i>Ostreopsis ovata</i>	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On 17 July 2009, in Villefranche sur Mer (in the area of Nice, South of France, see map 2), the regional health authorities reported the presence of <i>ostreopsis</i> algae.</li> <li>✓ High concentrations of the algae were detected in the water.</li> <li>✓ It resulted in at least 10 bathers presenting with clinical symptoms (mainly skin irritation).</li> </ul> <p><b>Map 2: Villefranche sur Mer, France</b></p> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Ostreopsis ovata</i> is a micro alga that can produce a palytoxin during bloom periods.</li> <li>It can affect humans through skin contact during bath, through inhalation (supported by windy conditions) and ingestion (direct or indirect, via contaminated seafood).</li> <li>Symptoms include skin irritation, rhinorrhoea, cough, wheezing, conjunctivitis, headache, nausea etc.</li> <li>Usually located in tropical and subtropical regions, <i>Ostreopsis ovata</i> has been increasingly detected in the Mediterranean sea during the past decade (Italy, Spain etc).</li> <li>Currently, apart from France, data for which validation is still in progress mention the presence of the toxic algae in at least one country of the Southern bank of the Mediterranean Sea.</li> <li>It is therefore likely that <i>Ostreopsis ovata</i> is more widespread in the Mediterranean Sea. The occurrence of human exposure in other countries cannot be excluded.</li> </ul>

**Figure 1. Number of new confirmed pandemic A/H1N1/2009 cases per week among EpiSouth countries, from 21-27 April to 20-28 July, 2009.**



**Table 2. Number of confirmed pandemic A/H1N1/2009 cases among EpiSouth countries, up to 30/07/09, 11:00 am.§**

Country	Total A/H1N1/2009 confirmed cases	Deaths
Albania	4	0
Algeria	16	0
Bosnia	10	0
Bulgaria	35	0
Croatia	50	0
Cyprus	297	0
Egypt	226	1
France (Metropolitan)	628	0
FYROM (Macedonia)	14	0
Greece	520	0
Israel	1,520	1
Italy	618	0
Jordan	75	0
Kosovo	1	0
Lebanon	154	0
Malta	123	0
Montenegro	19	0
Morocco	53	0
Palestine	104	0
Romania	125	0
Serbia	115	0
Slovenia	115	0
Syria	9	0
Spain	1,538	6
Tunisia	14	0
Turkey	116	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,499</b>	<b>8</b>

- To date, the total number of confirmed cases reported in the EpiSouth region is **6,499 cases** including **8 deaths**.
- Kosovo has reported its first confirmed case. Thus, all the 26 EpiSouth countries have reported confirmed pandemic A/H1N1/2009 cases.
- 3 new deaths have been notified:
  - 2 in Spain (both in patients with severe underlying disease)
  - 1 in Israel (in patient with underlying health problems)
- Spain and Israel remain the countries with the highest number of cases in the EpiSouth region: 1,538 and 1,520 cases respectively.
- During the summer vacations, extensive population movements take place throughout the Mediterranean area. It is therefore likely that tourists, residents, or expatriates coming from areas with higher levels of community transmission will travel to less affected countries, hence increasing the level of imported cases in various countries.

§ Source: EMRO, MoH, EpiSouth

Map 3. Geographic distribution, by country, of confirmed pandemic A/H1N1/2009 cases worldwide, as of 28/07/2009, 11:00 am  
(sources: ECDC, WHO, MoH, EpiSouth)

