



## EpiSouth Weekly Epi Bulletin – N°73 August 5<sup>th</sup> , 2009 – August 11<sup>th</sup> , 2009



Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

*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°73

- A(H5N1) Human influenza –none
- A(H5N1) Avian influenza – none
- “OUTSIDE” Events:
  - World – Pandemic A/H1N1/2009
- “INSIDE” Events:
  - Pandemic A/H1N1/2009

Area: World

Event: A(H5N1) – Human

Comments

No avian influenza outbreak reported this week.

Area: World

Event: A(H5N1) – Epizootic

Comments

No avian influenza outbreak reported this week.

## ***REPORT OF NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURRING OUTSIDE and INSIDE THE EPISOUTH AREA***

**Area:** World

**Event:** Pandemic A/H1N1/2009

Over the past few weeks, many countries have changed from case-based to population based surveillance (such as surveillance implemented for seasonal flu). Thus, the number of confirmed cases of **pandemic A/H1N1/2009** has stopped reflecting the dynamics of the A/H1N1/2009 pandemic.

The analysis of the various epidemiological and laboratory indicators available reflects a stabilisation or decreasing trend among countries initially most affected by the pandemic (the UK, North America, Argentina, Chile, Australia, and New-Zealand); and an increasing spread among the remaining countries across all continents.

- **Europe:** in the UK, the number of consultations for influenza-like illness decreased over the past 3 weeks. Virus circulation intensified in Spain and Germany.
- **Middle East:** the epidemic continues to progress. Community transmission has been established but remains limited in most countries. Countries reporting the highest number of cases are Israel and Saudi Arabia.
- **North America:** virus transmission is widespread. Nevertheless, the overall decreasing trend observed over the past weeks persists.
- **South and Central America:** the outbreak activity is intense, particularly in Guatemala and Paraguay. In Argentina, Uruguay and Chile, the epidemic seems to have reached a plateau.
- **Asia:** Thailand remains the country recording the highest number of cases, while virus circulation on the continent continues to progress.
- **Sub-Saharan Africa:** 14 of 48 countries have reported cases of pandemic A/H1N1/2009.
- **Oceania:** the virus circulation is increasingly intense and widespread among the various Pacific Island States. In Australia and New Zealand, the number of cases of influenza-like illness has decreased over the past 2 weeks.
- **Map 1** illustrates the number of A/H1N1/2009 cases in the countries where case counting is still performed or the presence of community transmission (when established), as well as the number of deaths among EpiSouth countries, as of 13 August 2009 at 11:00 AM.
  - ✓ Evidence of community transmission (limited or active) has been clearly established in some countries. In these countries, the number of confirmed cases is no longer a reliable indicator of the magnitude of the epidemic. Therefore, the number of cases in those countries is not represented on the map (countries in grey).
  - ✓ For the other countries (sporadic cases or suspicion of community transmission), the number of cases is still shown on the map (red dots).
  - ✓ However, it is worth noting that the countries have implemented different surveillance approaches (including different cases definitions and reporting systems over the course of the pandemic), rendering comparison between official figures and statements of limited relevance.
  - ✓ Therefore, the number of reported cases or the evidence (or absence of evidence) for community transmission should be interpreted with caution.
- To date, the total number of **confirmed cases of pandemic A/H1N1/2009** reported in the **EpiSouth region** is **9 681 cases** and **19 deaths**. All 26 EpiSouth countries have reported cases.
- Since 06 August 2009, **6 new deaths** have been notified: 2 in **Spain**, 3 in **Israel** and 1 in **Palestine**.

§ *Source: EMRO, MoH, EpiSouth*

Map 1. Distribution of A/H1N1/2009 in the EpiSouth region, as of 13/08/09 at 11:00 AM.

(sources: ECDC, WHO, MoH, EpiSouth)

