



## EpiSouth Weekly Epi Bulletin – N°74 August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – August 18<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°74

- 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

The A/H1N1/2009 pandemic has reached almost all countries (189 worldwide). The death toll rises to 1,799 (as of 13 August 2009). Virus circulation among countries first hit by the pandemic continues to decrease. The analysis of the various epidemiological and laboratory indicators available reflects the following trends:

- **Europe:** Since 11 August 2009, the epidemic has further progressed, particularly in Germany, Portugal, Greece and Holland. In England and Wales, consultations rates for influenza-like illness dropped from 42/100 000 inh. (week 31) to 30/100 000 inh. (week 32). 25 000 new cases of A/H1N1/2009 were estimated to have occurred in England during week 32. For that same week, Spanish authorities reported a consultation rate of 33/100 000 inh. for influenza-like illness.
- **Middle East:** the epidemic intensifies. Community transmission has been established but remains limited in most countries. Of 2,802 reported cases in the Eastern Mediterranean region (as of 15 August 2009), 421 (15%) had been acquired locally. Kuwait reported its 1<sup>st</sup> A/H1N1/2009 related death.
- **North America:** the overall decreasing trend for virus circulation observed over the past weeks persists. The number of deaths registered in the US (477), Mexico (163) and Canada (66) represent 34% of deaths reported worldwide.
- **South and Central America:** the declining trend recently observed in Argentina and Chile is maintained. A similar decrease starts in El Salvador, Panama and Paraguay.
- **Asia:** A/H1N1/2009 spreads intensely in Thailand and Malaysia as well as in India and Indonesia.
- **Sub-Saharan Africa:** the epidemic intensifies in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- **Oceania:** the epidemic continues to spread among the various Pacific Island States.
- **Map 1** illustrates the number of confirmed A/H1N1/2009 cases for countries where case counting is still performed; the presence of community transmission for countries where it has been established, and the number of deaths among EpiSouth countries, as of 19 August 2009 at 11:00 AM.
  - ✓ Evidence for community transmission, whether limited or widespread, has been clearly established in some countries. Many of these countries have moved from case-based to population-based surveillance to track the magnitude of the epidemic. Thus, case counts for those are no longer represented on the map (countries in grey).
  - ✓ For the remaining countries, including those with sporadic cases or suspicion of community transmission, the number of cases is still shown on the map (red dots).
  - ✓ 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, which calls for a cautious interpretation of the data.
- To date, the total number of **confirmed cases of Pandemic A/H1N1/2009** reported in the **EpiSouth region** is **10,320 cases** and **25 deaths**. All 26 EpiSouth countries have reported cases.
- Since 12 August 2009, **6 new deaths** have been notified: 2 in **Spain**, 3 in **Israel** and 1 in **Malta** (1<sup>st</sup> death).
- Evidence for existence of community transmission in **Lebanon** has been established. **Israel** reported an increase, above expected, of consultations for influenza-like illness for week 32 (comparison with previous years). A similar increase was observed for visits to adult emergency departments for acute upper respiratory infections.

Source: WHO EMRO, ECDC, MoH, EpiSouth.

Map 1. Distribution of A/H1N1/2009 in the EpiSouth region, as of 19/08/09 at 11:00 AM.

(sources: ECDC, WHO, MoH, EpiSouth)

