



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

Area: World

Event: A(H5N1) – human

Comments

No human cases 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

EpiSouth region

As of 27 October 2009, a total of **125 deaths** among biologically confirmed A/H1N1/2009 cases have been reported in the **EpiSouth region**. 54 (43%) were reported by **Spain**.

- **20 new deaths** were registered since 20 October: 9 in **Spain**, 3 in **Israel**, 2 in **Jordan**, 1 in **Lebanon**, the 1st death in **Serbia** and 2 (1st) deaths in **Turkey**.
 - In **Turkey**, 1st deaths concerned 2 young adults aged 29 yrs and 28 yrs in Ankara and Manisa (western Turkey) respectively. The rapid increase in the number of A/H1N1/2009 cases has led to multiple school closures in the South-eastern region and the capital.
 - In **Mainland France**, the A/H1N1/2009 epidemic continues to intensify. A steady increase is recorded for week 43 by sentinel surveillance systems and reference laboratories, affecting mainly the capital region and large agglomerations.
 - For week 42, no major change in the estimated global incidence for influenza-like illness is recorded in **Spain** (101 cases/100.000 inh. versus 99 cases/100.000 inh. the week before). This estimate exceeds the influenza epidemic threshold for week 42.
 - For week 42, influenza activity is on the rise in **Romania**.
 - In EpiSouth **North African countries (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia)** the situation is stable. To date, no deaths have been reported.
 - No new confirmed cases have been reported in **Tunisia** in the past 2 weeks (since 14 October). The estimated rate of consultations for influenza-like illness has been stable, around 12%, over the past weeks. Influenza activity remains low.

Global trends (outside the EpiSouth region)

- As of 27 October 2009, **5 922 deaths** related to A/H1N1/2009 have been reported worldwide (including EpiSouth region). Major increases in the number of A/H1N1/2009 deaths recorded internationally affected the United States and Brazil.

The analysis of the various epidemiological and laboratory indicators since 20 October 2009 reflects the following trends:

- **Europe (non EpiSouth): 56 new deaths** were reported during week 43 (+27% compared to week 42). Out of 256 deaths reported since the beginning of the epidemic, more than half occurred in the UK.

Influenza activity is high in **Iceland** and **Ireland**. It is increasing in **Belgium, the Netherlands, England, Norway** and **Sweden**. Virus circulation is low to moderate for the remaining countries.
- In **Russia**, influenza activity low and fluctuating, exceeding epidemic thresholds in some regions.
- **Non-EpiSouth countries** of the **Middle-East** recorded **17 new deaths** during weeks **42-43: 6 in Iran, 3 in Kuwait, 3 in Saudi Arabia, 2 in Irak, 1 in Oman, Afghanistan** and **Sudan** have reported their **first deaths**. To date, **126 A/H1N1/2009** related deaths have been reported in those countries.

- In **North America**, the second wave of the influenza pandemic continues to progress.
 - During week 41 (October 11-17, 2009), influenza activity increased in the **U.S.** Outpatient visits for influenza-like illness and the proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza were above the epidemic thresholds in most states. 4,855 (37.5%) specimens tested were positive for influenza. Of those, 70% corresponded to the A/H1N1/2009 virus. Between 11 and 17 October, CDC reported 11 influenza-associated paediatric deaths that had occurred between 14 June and 10 October. 9 of these deaths were associated with 2009 influenza A (H1N1) virus infection. For 2, the subtype was undetermined. It is worth noting that changes in the mode of reporting in the US led to the notification of 411 **influenza confirmed deaths** (not just A/H1N1/2009) between 30 August and 17 October. 46 states reported geographically widespread influenza activity.
 - In **Canada**, influenza activity continues to increase, mainly in British Columbia, Quebec and North West territories.
 - Intense influenza activity continues in **Mexico** with sustained community transmission. In certain states, the weekly increase has exceeded 20% over the past 3 weeks.
- In **Central America**, influenza activity remains low to moderate except for **El Salvador**. The only country reporting an increase in virus circulation is **Guatemala**.
- Most countries of **South America** report a stable or declining trend in influenza activity except **Colombia**, **Ecuador** and **Paraguay**. Influenza activity is diminishing in **Brazil** which reports clusters in schools located in the south of the country. The 469 new A/H1N1/2009 deaths recorded correspond to casualties reported retrospectively, that occurred between weeks 36 and 41.
- In the **Caribbean**, influenza activity varies among countries. **Cuba** and the **Bahamas** continue to report an increase in influenza-like symptoms. **Trinidad** and **Tobago** reported 3 more deaths.
- In **Asia**, the situation remains contrasted. Virus circulation is low and globally stable in South Eastern countries, particularly **Thailand**. In **Hong Kong**, the epidemic continues to decrease. Nevertheless, the A/H1N1/2009 virus represents 80% of *influenzae* isolated. In **Japan**, A/H1N1/2009 is still on the rise and over epidemic thresholds. In **continental China**, the virus circulation remains intense. In **India**, influenza activity decreases except in Southern states.
- In the **Pacific** region, influenza activity increases in **Salomon Islands** and in **Palau**. Sporadic cases are reported by other countries and territories. In **Australia** and **New Zealand**, influenza activity decreases.
- In **Sub-Saharan Africa**, the cumulative number of reported cases up till 19 October is low except for **South Africa**. The latter experiences an influenza activity that is comparable to that of previous years. Influenza activity increases in **Madagascar**.