

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°85

- A(H5N1) Human influenza – none
- A(H5N1) Avian influenza – Vietnam
- “OUTSIDE” Events:
 - A(H9)-human– Hong-Kong/Mainland China
 - Dengue fever – Yemen
- “INSIDE” Events: none
- World – Pandemic A/H1N1/2009

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

Area: Vietnam	Event: A(H5N1) – Epizootic	<u>Comments</u>
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- On November 05, 2009, the Vietnamese Department of Animal Health (Ministry of Agriculture and rural development) reported an A(H5N1) avian influenza outbreak in Dien Bien province (North-West Vietnam, cf map 1).
- The last avian outbreak reported in the country occurred in Ca Mau province in October 2009 and the most recent one reported in Dien Bien province was notified in summer 2007.

Map 1: Dien Bien province, Vietnam



- To date, available information does not indicate a change in the transmission of the virus.

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

Area: Hong-Kong/
Mainland China

Event: A(H9)- human

Comments

- Hong-Kong health authorities confirmed the identification of influenza virus A(H9) in a patient residing in the Guangdong province, Mainland China (cf map 2.).
- The patient, aged 47 yrs old,
 - ✓ initiated symptoms on 26 October 2009
 - ✓ was hospitalised on 28 October 2009 in Hong-Kong,
 - ✓ had not travelled during incubation period
 - ✓ is currently in a stable condition
- Investigation (including neuraminidase typing) is ongoing.

Map 2. Guangdong province, Mainland China.



- Human cases of avian influenza (non-H5N1) are regularly reported.
- To date, those influenza viruses have only been associated with mild forms of disease.
- To date, no cases of A(H9N2) infections have ever led to human-to-human transmission.

Background information

- H9N2 was isolated in numerous bird species in mainland China and Hong-Kong in the past decade.
- Human cases of A(H9N2) were detected in Hong-Kong in 1999 (2 cases), 2003 (1 case), 2007 (1 case) and 2008 (1 case).
- At least 5 human cases were diagnosed in mainland China between 1998 and 1999 in the province of Guangdong.
- No deaths related to A(H9N2) were reported.

- An increase in dengue fever has recently been recorded in the city of Taiz (500 000 inh.), 250 km south of the Yemeni Capital, Sanaa (cf map 3.).
- Since September 2009, at least 350 cases have been confirmed and a further 1000 are suspected.
- Spraying campaigns with limited coverage of the city have been undertaken in September.
- The most important outbreak in Yemen, since 1994 occurred in 2000: 653 suspected cases were reported, including 80 deaths.
- The last reported outbreak in Yemen affected Shabwa governorate in May 2008 (cf [Eweb n°11](#)).

Map 3. City of Taiz, Taiz Governorate, Yemen.



- Dengue outbreaks are regularly reported in the Arabic peninsula and more specifically in the governorate of Taiz.
- The number of persons affected in this outbreak is higher than usually observed (around 300 cases in 2008).
- This increase is probably due to the widespread use of uncovered water tanks, particularly in the city's slums.
- Considering most persons infected do not seek hospital care, the actual size of the outbreak is likely to be significantly underestimated.
- Such outbreaks seem to be recurrent every 2-3 years.

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

Area: World

Event: Pandemic A/H1N1/2009

EpiSouth region

As of 3 November 2009, a total of **158 deaths** among biologically confirmed A/H1N1/2009 cases have been reported in the **EpiSouth region**. 54 (36%) were reported by **Spain**, 35 (23%) were reported by **Israel**, 22 (15%) were reported by **France**.

- **23 new deaths** were registered since 27 October: 1 in **Bulgaria**, 1 in **Egypt**, 5 in **France**, 7 in **Italy**, 2 in **Jordan**, 5 in **Syria**, 1 in **Slovenia** (the 1st) and 1 in **Turkey**.
 - In **Mainland France**, sentinel surveillance provides an estimate of 323 cases/100 000 inh. for consultations for influenza-like illness for week 44. This estimate exceeds the epidemic threshold of 128 cases/100 000 inh. This incidence has significantly increased compared to week 43 (209 cases/100 000 inh.). Incidence of consultations for influenza-like illness has been above the epidemic threshold for 8 consecutive weeks. Consultations for acute respiratory infections have slightly increased compared to the previous week.
 - For week 43, **Spain** records a general increase in influenza activity across the country. The overall estimate for consultations rates for influenza-like illness was 182.5 cases/100 000 inh. in week 43, which represented an increase of 77% compared to the previous week. A/H1N1/2009 remains the predominant influenza virus detected.
 - For week 43, influenza activity was very high in **Malta**, medium in **Italy**, **Israel**, **Albania** and **Bulgaria**. It was low in **Croatia**, **Serbia** and **Romania**.
 - In EpiSouth **North African countries**, the situation is stable in **Algeria** and **Tunisia**. **Morocco** experiences a small increase in consultations for influenza-like illness. To date, no deaths have been reported.
 - As of 3 November 2009, **Egypt** has reported 1363 confirmed cases of A/H1N1/2009:
 - 5 died
 - 1280 recovered
 - 78 are currently under treatment
 - 48.5% were aged less than 20 yrs.
 - 7% were aged more than 45 yrs.

Global trends (outside the EpiSouth region)

- As of 03 November 2009, **6 171 deaths** related to A/H1N1/2009 have been reported worldwide (including EpiSouth region).

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

- **Europe (non EpiSouth): 25 new deaths** were reported during week 43, including first A/H1N1/2009 deaths in **Finland** and **Czech Republic**.

Influenza activity remains very high in **Iceland** and **Ireland** and high in **Sweden**. It continues to increase in the **UK**, **Belgium**, **the Netherlands** and **Norway**. In most of those countries, positivity rates for *Influenzae* exceed 50%.

- In **Ukraine**, health authorities reported an increase in hospitalised cases of severe forms of respiratory syndromes. As of 2 November 2009, over 255 000 suspect acute respiratory infections and/pneumonia and 71 deaths potentially linked to A/H1N1/2009 were recorded. Of 71 deaths, 66 were adults (mainly aged between 20 and 50 yrs), 2 pregnant women and 3 children. 174 required intensive care (including 32 children). Diagnostic capacity and access to treatment are very limited and health services significantly strained. Only few cases have been confirmed so far. WHO is assisting Ukraine health authorities in the investigation of cases.

In **Russia**, influenza activity is moderate, still above the epidemic threshold.

- **Non-EpiSouth countries** of the **Middle-East** recorded 44 **new deaths** during weeks 43-44: **6** in **Iran**, **3** in **Iraq**, **4** in **Kuwait**, **1** in **Oman**, **1** in **Qatar**, **26** in **Saudi Arabia**, **3** in **Yemen**. To date, **167** A/H1N1/2009 related deaths have been reported among those countries.
- On the American **continent**, the second wave of the pandemic continues to progress in the North: In the **United States**, the percentage of consultations for influenza-like illness exceeds the threshold of seasonal rates in most States. The hospitalisation rate for confirmed cases of influenza is higher than that expected for this time of the year. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia or influenza viruses exceeds expected levels. To date, the cumulative number of paediatric deaths (95 in <18 years) exceeds the total number of deaths reported during all three previous influenza seasons.

In **Canada**, all influenza activity indicators suggest a significant increase since last week, particularly in the West, Newfoundland and Labrador. The hospitalization rate for confirmed cases of influenza has increased dramatically. The proportion of hospitalized patients requiring intensive care reached 22%.

In **Mexico**, influenza activity remains intense in some States. 76 deaths were reported last week, representing an increase of 27% of the cumulative number of confirmed deaths (354). This sudden increase is probably due to a retrospective deaths notification.

In most tropical areas of the Americas, influenza transmission is particularly active. In temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity remains low.

- In **Asia**, the situation remains contrasted. Globally, the proportion of influenza-like illness caused by seasonal influenza A (H3N2) continues to decrease, while that of the pandemic virus increases. In **India**, WHO announced a decreasing trend except in some southern states. **South Korea** reported an increase in influenza activity. In **Japan**, influenza activity continues to increase for the 4th consecutive week and is above the epidemic threshold. In **Hong-Kong**, the decline in influenza activity continues; influenza A/H1N1/2009 represents 80% of *Influenzae* viruses circulating.
- In the **Pacific region**, influenza activity is declining in most countries including **New Zealand** and **Australia**.
- In **Sub-Saharan Africa**, the cumulative number of cases reported as of October 27, remains low except for **South Africa**. The pandemic A/H1N1/2009 continues to increase in **Madagascar**.