

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 – Russia**
- **“OUTSIDE” Events: none**
- **“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: Russia	Event: A(H5N1) – Epizootic	<u>Comments</u>
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- On October 28th, Russian authorities reported an epizootic outbreak to the World Organization for Animal Health on November 5 th.
 - ✓ 1 *Columba livia* (rock dove) was found dead on October 26th in the town of Pushchino, 120 km south of Moscow. (see maps 1 & 2)
- The tests indicated the presence of highly pathogenic influenza A (H5N1).
- The authorities have announced that they have established a control area and more specifically monitor the wildlife reservoirs around (passing of many migratory birds)
- Several avian epizootic outbreaks occurred in January-February 2007 and June 2009 in various locations in Russia.
- To date, no human cases related to this strain have been reported.

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

Map 1 : Oblast of Moscow in Russia

Map 2 : Pushchino



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

Area: World

Event: Pandemic A/H1N1/2009

EpiSouth region

As of 09 November 2009, a total of **244 deaths** among biologically confirmed A/H1N1/2009 cases have been reported in the **EpiSouth region**; 73 (30%) were reported by **Spain**, 39 (16%) by **Israel**, 31 (13%) by **France** and 29 (12%) by **Italy**.

- **86 new deaths** were notified since 03 November 2009: 4 in **Bulgaria**, 2 in **Egypt**, 5 in **France**, 2 in **Greece**, 4 in **Israel**, 18 in **Italy**, 2 in **Jordan**, 2 in **Palestine**, 4 in **Serbia**, 19 in **Spain**, 5 in **Syria** and 20 in **Turkey**.
- Southern Europe and the Balkans are experiencing an overall increase in A/H1N1/2009 virus activity and geographic spread:
 - In **Mainland France**, the epidemic continues to increase as reflected by referrals for influenza-like-illness and acute respiratory infections.
 - For week 44, the generalised increase in influenza-like illness observed in **Spain** in the past 3 weeks continues.
 - **Italy** describes widespread transmission and high clinical activity. Current weekly influenza incidence is 0.9%, corresponding to some 540 000 influenza cases.
 - For week 45, influenza activity was high in **Bulgaria**, medium in **Albania**. It was low in **Croatia**, **Serbia** and **Romania**.
 - On Nov. 6 2009, **Bulgaria** declared a nationwide influenza epidemic that started around week 43. The first cases of acute respiratory infections were reported during week 44 and influenza activity continued to increase significantly. During week 45, the epidemic threshold was exceeded and from 2 to 5 Nov, a large increase in the number of cases was recorded.
 - Of 28 regions, the epidemic affected 12 concentrating around 50% of the Bulgarian population.
 - To date, 486 cases have been confirmed (among 1386 suspects; 35%).
 - 6 deaths reported,
 - Hospitalisation rates are unknown.
 - As of 09 November 2009, **Palestine** had confirmed a total of 900 cases of A/H1N1/2009, including 3 fatalities. Investigations are ongoing for 3 suspect deaths. Only high risk groups are currently targeted for sample testing and confirmation. Sustained community transmission is ongoing.
 - **Israel** reported widespread, medium influenza activity for week 45.
 - No deaths have been reported to date among EpiSouth **North African countries (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia)**. Other indicators were not yet available for weeks 44-45.

Global trends (outside the EpiSouth region)

- As of 03 November 2009, **6 483 deaths** related to A/H1N1/2009 have been reported worldwide (including EpiSouth countries).

The analysis of the various epidemiological and laboratory indicators since 04 November 2009 reflects the following trends:

- **Europe (non EpiSouth): 90 new deaths** were reported during week 45, including A/H1N1/2009 deaths in **the Netherlands, the UK, Austria**. Influenza activity is on the rise in Northern Europe. For the first time, countries reported very high intensity of clinical influenza activity. The pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus is dominant in most countries and continues to account for high levels of influenza activity for the time of year, exceeding historical peaks.

- There is evidence of increasing and active transmission of pandemic influenza virus across **Ukraine, Belarus** and eastern **Russia** which reports high influenza activity, above epidemic threshold. **Ukraine** is the first country to report a severe impact since the beginning of the pandemic, mainly reflecting the strain on hospital and intensive care services.
- **Non-EpiSouth countries** of the **Middle-East** notified **22 new deaths** during week 45: **11** in **Iran**, 5 in **Kuwait**, 1 in **Qatar** and 4 in **Saudi Arabia**. To date, **188** A/H1N1/2009 related deaths have been reported non-EpiSouth countries of the region. Increasing overall influenza activity has been reported in **Oman**.
- Intense and persistent influenza transmission continues to be reported in **North America** without evidence of a peak in activity so far. The proportion of sentinel physician visits due to influenza-like-illness (8%) has exceeded levels seen over the past 6 influenza seasons. In **Canada**, rates of influenza-like illness, proportions of respiratory samples testing positive for influenza and numbers of outbreaks in educational settings continues to increase sharply as activity spreads eastward. Significantly more cases of pandemic A/H1N1 have been recorded in **Mexico** since September 2009 than were observed during the initial springtime epidemic.
- In **East Asia**, intense and increasing influenza activity continues to be reported in **Mongolia**. In **China**, after an earlier wave of mixed influenza activity (seasonal H3N2 and pandemic H1N1), pandemic H1N1 influenza activity now predominates and is increasing. Sharp increases in pandemic influenza activity continue to be reported throughout **Japan**. With the exception of **Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Cambodia**, overall transmission continues to decline in most but not all parts of **tropical South and Southeast Asia**.
- Active influenza transmission and increasing levels of respiratory diseases continues to be reported in parts of the **Caribbean**. Most other countries in the **tropical region of Central and South America** continue to report declining influenza activity.
- Influenza virus isolates from **sub-Saharan Africa** are predominantly pandemic A/H1N1 virus but some seasonal H3N2 has been detected even in recent weeks.
- In **Oceania**, most countries have declared the end of the A/H1N1/2009 epidemic.