



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 influenza

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

Location: World	Event: A(H5N1) – Epizootic	<u>Comments</u>
No avian influenza outbreaks reported this week		

Location: World Event: Pandemic A/H1N1/2009

EpiSouth region

As of 07 November 2009, a total of 959 deaths among biologically confirmed A/H1N1/2009 cases have been reported in the EpiSouth region (Mediterranean and the Balkans). 203 new deaths were reported since 01 December 2009:

- The 1st deaths were reported in **Albania** and **Montenegro**, 5 new deaths were recorded in **Algeria**, 2 in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, 8 in **Croatia**, 10 in **Egypt**, 40 in **Mainland France**, 3 in **FYROM**, 17 in **Greece**, 3 in **Israel**, 16 in **Italy**, 3 in **Kosovo**, 2 in **Morocco**, 1 in **Palestine** (1st in Gaza), 9 in **Romania**, 34 in **Spain**, 2 in **Tunisia** and 46 in **Turkey**.

In week 48, influenza activity was

- high and increasing in **Albania, Greece, Slovenia** and **Turkey**,
 - low but increasing in **Cyprus**,
 - medium and stable in **Romania**,
 - medium in **Bulgaria**,
 - decreasing in **Croatia, Israel, Serbia** and **Spain**.
- The impact of pandemic A/H1N1/2009 on health infrastructure has decreased in **Albania** in week 48 (from severe to moderate).
 - In **Italy** for week 48, the sentinel surveillance system of community health physicians (Influnet) reported an estimate of 400 000 new new cases of A/H1N1/2009, decreasing sharply compared to the previous week (680.000).
 - In week 49 (30 November to 6 December 2009), A(H1N1)2009 influenza virus circulation remains high across **Mainland France**. Sentinel surveillance for influenza-like illness report an increase in consultations for influenza but smaller than in the past weeks. The sentinel surveillance system for acute respiratory infections (ARIs) reports a stable situation, with an estimate of 851 000 consultations for ARIs. There was a drop in Emergency department admissions in week 49. However, the number of severe cases increased. Since week 45, the number of A(H1N1)2009 deaths has been increasing significantly. 20 of the 126 deaths recorded since the beginning of the pandemic did not present underlying conditions or known risk factors. The great majority of influenza viruses analysed during week 48 were A(H1N1)2009.
 - Although still classified as high (higher than usual levels of influenza), clinical respiratory disease activity has been decreasing for over 3 weeks in **Serbia**. The impact on health infrastructure is low.
 - In **Spain**, the decrease observed in week 47 for the 1st time since the beginning of the pandemic continues in week 48. Rates of consultations for influenza like illness decreased from 374/100 000 inh. to 244/100 000 inh. 96.7% of influenza viruses isolated were A(H1N1)2009.
 - Community transmission of A(H1N1)2009 influenza virus has been established in almost all regions of **Tunisia**. Health authorities expect an increase in the epidemic in the coming weeks.
 - **Turkey** reported its 1st death on 24 October 2009. Since then, 241 fatalities were recorded, of which 85 (35%) were aged less than 50 years and did not present underlying conditions. The highest numbers of deaths were recorded in Ankara (34), Istanbul (30) and Konya (24).

Reporting of mutations in the A(H1N1)2009 influenza virus

- Spanish health authorities reported the first Tyr275 mutation in the neuraminidase gene (H274Y) associated with oseltamivir resistance and the first 2 cases of Gly222 mutation in the haemagglutinin gene. There is no evidence of spread of these mutated strains in the community.
- French health authorities reported a 2nd case of oseltamivir resistance in week 49.

A(H1N1)2009 epidemiological situation at Hajj, Saudi Arabia:

- **Iranian health authorities** reported limited A(H1N1)2009 infection upon return from Hajj.
- **Tunisian health authorities** detected (at Tunis airport) 21 cases of A(H1N1)2009 among Tunisian pilgrims returning from Hajj and 40 cases of A(H1N1)2009 infection among foreign pilgrims in transit. Tunisians pilgrims were quarantined and received treatment. Note that Tunisia had banned attending Hajj this year.

Global trends (outside the EpiSouth region)

- As of 07 December 2009, **9 797 deaths** related to A/H1N1/2009 have been reported worldwide (including EpiSouth countries).

The analysis of the various epidemiological and laboratory indicators since 01 December 2009 reflects the following trends:

- **Europe (non-EpiSouth countries):** In week 48, Influenza activity was moderate to high in most western European countries. It has passed the peak of the epidemic and is decreasing in several Northern countries (**Belgium, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Wales, and Norway**). It was moderate to high and mostly on the rise among **central and eastern European** countries.
- In **Ukraine** influenza activity is moderate and continues to decrease. In **Russia**, influenza activity is high but begins to decrease in most regions. In **Moldavia**, influenza activity is intense. According to the European network for influenza *Euroflu*, positivity rates of influenza viruses decreased in week 49 (38% versus 44% the previous week).
- In the **Middle-East** (excluding EpiSouth countries)
 - **23 new deaths** were notified since 01 December: 7 deaths in **Iran**, 16 in **Iraq**.
 - To date, **353 A/H1N1/2009 related deaths** have been reported among **non-EpiSouth countries** of the region.
- In the **United States**, influenza activity continues to decrease across all States except New York where the increase remains significant. The number of consultations for influenza-like illness remains over the national seasonal threshold (2.3%) despite the decrease (3.7% versus 4.3% the week before). Mortality attributable to influenza and pneumonia has been over the seasonal threshold for 9 weeks. In the past week, 12 A(H1N1)2009 deaths were reported, for a total of 210 since the beginning of the pandemic which is much higher than the 78, 88 and 128 reported for the past 3 influenza seasons.

In **Canada**, influenza activity remains high and continues to decrease across all regions and territories. All indicators reflect a decrease compared to the previous week: total of hospitalisations (804 versus 1 554), intensive care hospitalisations (139 versus 243) and deaths (56 versus 61).

In **Mexico**, the numbers of confirmed cases and deaths continue to increase. The A(H1N1)2009 confirmed death toll reaches 700 in week 49.
- In the **Caribbean and Central America**, influenza activity continues to decrease except in Jamaica where it has started to increase.
- Most **South American** countries experience a decrease in influenza activity, except **Ecuador and Venezuela** that report an increase.
- In **Asia**, the epidemic progresses in **Mainland China and Japan**. In the remaining countries (**Singapore, Thailand**), the situation is stable. In week 49, 141 additional A(H1N1)2009 deaths were recorded, including 138 in South-east Asia. The death toll for Asia reaches 1 500 since the beginning of the pandemic. .
- In **Sub-Saharan Africa**, some countries report or suspect the occurrence of cases of A(H1N1)2009. WHO reports co-circulation of A(H1N1)2009 influenza virus and seasonal A(H3N2).
- In the **Pacific region**, influenza activity remains low in most countries.