

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.

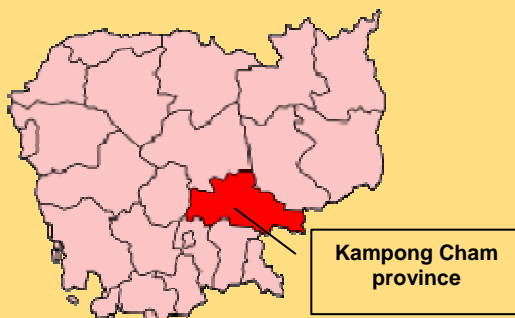
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- A(H5N1) Human influenza – none
- A(H5N1) Avian influenza – Cambodia, Vietnam
- “OUTSIDE” Events:
  - Dengue – Saudi Arabia
- “INSIDE” Events: none
- World – Pandemic A/H1N1/2009 influenza

Location: World	Event: A(H5N1) – Human	Comments
No influenza A(H5N1) human case reported this week.		

Location: Cambodia, Vietnam	Event: A(H5N1) – Epizootic	Comments
<p><b>Cambodia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 28 December, Cambodian authorities reported the presence of the A(H5N1) virus among chicken poultry, Ponhea Kraek district, Kampong Cham province (South-East of the country, cf. map 1)</li> <li>• The latest avian influenza outbreak reported in the country occurred in Kandal province in December 2008.</li> </ul> <p><b>Vietnam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 27 December 2009, Vietnamese veterinary authorities reported the presence of the A(H5N1) virus in Thong Nong district, Cao Bang province (North Vietnam, border to China, cf map 2).</li> <li>• The last avian influenza outbreak reported in the country occurred on 16 December 2009 in Thai Nguyen province (North of Vietnam, near Cao Bang).</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Available information does not indicate a change in the transmission of the virus.</li> <li>• In Cambodia, on 18 December 2009, WHO has confirmed a influenza A(H5N1) human case diagnosed in the same district (Ponhea Kraek district, cf. <a href="#">eWEB n°92</a>).</li> <li>• In Vietnam, The occurrence of A(H5N1) avian influenza outbreaks, as well as avian influenza human cases, in this period, is not unexpected with regards to the seasonality of the A(H5N1) virus in this country.</li> </ul>

Map1: Kampong Cham province (Cambodia)



Map2: Cao bang province (Vietnam)



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

**Area: Saudi Arabia    Event: Dengue**

Comments

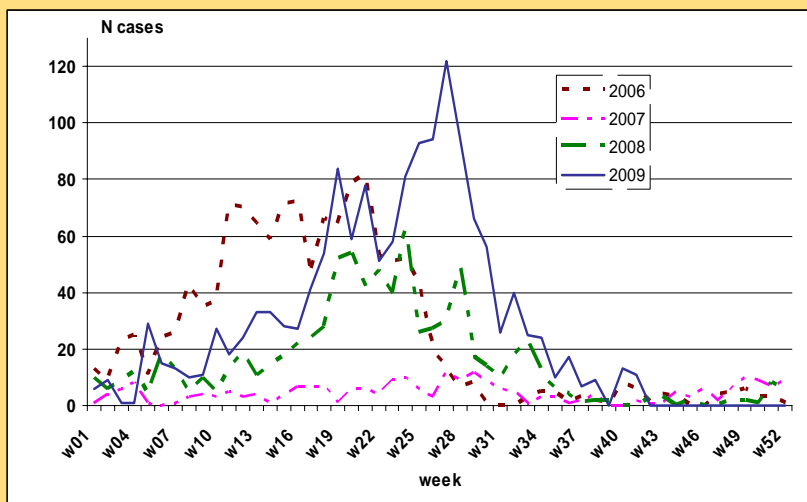
- In the past week, local health authorities reported an increase in cases of dengue fever in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (map 3).
  - ✓ 20 cases were recorded within a week.
  - ✓ 84 cases were reported in the city in the past 3 months.
- As of week n°41 and for the same period, the total number of dengue cases is higher in 2009 compared to 2007 and 2008 (cf. table 1 & figure 1)
- The southern districts of the city are the most affected by the disease. This may be explained by the homemade water storages frequent in this underprivileged area.

- Torrential rains had recently affected Jeddah and its surroundings (cf [e-WEB n°89](#)), the same region that hosts pilgrimages to Mecca throughout the year.
- Floods have often been associated with an increase in the incidence of vector borne diseases.
- Joint initiatives between relevant authorities, to implement control measures in the area are underway.
- Awareness campaigns on the risks and the control of dengue fever are ongoing.

**Table 1: Total number of Dengue fever cases as of week 41, from 2006 to 2009, Jeddah. (source: [Jeddah.gov](#))**

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1273</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>1498</b>

**Figure 1: Dengue cases per week in Jeddah from 2006 to 2009**  
(source: adapted from [Jeddah.gov](#))



**Map 3: Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.**



**Area: Hon Kong    Event: A(H9N2) – Human**

Comments

- Hong Kong health authorities reported, on 23 December 2009, a new human case of A(H9N2) :
  - ✓ A 3 year-old girl from Hong Kong
  - ✓ Hospitalised on 11 December. She recovered.
  - ✓ The source of infection is under investigation.
- Influenza A(H9N2) human cases have already been notified in Hong Kong in 1999 (2 cases), in 2003 (1 case), in 2007 (1 case) et in 2008 (1 case).
- Human cases infected by the influenza A(H9N2) virus are regularly documented in China: the case has been reported un November 2009 in the Guangdong province (cf. [eWEB n°85](#))

- A/H9N2 virus has been isolated in several bird species, in Continental China and Hong Kong.
- Avian influenza human cases (other than H5N1) are regularly reported.
- To date, no cases of A(H9N2) infection have ever led to human-to-human transmission..



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

Area: World

Event: Pandemic A/H1N1/2009

### EpiSouth region

As of 28 December 2009, a total of 1 775 deaths among biologically confirmed A/H1N1/2009 cases have been reported in the EpiSouth region.

A total of 183 new A(H1N1)2009 related deaths were reported since 21 December 2009:

1 in Albania, 10 in Algeria, 1 in Croatia, 26 in Egypt, 22 in Mainland France, 2 in FYROM, 8 in Greece, 2 in Israel, 10 in Italy, 2 in Lebanon, 3 in Montenegro, 12 in Morocco, 5 in Palestine, 17 in Romania, 9 in Serbia, 7 in Syria, 24 in Spain and 10 in Tunisia.

In week 51, influenza activity was:

- High or medium and increasing in **Algeria, Bulgaria, Romania, and Tunisia**
- Increasing in **Montenegro**
- High or medium and decreasing in **Greece, Croatia, France, Israel, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey**
- Low and decreasing in **Cyprus**

- **Algeria:** As of 26 December, 42 A(H1N1)2009 deaths were reported.
  - Before 22<sup>nd</sup> November: The reported influenza syndromes incidence remained lower to the one observed the previous years. It may be partially explained by the prevention and the surveillance system implemented since May 2009. Beside, during this first phase, patients tend to consult directly to reference hospitals instead of general practitioners who are the basis of the sentinel surveillance network.
  - From 22<sup>nd</sup> November to date (26 December) Influenza syndromes reported sharply increases and incidence rates are notably higher than ones reported since 2006.
  - For the month of November 2009, the cumulative number of A(H1N1)2009 cases has been estimated to 70.000 cases.
- **Tunisia:** As of 28 December 2009, a total of 20 A(H1N1)2009 deaths including 10 new have been reported.
  - For the week 51, the number influenza consultation rate and hospitalisation is still globally increasing.
  - However, since week 50, the number influenza consultation rate and hospitalisation are decreasing Tunis region. Between 21 to 26 December, the proportion of consultation for influenza decreases from 36% to 27%.
  - Between 2 November to 20 December, the cumulative number of A(H1N1)2009 cases has been estimated to over 140 000
  - Among the 20 deaths, The mean age is 37,5 year-old: 15% (3) of them were pregnant women and 15% (3) had not underlying diseases.
- In **Italy (week 51)**, the sentinel surveillance system of community health physicians (Influnet) reported that the decrease in the incidence of influenza-like illness continued for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive week: 179/100 000 in week 51 compared with 220/100 000 inh. in week 50. The estimated number of cases in the Italian population in week 51 was 107 000 corresponding to the estimation recorded at the beginning of surveillance
- In **Mainland France**, the decreasing trend observed since week 48 continues. However, the A(H1N1)2009 virus is still circulating and the influenza-like consultations rate is still above the epidemiological threshold.
  - In **week 52** (21-27 December), the sentinel surveillance systems reported 406 000 consultations for acute respiratory infections related to A(H1N1) influenza, compared with 632 000 in week 51.
  - A decrease was also reported in visits to emergency departments, severe cases and deaths.
  - As of 23 December, a total of **198 deaths** occurred in **France** including 32 in patients without known risk factor. The influenza has no impact on the global mortality (all causes).
  - In week 51, the A(H1N1)2009 virus accounted for the great majority of influenza viruses isolated. No cases of resistance to oseltamivir were recorded in **France** since the last update.

## Global trends (outside the EpiSouth region)

- As of 28 December 2009, about **13 000 A/H1N1/2009 deaths** have been reported worldwide (including EpiSouth countries).
- Since 21 December 2009, the following trends have been observed:
- **Europe (non-EpiSouth countries):** For week 51, the pandemic virus transmission is still active in the great majority of European countries. The influenza activity was:
  - Moderate and globally decreasing for most countries of the European network for influenza (*Euroflu*).
  - Moderate and low in **Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands** and **UK**.
  - Influenza activity in **Georgia** and **Ukraine** continues to increase in week 51.
  - In **Russia**, influenza activity is stable and decreasing across the country.
  - The majority of deaths reported in week 51 occurred in the **Eastern Europe (Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Czech Republic)** and in **Portugal**, which recorded the highest increase in fatal cases.
- In the **Middle-East** (excluding EpiSouth countries)
  - Since 21 December **2 new deaths** were notified in **Iraq**.
  - To date, **388 A/H1N1/2009 related deaths** have been reported among **non-EpiSouth countries** of the region.
- In the **United States** and **Canada**, the A(H1N1)2009 virus is still the predominant influenza virus strain (99%). The overall influenza activity continued to decline and the rate started to be below the seasonal epidemiological threshold.
- In **Mexico**, influenza activity remains intense but continues to decrease.
- In the **Caribbean, South and Central America**, influenza activity remains weak to moderate with stable to decreasing trends. Only Barbados and Ecuador reported recent increase in respiratory infections.
- In **Asia**, influenza dynamic is active but seems to decrease in the East (**China, Mongolia** and **Japan**). In **Kazakhstan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka** and **Maldives** influenza activities continues to increase.
- In the **Pacific region**, the epidemic influenza wave is quite finished in the great majority of countries.
- In **Sub-Saharan Africa** and in **Madagascar**, the few available information indicates that pandemic virus continues to circulate. At least 100 deaths have been reported.