

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, WPG 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°95

- A(H5N1) Human influenza – Indonesia
- A(H5N1) Avian influenza – None
- “OUTSIDE” Events:
 - Contaminated Soya-milk – Australia (ex-Japan)
 - Alkhurma virus – Saudi Arabia
- “INSIDE” Events: none
- World – Pandemic A/H1N1/2009 influenza

Location: Indonesia	Event: A(H5N1) – Human	<u>Comments</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 12th January 2010, Indonesian health authorities reported a new confirmed human case of avian influenza A(H5N1) : • A 4 year-old girl, from the Riau province in Eastern Sumatra (see map 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The date of onset is unknown ✓ she recovered ✓ Close contacts with dead and/or sick poultry were documented • In 2009, Indonesia reported 20 human cases of A(H5N1) avian influenza, including 19 deaths. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This case (not yet notified to WHO) is the first confirmed by Indonesia in 2010 • Indonesia is an endemic area. • In December of 2009, all cases diagnosed in 2009 were notified in a batch to WHO, no details regarding these 20 cases were communicated.

Map 1 - Riau Province, Indonesia.



Location: World	Event: A(H5N1) – Epizootic	<u>Comments</u>
<p>No A(H5N1) avian influenza outbreak detected in new provinces / countries this week.</p>		

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

Area: Australia
(ex-Japan)

Event: Contaminated soya milk

Comments

- On 26th December 2009, public health authorities in Australia and New-Zealand issued a warning regarding contaminated soya milk products originating from Japan.
- According to [Food Standard Australia](#), soya milk enriched with “Kombu” (a seaweed product) was found to contain high level of iodine
- A cluster of 10 persons (including 1 child) presented with thyroid problem; all reported the consumption of soya milk.
- To date, among all soya milk products tested, only the ones from the “Bonsoy” trademark were found with iodine high level.
- Lots investigated by Australian services were found with level of Iodine of 31,000 micrograms.
- The required daily iodine intake is about :
 - ✓ 80-150 micrograms for adults (safe upper limit 1,100)
 - ✓ From 200 (for 1-3 year olds) to 900 for 14 year-olds

- The exact distribution of this contaminated soya milk sales is unknown. However, “Bonsoy soya milk” has been identified and recalled in different countries in Europe and in the Pacific region.
- A wider distribution cannot be excluded
- Beside this product can certainly be purchased through internet.

Area: Saudi Arabia

Event: Alkhurma virus

Comments

- On 6th January 2010, the re-emergence of Alkhurma virus infections in Jeddah (Makkah province) has been reported (cf. map 2)
- Since 3 weeks, 4 laboratory confirmed human Alkhurma virus infections (including a butcher) were diagnosed in Jeddah.
- These are the first cases after an absence of about 10 years in this region. In 2000, 20 cases biologically confirmed cases were reported in the South of Jeddah.
- In addition to human cases, recently about 60 sheep died at the beginning of January 2010: samples have been taken from dead sheep and the test results are pending.
- Last year, in March 2009, the same outbreak has been reported in the Najran province, with 4 infected cases: [cf. eWEB n° 53](#).

- The Alkhurma virus was isolated the first time in 1994 in the Al-Khurma district in Makkah province.
- To date Alkhurma virus has been Isolated only in Saudi Arabia and only in 2 provinces of the country: Najran and Makkah.
- Although Alkhurma virus circulation appears limited to 2 provinces, in absence of active detection, its circulation in other areas cannot be excluded.
- Because of large livestock trade with neighbouring countries, the spread of Alkhurma virus to other countries cannot be excluded.
- More details are available in the EpiSouth thematic note on [“Alkhurma” virus](#).

Map 2. Makkah and Najran provinces, Saudi Arabia.



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

Area: World

Event: Pandemic A/H1N1/2009

Overall the A/H1N1/2009 epidemic is receding worldwide

EpiSouth region

As of 11 January 2010, a total of **2 103 deaths** among biologically confirmed A/H1N1/2009 cases have been reported in the **EpiSouth region**.

A total of **155 new** A(H1N1)2009 related **deaths** were reported since 04 January 2009:

7 in Algeria, **1 in Croatia**, **1 in Cyprus**, **52 in Egypt**, **41 in Mainland France**, **12 in Greece**, **7 in Italy**, **3 in Jordan**, **2 in Montenegro**, **21 in Romania**, **6 in Serbia**, **1 in Slovenia**, **1 in Tunisia**.

In **week 53**, intensity of influenza activity was:

- Medium: **France, Israel, Romania and Turkey**
- Low: **Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Serbia, Slovenia**

- In **Algeria**, for the month of December 2009, the cumulative number of A(H1N1)2009 cases estimated was above 100.000 cases compared with 70.000 cases estimated for November.
- In **Tunisia**, sentinel surveillance for influenza-like illness and laboratory surveillance provided an estimate of 14 862 cases of A(H1N1)2009 for week 01 (2010), versus 35 497 in week 52. According to the weekly estimated number of cases, Tunisia observed a continuous decrease of influenza daily incidence (from 219/100 000 inh. in week 50 to 135 in week 52). The cumulative number recorded from 2 November reached 199 155 cases of A(H1N1)2009, representing 1.9% of the population.
- In **Italy**, in week 53, the sentinel surveillance system of community health physicians (Influnet) reported that the decrease in the incidence of influenza-like illness continued for the 6th consecutive week: 117/100 000 in week 53 compared with 122/100 000 inh. in week 52. The estimated number of cases in the Italian population in week 53 was 70 000 corresponding to the estimation recorded at the beginning of surveillance
- In **Spain**, the decrease observed in recent weeks continues, with a consultation rate of 41/100 000 inh. in week 52. A(H1N1)2009 is still the predominant influenza strain among isolates. Spanish health authorities will cease regular weekly updates as a continuous and marked decrease in the epidemic has been observed for several weeks.
- In **Mainland France**, the pandemic wave seems to end. The influenza-like consultations rate is now below the epidemiological threshold and the A(H1N1)2009 virus circulation declined.
 - In **week 01** (04-10 January), the sentinel surveillance systems reported 144 000 consultations for acute respiratory infections related to A(H1N1) influenza, compared to 216 000 in week 53.
 - A decline was observed in visits to emergency departments, in severe cases and deaths number reports.
 - As of 12 January, a total of **246 deaths** occurred in **France** including 39 among patients without known risk factor.
 - The proportion of A(H1N1)2009 virus among the influenza viruses isolated is decreasing.
 - Since the last update, 2 new cases of resistance to oseltamivir were reported (total = 10).

Global trends (outside the EpiSouth region)

As of 11 January 2010, **13 837 A/H1N1/2009 deaths** have been reported worldwide (including EpiSouth countries). Since 04 January 2010, the following trends have been observed:

- **Europe (non-EpiSouth countries):**
 - In week 53, the influenza activity reported in low to moderate in the majority of countries.
 - The average rate of influenza viruses among all tested reached 25% (ranging from 48% in **Germany** to 16% in **Scotland**).
 - **Switzerland** recorded about 130 deaths from 04 to 11 January.
 - In **Ukraine**, the influenza intensity is moderate but in decline: the influenza syndrome consultation rate is getting close to the seasonal threshold. **Georgia** reported a declining but intensive influenza activity.

- In the **Middle-East** (excluding EpiSouth countries)
 - Since 04 January 2010: Recently updates are becoming scares
 - To date, **426 A/H1N1/2009 related deaths** have been reported among **non-EpiSouth countries** of the region.
- **Americas:**
 - In **Unites Stated**, influenza transmission globally declined. The percentage of influenza consultations decreased from 3.2% to 2.4%, and is a little above the national threshold (2.3%).
 - In **Canada**, influenza activity continues to decline, and is below the seasonal epidemic threshold for the second consecutive week.
 - In **Mexico**, the influenza activity continues to decline for 8 consecutive weeks.
 - In **Caribbean region, Central and South America**, the influenza intensity remained low or moderate and globally declining.
- In **Asia**, available surveillance data showed a declining and stable influenza activity, except in West India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- In **Sub-Saharan Africa** and in **Madagascar**, the situation remains unchanged.