



Regional Update

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

(January 11, 2010 - 17 h GMT; 12 h EST)

The information contained within this update is obtained from data provided by Ministries of Health of Member States and National Influenza Centers through reports sent to Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) or updates on their web pages.

I- Evolution of the pandemic

North America

In Canada, in EW 51, the national influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate increased but remained within the historical average but in EW 52, decreased below the historical average. The overall number of hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and deaths associated with the pandemic virus remained low (EW 51, 52), as compared to the levels seen in October and November 2009. A total of ten oseltamivir-resistant isolates have been detected since April 2009.

In Mexico, from EW 50 to EW 51, there was a 25% decrease in the number ILI and severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) cases, and activity has now been decreasing for nine consecutive weeks. The intensity of acute respiratory disease was low.

In the United States, the proportion of outpatient consultations for ILI decreased in EW 52 and remained slightly above the national baseline. Four of ten sub-national surveillance regions reported the proportion of outpatient visits for ILI to be at or above their region-specific baseline. Laboratory-confirmed influenza hospitalization rates remained stable but high, especially in children 0–4 years of age. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza dropped below the epidemic threshold. A total of four influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported, all of which were associated with the pandemic virus. A total of 52 oseltamivir-resistant isolates have been detected since April 2009.

Caribbean

These countries reported variable spread of influenza, decreasing or unchanged trends in acute respiratory disease, low/moderate intensity of acute respiratory disease, and low impact of acute respiratory disease on health care services. Of note, Dominica and Saint Lucia reported no influenza activity.

Central America

Guatemala and Panama reported decreasing trends in acute respiratory disease, low/moderate intensity of acute respiratory disease, and low impact of acute respiratory disease on health care services. Of note, Guatemala reported no influenza activity.

Weekly Summary

- In North America, acute respiratory disease activity continued to decrease and is lower than expected in most areas
- In the Caribbean, all countries reported unchanged and decreasing trends in acute respiratory disease
- Central American countries reported decreasing trends in acute respiratory disease
- South American countries reported mostly decreasing or unchanged trends of acute respiratory disease, except Peru, which reported an increasing trend
- A median of 100% of subtyped influenza A viruses were pandemic (H1N1) 2009
- 136 new confirmed deaths in 7 countries were reported; in total there have been 7,016 cumulative confirmed deaths

South America

Andean

All of these countries reported widespread influenza activity, except Colombia, which reported regional influenza activity. Acute respiratory disease trends were reported mostly as decreasing or unchanged, except in Peru, which reported an increasing trend. The intensity of acute respiratory disease and the impact of acute respiratory disease on health-care services were reported as low or moderate for these countries.

Southern Cone

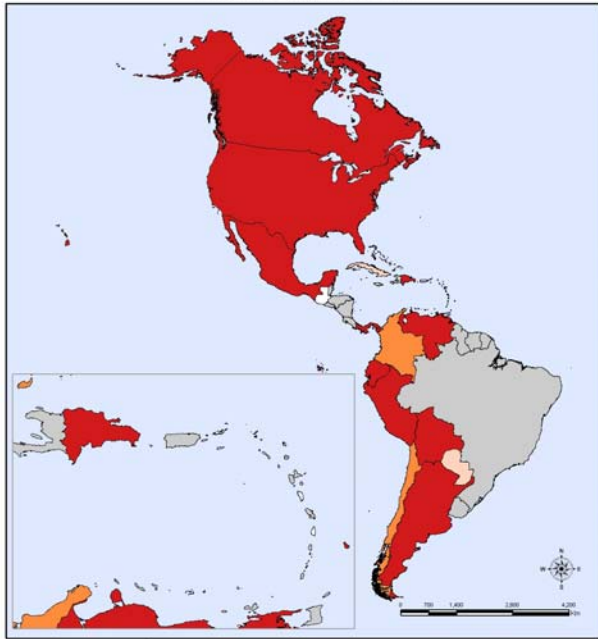
Influenza activity was reported as widespread in Argentina, regional in Chile, and localized in Paraguay. These countries reported unchanging trends of acute respiratory disease, low/moderate intensity of acute respiratory disease, and low impact of acute respiratory disease on health-care services.

In EW 50, Argentina the incidence of ILI was low (2.4 per 100,000 habitants) and has been below the epidemic threshold since EW 40. Of the 12 regions which provided information, all reported unchanged trends in ILI activity.

In EW 49, Chile reported a low incidence of ILI (1.2 per 100,000 habitants) that was stable all regions of the country. The peak of ILI activity was in week 27; and since EW 28, there has been a steady decrease in activity.

Paraguay (EW 52) reported an increased number of consultations for ILI (19.8%), and a decreased number for SARI (18.9%) as compared to EW 51.

**Map 1. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009,
Geographical Spread by Country.
Americas Region. EW 52*.**



Geographical Spread

- No activity
- No information available
- Localized
- Regional
- Widespread

* EW 52 = epidemiological week from December 27, 2009 to January 2, 2010. Includes the latest information reported by each country this week.

Map Production:
PAHO/MSD/CDC
January 8, 2010
Cartographic projection:
Lambert Equal Area Azimuthal
Source: Ministries of Health of the countries
Consolidated by PAHO/WHO
Created by PAHO/WHO

**Map 2. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009,
Trend of respiratory disease activity compared to the previous week.
Americas Region. EW 52*.**



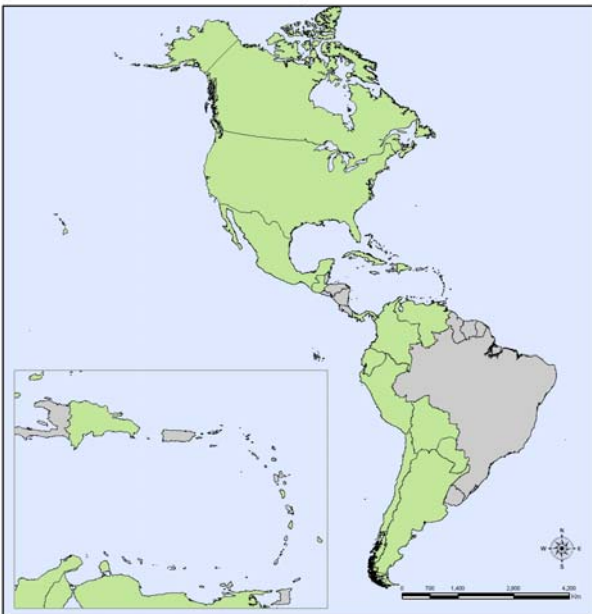
Trend

- No information available
- Decreasing
- Unchanged
- Increasing

* EW 52 = epidemiological week from December 27, 2009 to January 2, 2010. Includes the latest information reported by each country this week.

Map Production:
PAHO/MSD/CDC
January 8, 2010
Cartographic projection:
Lambert Equal Area Azimuthal
Source: Ministries of Health of the countries
Consolidated by PAHO/WHO
Created by PAHO/WHO

**Map 3. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009,
Intensity of Acute Respiratory Disease in the Population.
Americas Region. EW 52*.**



Intensity of acute respiratory disease

- No information available
- Low or moderate
- High
- Very high

* EW 52 = epidemiological week from December 27, 2009 to January 2, 2010. Includes the latest information reported by each country this week.

Map Production:
PAHO/MSD/CDC
January 8, 2010
Cartographic projection:
Lambert Equal Area Azimuthal
Source: Ministries of Health of the countries
Consolidated by PAHO/WHO
Created by PAHO/WHO

**Map 4. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009,
Impact of Acute Respiratory Disease on Health-Care Services.
Americas Region. EW 52*.**



Impact on health-care services

- No information available
- Low
- Moderate
- Severe

* EW 52 = epidemiological week from December 27, 2009 to January 2, 2010. Includes the latest information reported by each country this week.

Map Production:
PAHO/MSD/CDC
January 8, 2010
Cartographic projection:
Lambert Equal Area Azimuthal
Source: Ministries of Health of the countries
Consolidated by PAHO/WHO
Created by PAHO/WHO

II- Description of hospitalizations and deaths among confirmed cases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009

A table containing the number of deaths reported to PAHO is included in Annex 2.

The ratio of males to females among hospitalized cases was approximately one (Table 1). Hospitalizations were highest in children and young adults. Underlying comorbidities were present in approximately 50% of hospitalized cases.

Table 1: Description of hospitalizations and severe cases—selected countries

	Countries		
	Argentina	Canada	Chile
Reporting period	Until EW 51	April 12, 2009–January 2, 2010	Until December 30, 2009
Type of cases reported	Hospitalized	Hospitalized, confirmed	Severe, confirmed
Number of cases	14,034	7,745	1,662
Percentage of women	-	49.8	52
Age	Most affected age group: 0-4 years (incidence 76/ 100,000 hab)	Median 28 years	Median 32 years, highest incidence in age group < 1 y (76/100,000 hab), 1-4 y (21/ 100,000 hab)
Percent with underlying co-morbidities	—	50.7	53
Co-morbidities most frequently reported (%)	—		Asthma (17%), arterial hypertension (10%), diabetes (8%), COPD (7%)
Percent pregnant among women of child-bearing age	—	20.6*	-

* Percent of pregnant women among women 15 to 44 years of age

Overall, approximately half of deceased cases were among women (Table 2). The percentage of cases with underlying co-morbidities varied from 60 to 77%.

Table 2: Description of deaths among confirmed cases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in selected countries

	Countries							
	Argentina	Canada	Bolivia	Chile	Colombia	Mexico	Paraguay	Peru
Reporting period	Until EW 51	April 12, 2009 – January 2, 2010	Until EW 52	Until December 30, 2009	Until EW 52	Until January 6, 2009	Until EW 52	Until January 4, 2009
Number of confirmed deaths	617	390	59	153	198	880	46	208
Percentage of women	"No gender difference"	50.3	47.5	47.5	-	49.3	43	-
Age	Highest rate in 50–59 year age group	Median 53 years	Highest number in 15–64 year age group	Mean 44 years	Highest percentage: 77.8% in 15–65 year age group	Highest percentage (51.4%) in 25–50 year age group	Median 37 years	-
Percent with underlying co-morbidities	-	75.1	-	70.6	-	59.8	74	76.9
Co-morbidities most frequently reported (%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	Chronic Caridopathy (20%), metabolic (17%), immunologic (12%), neurologic (6%)	Metabolic (23.1%), cardiovascular (19.7%), respiratory (13%), neurologic (8.7%)
Percent pregnant among women of child-bearing age	-	8.5*	-	4.2**	-	-	12**	

* Percent of pregnant women among women 15 to 44 years of age

** The denominator used was all deaths as information was not provided about women of child-bearing age

III- Viral circulation

For the purpose of this analysis, only countries which reported data on influenza A subtypes were considered. We excluded from the calculations of the percentages, results from samples of influenza A that were not subtyped or were unsubtypeable.

Currently, pandemic (H1N1) 2009 continues to predominate among circulating subtyped influenza A viruses (Table 3).

Table 3: Relative circulation of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 for selected countries—last EW available

Country	Epidemiologic Week	Percentage of pandemic (H1N1) 2009*
Canada	51 & 52	98.5
Chile	52	100**
USA	52	100
MEDIAN percentage pandemic (H1N1) 2009		100

*Percentage of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus = Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus / All subtyped influenza A viruses

**Only one specimen was tested

Table 4: Cumulative relative circulation of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 for selected countries

Country	Epidemiologic Week	Percentage of pandemic (H1N1) 2009
Canada	August 30, 2009 – January 2, 2010	99.8
Chile	January 4 – December 30, 2009	98.2
MEDIAN percentage pandemic (H1N1) 2009		99.0

*Percentage of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus = Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus / All subtyped influenza A viruses

Annex 1: Weekly monitoring of pandemic epidemiological indicators for countries that provided updated information—Region of the Americas, Epidemiologic Week 52

Country	Geographic spread	Trend	Intensity	Impact on Health Care Services	EW
Antigua and Barbuda					
Argentina	Widespread	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	50
Bahamas	Regional	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	52
Barbados	Widespread	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	50
Belize					
Bolivia	Widespread	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	52
Brazil					
Canada	Widespread	Decreasing	Low or moderate		52
Chile	Regional	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	49
Colombia	Regional	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	52
Costa Rica					
Cuba	Localized	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	52
Dominica	No activity	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	52
Dominican Republic	Widespread	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	52
Ecuador	Widespread	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	52
El Salvador					
Grenada					
Guatemala	No activity	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	52
Guyana					
Haiti					
Honduras					
Jamaica					
Mexico	Widespread	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	52
Nicaragua					
Panama	Widespread	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	52
Paraguay	Localized	Unchanged	Low or moderate		52
Peru	Widespread	Increasing	Low or moderate	Low	52
Saint Kitts and Nevis					
Saint Lucia	No activity	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	52
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines					
Suriname					
Trinidad and Tobago					
United States of America	Widespread	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	52
Uruguay					
Venezuela	Widespread	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	52

NIA = No information available

**Annex 2: Number of deaths confirmed for the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus
Region of the Americas. Updated as of January 8, 2010 (17 h GMT; 12 h EST).**

Source: Ministries of Health of the countries in the Region.

Country	Cumulative number of deaths	New deaths (since Jan 1, 2009, 12 h EST)
Southern Cone		
Argentina	617	
Brazil	1,632	
Chile	150	
Paraguay	46	0
Uruguay	20	
Andean Area		
Bolivia	59	0
Colombia	198	2
Ecuador	117	21*
Peru	208	0
Venezuela	124	8
Caribbean Countries		
Antigua & Barbuda	0	
Bahamas	1	
Barbados	3	
Cuba	53	4
Dominica	0	
Dominican Republic	23	0
Grenada	0	
Guyana	0	
Haiti	0	
Jamaica	6	
Saint Kitts & Nevis	2	
Saint Lucia	1	
Saint Vincent & Grenadines	0	
Suriname	2	
Trinidad & Tobago	5	
Central America		
Belize	0	
Costa Rica	38	
El Salvador	31	
Guatemala	18	
Honduras	16	
Nicaragua	11	0
Panama	11	
North America		
Canada	416	6
Mexico	880	57
United States	2,328	38
TOTAL	7,016	136

*This increase in deaths is due in a delay in notification of confirmed deaths that had occurred between EW 45 and EW 52

As of **8 January, 2010**, a total of **7,016 deaths** have been reported among the confirmed cases in 28 countries of the Region.

In addition to the figures displayed in Annex 2, the following overseas territories have confirmed deaths of pandemic (H1N1) 2009: United Kingdom Overseas Territories: Cayman Islands (1 death); French Overseas Communities: Guadeloupe (5 deaths), French Guiana (1 death) and Martinique (1 death).