



## Regional Update Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

(July 31, 2009 - 22 h GMT; 17 h EST)

### Update on the Qualitative Indicators

As of **Epidemiological Week 29** (EW 29, July 19 to 25) all the 35 countries in the Region of the Americas have reported presence of the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus. Grenada was the last country to report pandemic influenza activity in the Region, as it reported its first case this week.

In accordance with the changes in reporting requirements announced by the World Health Organization (WHO) on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009, this report includes qualitative indicators to monitor the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 (Table 5). Updated information has been submitted by 14 countries to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) on the most recent epidemiological week for which information is available (EW 27 – 29) (Table 1).

Currently, 19 countries in the Region report having *widespread geographical distribution* of the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus. Colombia reports that the geographical distribution is more limited during this epidemiological week, reason for which its status has changed from *widespread* to *regional spread*. Conversely, the Dominican Republic reports an expansion in the geographical distribution this week for the first time since the start of the pandemic (**Map 1**).

Regarding the **trend** of respiratory disease in the Region, information is available for 24 countries (Map 2); seven countries report an *increasing* trend (Belize, Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay and Peru), four more countries than the previous report.

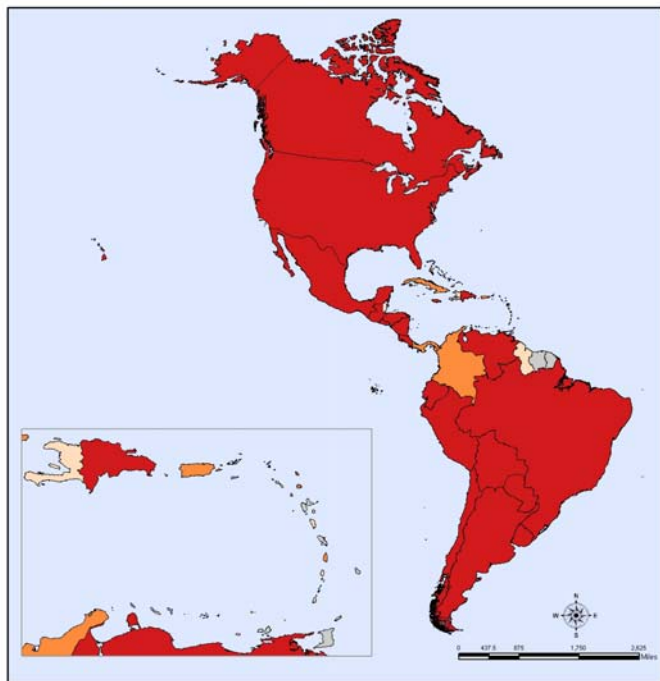
Information on the **intensity** of acute respiratory illness is available for only 21 countries (Map 3). Of these countries, two report *very high* intensity (Argentina and El Salvador), while seven report having *high* intensity (Canada, Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay).

Of the 19 countries reporting information on the **impact on health-care services** (Map 4), El Salvador is the only country reporting *severe* impact this week. Six countries (Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, Paraguay y Uruguay) report *moderate* impact, while the remaining 12 countries (Antigua y Barbuda, Colombia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, United States and Venezuela) report a *low* impact on health-care services.

Argentina and El Salvador report having very high intensity of respiratory illness; and, in the case of El Salvador, an increasing trend of disease and a severe impact on health-care services during the same time period. Guatemala and Paraguay report an increasing trend and high intensity of acute respiratory activity. While Canada, Chile and Mexico report high intensity in acute respiratory disease, in all three a decreasing trend in respiratory disease is observed.

The World Health Organization (WHO) does not recommend any restrictions to travel or the closing of borders due to pandemic (H1N1) 2009.

**Map 1. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009,  
Geographical Spread by Country.  
Americas Region. EW 29\*.**

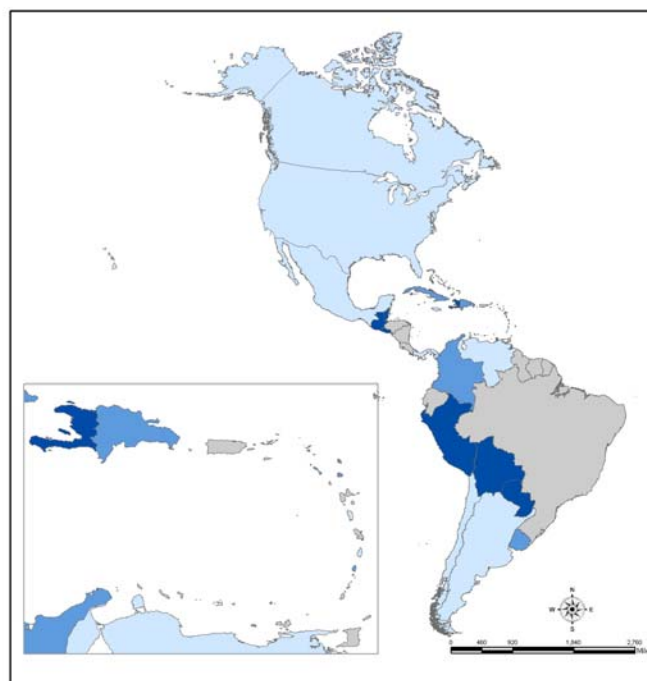


**Geographical Spread**  
 No information available  
 Localized  
 Regional  
 Widespread

Map Production:  
HSD/CD  
30 July 2009  
 Projection:  
Lambert Equal Area Azimuthal  
 Source: Ministries of Health of the countries  
Consolidated by PAHO/WHO  
Created by PAHO/WHO

\*EW 29=Epidemiological Week from July 19 to 25, 2009

**Map 2. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009,  
Trend of respiratory disease activity compared to the previous week.  
Americas Region. EW 29\*.**



**Trend**  
 No information available  
 Decreasing  
 Unchanged  
 Increasing

Map Production:  
HSD/CD  
30 July 2009  
 Projection:  
Lambert Equal Area Azimuthal  
 Source: Ministries of Health of the countries  
Consolidated by PAHO/WHO  
Created by PAHO/WHO

\*EW 29=Epidemiological Week from July 19 to 25, 2009

**Map 3. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009,  
Intensity of Acute Respiratory Disease in the Population.  
Americas Region. EW 29\*.**

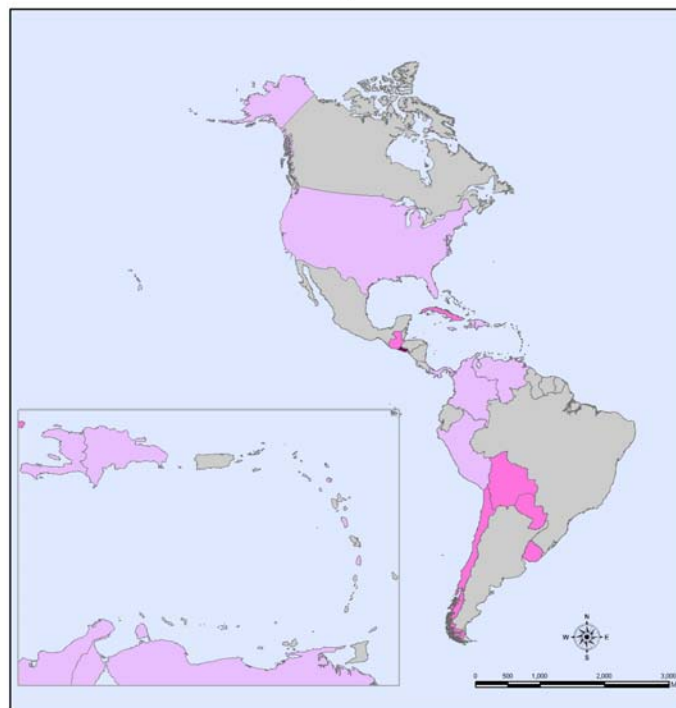


**Intensity of acute respiratory disease**  
 No information available  
 Low or moderate  
 High  
 Very high

Map Production:  
HSD/CD  
30 July 2009  
 Projection:  
Lambert Equal Area Azimuthal  
 Source: Ministries of Health of the countries  
Consolidated by PAHO/WHO  
Created by PAHO/WHO

\*EW 29=Epidemiological Week from July 19 to 25, 2009

**Map 4. Pandemic (H1N1) 2009,  
Impact of Acute Respiratory Disease on Health-Care Services.  
Americas Region. EW 29\*.**



**Impact on health-care services**  
 No information available  
 Low  
 Moderate  
 Severe

Map Production:  
HSD/CD  
30 July 2009  
 Projection:  
Lambert Equal Area Azimuthal  
 Source: Ministries of Health of the countries  
Consolidated by PAHO/WHO  
Created by PAHO/WHO

\*EW 29=Epidemiological Week from July 19 to 25, 2009

**Table 1.** Weekly monitoring of qualitative indicators for the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009.  
Last Epidemiological Week available. Americas Region

Country	Geographic spread	Trend	Intensity	Impact on Health Care Services	EW
Antigua and Barbuda	Regional	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	Not specified
Argentina	Widespread	Decreasing	Very high	NIA	29
Bahamas	Regional	NIA	NIA	NIA	28
Barbados	NIA	NIA	NIA	NIA	
Belize	Localized	Increasing	NIA	NIA	28
Bolivia	Widespread	Increasing	Low or moderate	Moderate	28
Brazil	Widespread	NIA	NIA	NIA	28
Canada	Widespread	Decreasing	High	NIA	27
Chile	Widespread	Decreasing	High	Moderate	29
Colombia	Regional	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	29
Costa Rica	Widespread	NIA	NIA	NIA	28
Cuba	Regional	Unchanged	High	Moderate	29
Dominica	Localized	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	29
Dominican Republic	Widespread	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	29
Ecuador	Widespread	NIA	NIA	NIA	28
El Salvador	Widespread	Increasing	Very high	Severe	29
Grenada	Localized	NIA	NIA	NIA	29
Guatemala	Widespread	Increasing	High	Moderate	29
Guyana	Localized	NIA	NIA	NIA	28
Haiti	Localized	Increasing	NIA	Low	Not specified
Honduras	Widespread	NIA	NIA	NIA	28
Jamaica	Widespread	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	Not specified
Mexico	Widespread	Decreasing	High	NIA	27
Nicaragua	Widespread	NIA	NIA	NIA	28
Panama	Regional	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	Not specified
Paraguay	Widespread	Increasing	High	Moderate	Not specified
Peru	Widespread	Increasing	Low or moderate	Low	Not specified
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Localized	Unchanged	Low or moderate	Low	29
Saint Lucia	Regional	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	29
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Localized	Unchanged	NIA	NIA	28
Suriname	NIA	NIA	NIA	NIA	
Trinidad and Tobago	NIA	NIA	NIA	NIA	
United States of America	Widespread	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	28
Puerto Rico (U.S.)	Regional	NIA	NIA	NIA	28
Virgin Islands (U.S.)	NIA	NIA	NIA	NIA	28
Uruguay	Widespread	Unchanged	High	Moderate	Not specified
Venezuela	Widespread	Decreasing	Low or moderate	Low	29

NIA: No Information Available

Source: Ministries of Health of the countries in the Region

## Update on the number of cases and deaths

During EW 29, Grenada reported its first case of the pandemic (H1N1) 2009, rendering the presence of the virus in every country of the Region of the Americas.

As of **July 29, 2009**, a total of **98,179 confirmed cases** have been notified in all **35 countries** in the Americas Region. A total of **1,008 deaths** have been detected among the confirmed cases in **20 countries** of the Region. Panama reported its first two deaths this week.

In addition to the figures displayed in Table 2, the following territories have reported cases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus: American Samoa (8); Guam, USA (1); Puerto Rico, USA (20); Virgin Islands, USA (49); Bermuda, UK (1); Cayman Islands, UK (14); Virgin Islands, UK (2); Turks and Caicos Islands, UK (3); Martinique, FR (15); Guadeloupe, FR (11); Saint-Martin, FR (1); Netherlands Antilles, Bonaire (4);

Netherlands Antilles, Curaçao<sup>a</sup> (13); Netherlands Antilles, Aruba (13); Netherlands Antilles, Bonaire (10); Netherlands Antilles, Curacao (30)<sup>a</sup>; Netherlands Antilles, St. Eustatius (1) and Netherlands Antilles, St. Marteen (14).

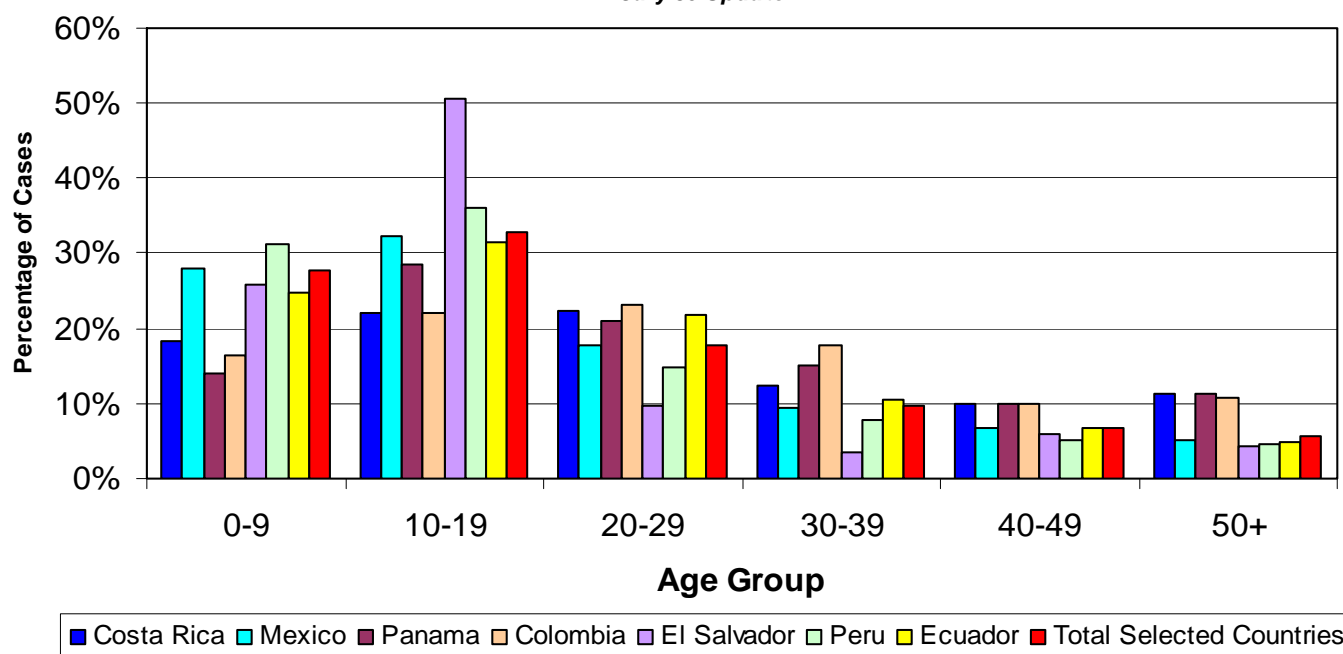
<sup>a</sup> cases were registered on a cruise ship.

The distribution of cases and deaths at the first sub-national level can be found in the interactive map available through the following link: <http://new.paho.org/hq/images/atlas/en/atlas.html>

The virus continues to predominantly affect young persons, with 60% of the confirmed cases being detected in persons with less than 20 years of age in 7 selected countries of the Region (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Percentage of cases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 by age group in Selected Countries of the Americas**

*July 30 Update*



Source: Ministries of Health of the countries in the Region

**Table 2.** Number of cases and deaths confirmed for the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus. Region of the Americas. Updated as of July 31, 2009

Country	Number of confirmed cases	Number of deaths	Newcases (since July 22)	New deaths (since July 22)
Antigua & Barbuda	3	0	0	0
Argentina	4895	243	1839	106
Bahamas	23	0	0	0
Barbados	31	0	8	0
Belize	23	0	8	0
Bolivia	917	6	178	1
Brazil	1566	34	391	23
Canada	10156	58	0	13
Chile	11860	96	567	28
Colombia	259	13	33	5
Costa Rica	668	21	108	9
Cuba	210	0	24	0
Dominica	1	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	131	3	23	1
Ecuador	503	9	127	2
El Salvador	556	9	177	6
Grenada	1	0	1	0
Guatemala	458	9	63	7
Guyana	6	0	4	0
Haiti	3	0	0	0
Honduras	190	1	21	0
Jamaica	53	2	4	0
Mexico	16019	142	1790	14
Nicaragua	444	0	36	0
Panama	571	2	30	1
Paraguay	195	14	20	4
Peru	3559	23	1000	12
Saint Kitts & Nevis	3	1	2	1
Saint Lucia	3	0	2	0
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	1	0	0	0
Suriname	11	0	0	0
Trinidad & Tobago	97	0	0	0
United States*	43771	302	3154	39
Uruguay	550	20	0	0
Venezuela**	442	0	161	-1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98179</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>9771</b>	<b>271</b>

Source: Ministries of Health of the countries in the Region

\*Includes cases in American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands.

\*\*The death published last week is being investigated.

## Clinical Update

Information on the characteristics of the deceased cases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 is critical to identify the factors that increase the risk of death. However, data are not always available, since they are not compiled routinely by surveillance systems.

Information reported to PAHO on deaths among confirmed cases was gathered from epidemiological reports or presentations shared by Member States. Main findings are summarized in Table 3.

In spite of limitations to the availability of data, it should be highlighted that the percentage of deaths with underlying conditions in Argentina, Chile, and Mexico, is between 53 and 59%; drawing attention to the complementary proportion of healthy people who are at risk of suffering clinical complications from influenza.

**Table 3.** Characteristics of the deceased cases confirmed for the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009. Selected countries, Region of the Americas

Country	Number of deaths (studied)	Sex ratio	Median age (range)	Underlying conditions (%)
Argentina	243 (31)	0,72	33 (2 months - 83 years)	17 (53%) Respiratory disease – 58% Obesity – 41% Methabolic disorder – 35% Cardiovascular disease– 23% HIV – 18 % Neuromuscular disorder – 18 %
Chile	96 (87)	1,41	47 (4 months - 85 years)	60 (53%)
Costa Rica	21 (21)	2	NA (20-75 years)	NA
Mexico	142 (119)	0,96	NA	70 (59%) Pregnacy- 5%
Peru	23 (11)	1,2	35 (4-50 years)	10 (91%) Hypertension, obesity, diabetes

NA: Data not available

Source: Ministries of Health of the countries in the Region

## Update on the Virological Situation

Virological data obtained from Ministry of Health websites, from Ministry of Health reports sent to PAHO and notifications from National Influenza Centers (NICs) is included below.

On July 21, 2009, Canada reported the first case of oseltamivir resistant pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus in the Americas Region. Nevertheless, all other pandemic (H1N1) 2009 viruses isolated in the Region of the Americas so far have shown sensitivity to both oseltamivir and zanamivir (Table 4).

**Table 4** Antiviral Susceptibility Pattern for Selected Countries

Country	Total samples of influenza (H1N1) 2009	Oseltamivir		Zanamivir		Adamantanes	
		Resistant	Sensitive	Resistant	Sensitive	Resistant	Sensitive
Bolivia	2	0	2(100%)	0	2(100%)	2(100%)	0
Colombia	3	0	3(100%)	0	3(100%)	3(100%)	0
Chile	6	0	6(100%)	0	6(100%)	6(100%)	0
Costa Rica	2	0	2(100%)	0	2(100%)	2(100%)	0
Dominican republic	1	0	1(100%)	0	1(100%)	1(100%)	0
Ecuador	1	0	1(100%)	0	1(100%)	1(100%)	0
El Salvador	7	0	7(100%)	0	7(100%)	7(100%)	0
Guatemala	2	0	2(100%)	0	2(100%)	2(100%)	0
Honduras	1	0	1(100%)	0	1(100%)	1(100%)	0
Mexico	8	0	8(100%)	0	8(100%)	8(100%)	0
Panama	5	0	5(100%)	0	5(100%)	5(100%)	0
Paraguay	5	0	5(100%)	0	5(100%)	5(100%)	0

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

**Table 5. Qualitative indicators for the monitoring of pandemic (H1N1) 2009**

<b>Geographical spread</b>	
<b>No activity:</b>	No laboratory confirmed case(s) of influenza, or evidence of increased or unusual respiratory disease activity.
<b>Localized:</b>	Limited to one administrative unit of the country (or reporting site) only.
<b>Regional:</b>	Appearing in multiple but <50% of the administrative units of the country (or reporting sites).
<b>Widespread:</b>	Appearing in ≥50% of the administrative units of the country (or reporting sites).
<b>No information available: no information available for the previous 1 week period.</b>	
<b>Trend of respiratory disease activity compared to the previous week</b>	
<b>Increasing:</b>	Evidence that the level of respiratory disease activity is increasing compared with the previous week.
<b>Unchanged:</b>	Evidence that the level of respiratory disease activity is unchanged compared with the previous week.
<b>Decreasing:</b>	Evidence that the level of respiratory disease activity is decreasing compared with the previous week.
<b>Generalizada:</b>	Occurring in ≥ 50% of the administrative units in the country(or reporting sites)
<b>No information available.</b>	
<b>Intensity of Acute Respiratory Disease in the Population</b>	
<b>Low or moderate:</b>	A normal or slightly increased proportion of the population is currently affected by respiratory illness.
<b>High:</b>	A large proportion of the population is currently affected by respiratory illness.
<b>Very high:</b>	A very large proportion of the population is currently affected by respiratory illness.
<b>No information available.</b>	
<b>Impact on Health-Care Services</b>	
<b>Low:</b>	Demands on health-care services are not above usual levels.
<b>Moderate:</b>	Demands on health-care services are above the usual demand levels but still below the maximum capacity of those services.
<b>Severe:</b>	Demands on health care services exceed the capacity of those services.
<b>No information available.</b>	

*Source: Updated interim WHO guidance on global surveillance of human infection with pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus. 10 July 2009.*

The data and information in this report will be updated on a weekly basis and available at: [http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=814&Itemid=1206](http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=814&Itemid=1206)

This report was prepared based on the indicators in the document *Human infection with pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus: updated interim WHO guidance on global surveillance* available at: ([http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/notes/h1n1\\_surveillance\\_20090710/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/notes/h1n1_surveillance_20090710/en/index.html)).

The information presented herein has been obtained through the official sites of the Ministries of Health of the countries in the Region as well as official reports submitted by the International Health Regulation (2005) National Focal Points.