



Report on the Progress of Pandemic Influenza (H1N1) Vaccination in the Region of the Americas 3 September 2010

1) Declaration of the end of the H1N1 influenza pandemic

On 10 August, Dr. Margaret Chan, General Director of the World Health Organization (WHO), announced that the world was no longer in influenza pandemic phase 6. Nevertheless, WHO recommends that in this post-pandemic period, countries should continue to monitor respiratory disease activity, clinically manage suspected cases, and continue vaccinating against the pandemic influenza (H1N1) 2009 virusⁱ. Pandemic influenza (H1N1) 2009 vaccination recommendations are to continue targeting high-risk groups in countries where influenza vaccine is available. Vaccination can be done with monovalent vaccine or trivalent (seasonal) vaccine which includes the (H1N1) 2009 virus in its formulation. Influenza vaccines should be used according to the guidelines of National Authoritiesⁱⁱ.

2) Advances in Vaccination Campaigns

As of 3 September, thirty one countries in the Region of the Americas have vaccinated 199,293,352 people against pandemic influenza, especially among the prioritized groups of health care workers, pregnant women and persons with chronic medical conditions. Canada has distributed approximately 24 million doses. Country vaccination coverage is presented in table 1ⁱⁱⁱ.

Six countries have reached their vaccination goals, but only two have reached coverage over 95% in all prioritized groups. Thirteen countries have vaccinated 10% or more of their populations. Three countries have finalized their vaccination campaigns and conducted a national workshop to evaluate lessons learned.

ⁱ World Health Organization. Media centre. H1N1 in post-pandemic period. Available at: http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2010/h1n1_vpc_20100810/en/index.html

ⁱⁱ World Health Organization. Global Alert and Response (GAR). WHO recommendations for the post-pandemic period. Available at: http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/notes/briefing_20100810/en/index.html

ⁱⁱⁱ Advances in vaccination by risk group and country can be found at: http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2612&Itemid=2116&lang=en



Table 1. Vaccination Coverage by Country in the Americas.

Countries and Territories	Doses Administered	Target Population Coverage	Total Population Coverage	Prioritized Risk Groups			
				Health Personnel and Essential Services	Pregnant Women	Chronic Diseases	Others
Anguilla	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Argentina	7,679,327	118.6%	19.3%	104.7%	101.4%	132.5%	116.2%
Bahamas	5,006	18.3%	1.5%	18.0%	18.6%	15.8%	-
Barbados	4,360	21.8%	1.7%	64.2%	3.3%	11.5%	-
Belize	416	1.1%	0.1%	-	-	-	-
Bermuda	1,053	22.7%	1.6%	-	-	-	-
Bolivia	886,379	70.3%	9.1%	60.9%	20.1%	108.7%	60.3%
Brazil	89,373,810	97.5%	46.6%	120.0%	77.0%	162.6%	74.1%
Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cayman Islands	2,318	4.1%	4.8%	1.8%	5.6%	0.0%	5.0%
Chile	3,067,622	77.8%	18.3%	106.9%	54.3%	79.8%	76.8%
Colombia	1,479,531	72.2%	3.3%	53.4%	58.5%	101.3%	59.5%
Costa Rica	180,000	90.3%	4.0%	-	-	-	-
Cuba	1,123,526	100.1%	10.0%	101.8%	100.7%	98.8%	100.7%
Ecuador	973,480	103.0%	7.2%	-	-	-	-
El Salvador	1,690,101	115.3%	27.6%	186.0%	44.7%	-	114.6%
Grenada	396	2.7%	0.4%	5.1%	0.4%	1.1%	-
Guatemala	221,295	18.6%	1.6%	59.6%	30.9%	10.7%	5.7%
Guyana	121,900	76.7%	16.0%	-	-	-	-
Honduras	945,407	59.4%	12.9%	91.1%	53.0%	116.8%	41.2%
Mexico	26,903,232	96.7%	24.8%	94.9%	71.7%	101.9%	82.2%
Montserrat	1,245	77.5%	24.9%	-	-	-	-
Nicaragua	251,759	29.6%	4.4%	91.3%	88.1%	37.5%	15.7%
Panama	254,286	84.7%	7.5%	50.1%	32.1%	374.8%	85.3%
Paraguay	1,051,198	87.6%	16.9%	85.3%	35.7%	75.0%	99.2%
Peru	1,509,051	47.0%	5.2%	42.5%	9.1%	24.5%	249.7%
Suriname	24,674	29.0%	4.8%	23.4%	4.5%	10.4%	-
Trinidad and Tobago	23,985	34.3%	1.8%	57.0%	0.7%	-	-
Turks and Caicos Islands	2,837	37.9%	12.9%	25.9%	6.3%	12.7%	57.4%
United States	61,000,000	27.9%	19.6%	22.3%	38.1%	11.6%	13.9%
Uruguay	515,158	51.5%	15.4%	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	199,293,352						

*Source: Immunization in the Americas. Summary 2009. Comprehensive Family Immunization. Family and Community Health. PAHO.
(-) Not available. Reported coverage >100% may result from inexact denominator estimates.

2.1) Vaccination of pregnant women.

Countries in Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) planned to vaccinate approximately 7 million pregnant women; as of 3 September approximately 66.3% of this population has been reached. Two countries have vaccinated 100% of all pregnant women targeted (Table 1). Vaccine coverage among pregnant women is currently the lowest when compared with the other prioritized groups: individuals with chronic medical conditions (80.3%) and health care workers (100.7%). It is necessary for countries to intensify vaccination efforts targeting pregnant women in coordination with scientific societies and civil society.

It is important to highlight that epidemiologic evidence obtained during the current influenza pandemic shows that pregnant women are a group with high risk of morbidity (for both the mother and the fetus), hospitalization and death,



especially in the 2nd and 3rd trimester of pregnancy and in the first two weeks post partum^{iv,v}. WHO has therefore recommended that all pregnant women be vaccinated with inactivated vaccine at any time point.^{vi}.

3) Vaccine acquisition

3.1) PAHO Revolving Fund (RF):

24 countries have purchased 20,560,970 doses of monovalent pandemic influenza vaccine through the RF, 17,526,810 without adjuvant (Sanofi-Pasteur and Novartis) and 3,034,160 with adjuvant (Novartis).

3.2) Direct and Mixed Vaccine Purchase:

Four countries in LAC, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Suriname have acquired approximately 140 million vaccine doses through direct purchase from laboratories. Additionally, Brazil purchased 10 million doses from the Revolving Fund and as an eligible country, Suriname received 50,000 doses through WHO donation .

3.3) Vaccine Donation through WHO:

Eleven countries in the Region were eligible to receive pandemic influenza vaccine donated through WHO. Out of a total of 11,074,000 potential doses, 10,024,000 doses have already been deployed. Haiti's final decision regarding whether to accept 1,000,000 doses offered by WHO remains pending.

3.4) Vaccine Donation from Spain:

The Spanish Government has offered a donation of 4,113,870 vaccine doses to be delivered to 5 countries in the Region (Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Nicaragua and Panamá) with remaining vaccine gaps. Administrative procedures are in process in order to ship this vaccine to the selected countries.

^{iv} CDC. 2009 pandemic influenza A (H1N1) in pregnant women requiring intensive care - New York City, 2009. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2010 Mar 26;59(11):321-6.

^v Siston A et al. Pandemic 2009 influenza A(H1N1) virus illness among pregnant women in the United States. JAMA. 2010 Apr 21;303(15):1517-25.

^{vi} WHO. Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization – report of the extraordinary meeting on the influenza A(H1N1) 2009 pandemic, 7 July 2009. Wkly Epidemiol Rec. 2009;84(30):301-4.



4) Events Supposedly Attributable to Vaccination or Immunization (ESAVI)

With regards to ESAVI surveillance, to date, there have been 7,692 reported ESAVI, of which 945 have been classified as severe. Out of these severe ESAVI, 488 have been classified^{vii} as events related to pandemic Influenza (H1N1) vaccine.

Table 2. ESAVI cases notified in LAC.

Countries and Territories	Applied doses	ESAVI cases notified	Severe ESAVI cases notified	Severe ESAVI classification				Rate per million doses
				Events related to vaccination	Program errors	Inconclusive events	Non related events	
Argentina	7,679,327	411	74	17	20	18	27	2.2
Bahamas	5,006	6	2	-	-	-	-	-
Belize	416	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bermuda	1,053	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bolivia	886,379	2	2	-	-	-	2	-
Brasil	89,373,810	2600	751	461	16	-	98	5.2
Colombia	1,479,531	21	11	-	36	1	7	-
Costa Rica	180,000	76	3	-	-	-	2	-
Cuba	1,123,526	3401	8	3	2	2	3	2.7
Ecuador	973,480	149	20	2	1	3	11	2.1
El Salvador	1,690,101	7	-	-	6	-	-	-
Guatemala	221,295	40	2	-	-	-	1	-
Honduras	945,407	25	9	3	-	1	5	3.2
México	26,903,232	436	28	-	3	-	8	-
Nicaragua	251,759	299	4	1	-	-	2	4.0
Panamá	254,286	51	2	-	-	-	2	-
Paraguay	1,051,198	28	5	-	-	-	3	-
Perú	1,509,051	17	17	1	-	-	13	0.7
Surinam	24,674	98	3	-	-	1	2	-
Uruguay	515,158	19	4	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	138,270,840	7,692	945	488	84	26	186	3.5

Twenty-eight probable cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) have been reported (18 from Mexico, 7 from Brazil, 2 from Argentina and 1 from Peru). Ten of these cases have been discarded, as they didn't fulfill GBS criteria (Brighton Collaboration), 3 have been classified as non-related events, and the rest are under investigation. PAHO is supporting 5 countries in the evaluation of their ESAVI surveillance by means of a retrospective case search in sentinel hospitals.

5) Technical documents and progress made in countries' vaccination campaigns are continuously updated on PAHO's Immunization website:

http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2461&Itemid=569&lang=en

This bulletin is updated with the information included in the country profiles sent weekly by PAHO Member States.

^{vii} Case classification presented is preliminary, as Specialized National Committees are still working on case classification based on a complete case review.