

ECDC SITUATION REPORT

Infections of novel influenza virus A(H1N1)

Update 30 April 2009, 08:00 hours CEST

Main highlights in past 24 hours

- WHO announces change to pandemic alert level to Phase 5¹;
- Community transmission in a country outside of Mexico (United States of America);
- Two new EU Member States (MS) report confirmed cases: Austria (1 case), Germany (3 cases);
- Total of 19 confirmed cases reported in the EU from four countries;
- First evidence of a case of human-to-human transmission within the EU;
- In Europe, all 19 confirmed cases to date have a mild clinical course, no deaths reported;
- Outside Europe, confirmed cases reported in Canada, Costa Rica, Israel, New Zealand, Peru, in addition to USA and Mexico;
- ECDC guidance for travellers to affected areas published.

The report below is based on official information provided by the national public health websites, or through other official communication channels. In addition, media reports from credible sources are included. An update on the number of confirmed cases as of today, 30 April 2009, 08:00 hours CEST, is presented in Table 1.

European Union

Fifteen new confirmed cases have been reported in the EU within the past 24 hours, totalling 19 confirmed cases: Austria (1), Germany (3), Spain (10) and United Kingdom (5). All European confirmed cases have a history of travel to Mexico, except for one case in Spain where there is evidence of transmission within the household.

Two probable cases (according to EU case definition agreed on 29 April 2009) have been reported by France. Laboratory confirmation is pending.

Outside of the European Union

Outside of the European Union, a total of 155 confirmed cases of novel influenza virus A(H1N1) infections have been reported from seven countries.

1 'Phase 5 is characterized by human-to-human spread of the virus into at least two countries in one WHO region.' WHO. Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response guidance document. April 2009.

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/pjguidance2009/en/index.html>

In the last 24 hours, an additional 27 cases were confirmed in the US. Latest data suggest that human-to-human transmission occurs in the US, and for the first time outside of Mexico.

An additional three confirmed cases have been reported by New Zealand, bringing the total to 14 confirmed cases in the country. One confirmed case was reported by Peru.

One death in a confirmed case has been reported in the US, being a young child from Mexico who was seeking medical treatment in Texas for other health reasons. Whereas until yesterday, all cases reported outside of Mexico had a mild clinical presentation, the US CDC considers that severe illness is now being observed in a few patients in the USA.

No further deaths have been reported by Mexico (seven among confirmed cases to date). Investigations continue by Mexican authorities, together with WHO, in order to assess reasons for the severity of illness in reported cases in Mexico.

Assessment of situation in the EU

Within the last 24 hours, 15 new confirmed cases were reported in the EU, as well as the first evidence of human-to-human transmission, illustrating the spread of the novel influenza virus A(H1N1) infection from Central America to Europe. As case searching and contact tracing continues towards efforts of mitigating the outbreak, it is inevitable that more cases will be detected.

This emergence of community transmission outside of Mexico emphasises the importance of continued vigilance and timely exchange of information during this imminent pandemic.

The confirmation of human-to-human transmission of infection in the US, in addition to Mexico, led to WHO raising the pandemic alert level to Phase 5. This implies that the EU Member States should implement all activities as specified in their national pandemic preparedness plans, in accordance to WHO guidance [http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/influenza/WHO_CDS_CSR_GIP_2005_5/en/].

European response

All EU Member States have implemented appropriate response measures in order to limit the spread of this infection. These include the provision of information to the general public and to travellers, raising the alert on this situation among healthcare workers and the implementation of enhanced surveillance. On a European level, the implementation of these measures is coordinated by the European Commission.

From now on, a daily reporting of cases and the situation in each country will be ensured by the Member States to ECDC and the European Commission through the Early Warning and Response System, and based on a common EU definition for cases of novel influenza virus A(H1N1) infections. The shared guidance for travellers to areas where sustained human-to-human transmission is reported, is now available from the ECDC website [http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/files/pdf/Health_topics/090429_NIV_Info_for_travellers.pdf].

ECDC, in collaboration with the Member States, the European Commission and the World Health Organisation, continues to closely monitor this rapidly evolving situation, and provides daily updates on its website.

Table 1: Cumulative number of novel influenza virus A(H1N1) probable and confirmed cases from EU and EEA/EFTA countries as of 30 April 2009, 08:00 hours CEST

Country	Probable cases	Confirmed cases
Austria	0	1
France	2	0
Germany	0	3
Spain	0	10
UK	0	5
Total	2	19

Table 2: Cumulative number of novel influenza virus A(H1N1) confirmed cases and deaths outside of EU and EEA/EFTA countries as of 30 April 2009, 08:00 hours CEST

Country	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Canada	19	0
Costa Rica	2	0
Israel	2	0
Mexico	26	7
New Zealand	14	0
Peru	1	0
USA	91	1
Total	155	