

World Health Organization Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network

26 April 2009 -- As of 26 April 2009, the United States Government has reported 20 laboratory confirmed human cases of swine influenza A/H1N1 (8 in New York, 7 in California, 2 in Texas, 2 in Kansas and 1 in Ohio). All 20 cases have had mild Influenza-Like Illness with only one requiring brief hospitalization. No deaths have been reported. All 20 viruses have the same genetic pattern based on preliminary testing. The virus is being described as a new subtype of A/H1N1 not previously detected in swine or humans.

Also as of 26 April, the Government of Mexico has reported 18 laboratory confirmed cases of swine influenza A/H1N1. Investigation is continuing to clarify the spread and severity of the disease in Mexico. Suspect clinical cases have been reported in 19 of the country's 32 states.

WHO and the Global Alert and Response Network (GOARN) are sending experts to Mexico to work with health authorities. WHO and its partners are actively investigating reports of suspect cases in other Member States as they occur, and are supporting field epidemiology activities, laboratory diagnosis and clinical management.

On Saturday, 25 April, upon the advice of the Emergency Committee called under the rules of the International Health Regulations, the Director-General declared this event a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

25 April 2009 Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network Update

Event number: 2009-E-3542; 2009-E-3543

Country: Multiple locations, Mexico and United States of America

Subject: Influenza-like illness(ILI)/Severe pneumonia in the US and Mexico

WHO, which is coordinating the global response to human cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) and monitoring the corresponding threat of an influenza pandemic, has issued the following update. It builds on the initial information described in the GOARN alert, and WHO Disease Outbreak News dated 24.04.2009.

1. Epi update

As of 24 April 2009, there are 8 confirmed human cases of swine influenza in the USA (6 in California and 2 in Texas). In addition, there are 9 suspect influenza-like illness (ILI) cases and 7 acute respiratory illnesses that are being investigated for a possible connection. All 8 confirmed cases have had mild ILI, with only one requiring brief hospitalization. No deaths have been reported. No connection has been established between the 8 confirmed cases and exposure to swine.

All 8 viruses from the USA have the same genetic pattern based on preliminary testing.

US CDC continues to coordinate with WHO/PAHO and Mexico and Canada public health authorities on plans for enhanced surveillance nationally, border surveillance, and surveillance for any hospitalized cases. MoH Mexico has sent laboratory specimens for confirmation to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta and to National Microbiological

Laboratory (NML), Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), Winnipeg. Laboratory results from the Canadian NML has processed 51 samples out of which 16 were swine influenza H1N1 closely related genetically to the USA strain. The US CDC has confirmed 7 cases. It is unclear whether the same or different specimens were sent to the two laboratories.

MoH Mexico has enhanced their national influenza surveillance system. On the basis of hospital-based surveillance, the MoH has reported that from 17 to 24 April, 1,149 ill persons nationwide are currently being investigated for severe respiratory disease/pneumonia of which 856 are considered suspect cases. The working case definition currently being used for a suspect case of swine influenza is a severe respiratory illness associated with chest pain and increased respiratory rate in any age group.

2. International Response

- PAHO has deployed a team of staff trained in outbreak response from the regional headquarters, country offices and regional networks, including 2 epidemiologists, 3 risk communication officers, 1 expert in emergency response/disaster management and 2 logisticians. In addition, a senior infection control expert has been seconded to the team from the MoH, Chile.
- US CDC has also coordinate the deployment of 2 epidemiologists in consultation with WHO/PAHO. CDC has also been requested by the MoH to provide for additional epidemiologists and laboratory support
- Two outbreak logisticians are being deployed from WHO/HQ.
- The FAO/OiE Crisis Management Centre - Animal Health (CMC-AH) is preparing for deployment of a mission next week to Mexico to assist the veterinary services in assessing the involvement of pigs in these events.
- Technical support and experts have been offered from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, and the National Institute for Infectious Diseases “L. Spallanzani”, Italy, and a number of other partners have expressed the desire to support the outbreak investigations and international response coordination.

3. Related links about the outbreak

MOH Mexico: Public information on Influenza

http://portal.salud.gob.mx/index_eng.html

CDC update on human swine influenza investigation

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/investigation.html>

PHAC update on swine influenza response efforts

http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/media/nr-rp/2009/2009_0424_swine-eng.php

WHO Swine Influenza website (NEW)

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

Disease Outbreak News

http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009_04_24/en/index.html

WHO page on current national pandemic plans:

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

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