

ECDC EXECUTIVE UPDATE

Pandemic influenza (H1N1) 2009

Issue 17

Friday, 30 October 2009

Issue 17 of ECDC Executive Update on pandemic influenza (H1N1) 2009 is exceptionally issued on Friday 30 October (in place of Monday 2 November). Issue 18 will be published on Monday 9 November.

Meetings and events

European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology

Public health specialists met in Stockholm on 26–28 October for the third annual [ESCAIDE](#), the European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology. At the conference experts discussed many issues including vaccine strategies, modelling, prioritisation and the challenges for risk communication in the context of pandemic (H1N1) 2009. The plenary sessions covered many themes including the current pandemic.

Models of Infectious Disease Agent Spread (MIDAS) meeting

ECDC representatives attended the 'Models of infectious disease agent spread' (MIDAS) meeting in Chicago on 28–30 October. MIDAS is a consortium of several modelling groups with members from the USA, Asia and Europe. It deals with modelling MRSA in USA and developing models for pandemic influenza. The current meeting dealt with, among other topics, the infectiousness of H1N1 and vaccination strategies. ECDC is acting as a steering committee member.

Friends of the Presidency Group on Pandemic Influenza meeting

The Friends of the Presidency Group on Pandemic Influenza met in Brussels on 28 October. ECDC representatives, in conjunction with the Commission and others, presented the current situation of the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 and contributed to a discussion on a possible EU recommendation on seasonal influenza vaccination from the European Commission.

Influenza at the interface between humans and animals

In order to minimise the negative impact of the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza, close coordination at global level of all affected sectors is necessary. To promote this coordination, the Commissioner for Health, Androulla Vassiliou, together with Swedish Minister for Elderly Care and Public Health, Maria Larsson, opened a conference entitled '[Influenza at the interface between humans and animals](#)' 30 October in Brussels. The conference also aimed to

tackle issues related to risk assessment and research, and influenza strategies at the human–animal interface. The head of ECDC's influenza programme, Professor Angus Nicoll, delivered a keynote address.

Weekly Influenza Surveillance Overview (WISO) highlights

Aggregate numbers of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 cases and deaths in EU and EEA countries are presented in the WISO.

- On 30 October, the cumulative number of reported cases since the beginning of the pandemic in EU/EEA Member States totals 54 072 of which 95 are known to have died.

Discrepancies with the ECDC daily pandemic (H1N1) 2009 update are due to unsynchronised reporting related to the ongoing transition to TESSy. ECDC will continue to monitor the number of fatal cases by country. It must be emphasised that the numbers of fatal cases associated with pandemic influenza are likely to be gross underestimates. Access to healthcare, the quality of the laboratory network in the country, the quality of the surveillance system and the case definition used for identifying fatal cases all affect these figures and will vary from country to country.

The ECDC Weekly Influenza Surveillance Overview is published on Friday afternoons and is available at: http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/activities/surveillance/EISN/Pages/EISN_Bulletin.aspx

Weekly digest on pandemic influenza (H1N1) from ECDC Daily Updates

27 October

Pandemic influenza (H1N1) updates from USA and Canada

The Daily Update on Tuesdays includes a weekly update on the pandemic from USA and Canada noting particular rises in influenza-like illnesses and deaths due to pneumonia and influenza.

Please see this week's updates at:

http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/Documents/091027_Influenza_AH1N1_Situation_Report_0900hrs.pdf

Scientific advances

Study on prevalence estimates for pandemic (H1N1) 2009 published

US CDC and Harvard School of Public Health researchers published a study estimating the number of cases of pandemic influenza (H1N1) 2009 as of the end of July. This study, published in *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, used a multiplier method to correct for under-ascertainment of cases and came up with an estimate of 1.8–5.7 million cases with 9 000 to 21 000 hospitalisations occurring.

The full article is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/15/12/pdfs/09-1413.pdf>

Upcoming events

5–6 November: A Management Board meeting will be taking place on the ECDC premises from 5–6 November. ECDC will be presenting its latest risk assessments and planning assumptions at the meeting.