

ECDC EXECUTIVE UPDATE

Pandemic influenza (H1N1) 2009

Issue 19

Monday, 16 November 2009

Meetings and events

9–10 November: Visit to ECDC by a delegation from the Ministry of Health in Turkey, including ECDC briefing and discussion on the pandemic influenza (H1N1) 2009 and on pandemic vaccines.

12 November: ECDC Director, Zsuzsanna Jakab and ECDC immunisation expert, Kari Johansen, participated in a meeting on pandemic influenza (H1N1) vaccination, Hungary.

12–13 November: ECDC influenza expert, Professor Angus Nicoll, contributes to the Public Health Committee meeting and to the Health Security Committee meeting in Brussels and in Luxemburg respectively.

16 November: ECDC expert spoke at the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) meeting at EMEA, London.

16 November: Advisory Forum teleconference on clinical aspects of the pandemic.

ECDC has continued to offer support to the WHO lead team in Ukraine during the week beginning 9 November.

Weekly influenza surveillance overview (WISO) highlights

- Twenty countries across EU/EEA are reporting an increasing trend.
- Seven countries are reporting high and very high intensity and 14 countries report medium intensity.
- Of the SARI patients notified by six countries, 76% needed ventilatory support and 36 % had no underlying condition.

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

As of 16 November, the cumulative number of reported deaths since the beginning of the pandemic in EU/EEA Member States totals 501.

16 November

- WHO: Interim planning considerations for mass gatherings
- WHO: Transmission dynamics and impact on influenza A(H1N1) 2009 virus

Stockholm, 2009

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- WHO: Health conditions for travellers to Saudi Arabia for the pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj)
[13 November](#)
- Situation in Ukraine
- CDC estimates number of cases infected with H1N1
- Mexican study shows protective effect of seasonal influenza vaccine
- A CDC study finds no protective effect of seasonal influenza vaccine
[12 November](#)
- EpiSouth update
- GSK vaccine approved by USA FDA
[11 November](#)
- WHO published revised [clinical management guidance](#)
[10 November](#)
- Pandemic influenza H1N1 updates from the USA and Canada
- Updates from EpiNorth

Public health developments

The approaching pandemic pressures on critical care services in European hospitals - preparation is crucial

Reports on epidemiological and clinical presentation of influenza pandemic in other countries provide reliable estimates of the burden of disease, the effectiveness of treatment and best use of public health resources and likely outcomes for patients. Recently ECDC attended a WHO global consultation to gather such information. This [Public Health development](#) summarises some of the findings from that meeting and seven recent publications.

Recent ECDC publications on A(H1N1)v influenza

[Q&As on pandemic vaccines and vaccination targeting the general public](#)

[Q&As on pandemic vaccines and vaccination for experts](#)

European Planning Assumptions for Pandemic 2009

Following a number of requests ECDC working with representatives of its Advisory Forum and WHO published [recommended planning assumptions](#) for this pandemic for clinical attack rate, hospitalisations (including use of intensive care) and deaths that apply to countries that did not experience a significant wave of infection over the summer.

Updates from Eurosurveillance

Eurosurveillance published this week the following articles related to pandemic H1N1 influenza:

- [A simple mathematical approach to deciding the dosage of vaccine against pandemic H1N1 influenza](#)
- [Pandemic influenza A\(H1N1\)v: Human to pig transmission in Norway?](#)
- [Assessing the impact of the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic on reporting of other threats through the Early Warning and Response System](#)

A brief overview of each article can be found in [Friday's Daily Update](#).

Upcoming events

Week beginning on 16 November: Visit to Bulgaria by senior ECDC team at the request of the Bulgarian government to assist in the final pandemic preparedness.

17–20 November 2009: ECDC participates in WHO Research meeting, Geneva.