

ECDC EXECUTIVE UPDATE

Pandemic influenza (H1N1) 2009

Issue 20

Monday, 23 November 2009

Past meetings and events

16–20 November: Senior ECDC team visited Bulgaria at the request of the Bulgarian government to assist in the final pandemic preparedness.

17–20 November 2009: Professor Angus Nicoll, ECDC influenza expert, participated in a WHO meeting in Geneva to devise a global public health research agenda.

20–22 November 2009: ECDC expert visited Turkey, at the request of the Turkish government, in a joint mission with WHO Regional Office for Europe, to support pandemic influenza (H1N1) efforts.

Weekly influenza surveillance overview (WISO) highlights

- Twenty-seven countries reported intensity above baseline levels. Several countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway and UK (Northern Ireland)), reported decreasing trends.
- The percentage of positive samples from the sentinel systems is 45%, a level usually seen during the winter epidemic peak.
- Of the SARI patients notified by seven countries, 20% had no known underlying medical 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) 2009 from ECDC Daily Updates

As of 22 November, the cumulative number of reported deaths since the beginning of the pandemic in EU/EEA Member States totals 670, with a 33% increase in week 47 over the previous week.

23 November

- Pandemic vaccine information from EMEA (EMEA press release)
- Mutation in the haemagglutinin gene of pandemic influenza A(H1N1)v reported from Norway (with ECDC comment)
- Two clusters of possible transmission of oseltamivir-resistant pandemic influenza A(H1N1)v among hospitalised patients, United Kingdom and United States (with ECDC comment)
- EPISOUTH update from 26 countries of the Mediterranean and the Balkans

Stockholm, 2009

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20 November

- Safety of pandemic vaccines – [WHO](#) says results to date are encouraging

18 November

- Pandemic A(H1N1)v influenza virus in Ukraine no different than elsewhere in Europe
- New vaccines receive marketing authorisation
- First short-term vaccine safety data provide no new safety concerns

17 November

- Updates from USA and Canada
- Study on hospitalised pandemic influenza patients in Melbourne published

Public health developments

Oseltamivir-resistant pandemic influenza (H1N1) 2009 virus, October 2009

This [public health development](#) discusses an article recently published by WHO that summarises the characteristics of 39 cases of pandemic influenza A(H1N1) viruses resistant to the neuraminidase inhibitor oseltamivir reported worldwide to date.

Updates from *Eurosurveillance*

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

- [Differentiation of two distinct clusters among currently circulating influenza A\(H1N1\)v viruses, March–September 2009](#)
- [Oseltamivir-resistant influenza A\(H1N1\) viruses detected in Europe during season 2007–8 had epidemiologic and clinical characteristics similar to co-circulating susceptible A\(H1N1\) viruses](#)

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

Upcoming events

24 November: ECDC contributes to a meeting of the Friends of the Presidency Group in Brussels to provide an update on the current state of the pandemic and to discuss likely pandemic courses.