

ECDC EXECUTIVE UPDATE

2009 pandemic influenza A(H1N1)

Issue 35

Tuesday, 04 May 2010

Highlights from the Weekly influenza surveillance overview

- All reporting countries experienced low intensity influenza activity for the eighth consecutive week and reported sporadic activity at most.
- Only a few (38) influenza viruses were detected by sentinel and non-sentinel sources and most of these (63%) were Influenza B viruses.
- To date, only 2.5% of tested 2009 pandemic influenza A(H1N1) viruses have shown resistance to oseltamivir and none were resistant to zanamivir. All 2009 pandemic viruses tested were resistant to M2 inhibitors.
- None of the weekly reported number of Severe Acute Respiratory Infections, SARI, was due to pandemic influenza.
- Influenza activity caused by the 2009 pandemic influenza A(H1N1) virus is well past its winter peak in EU/EEA countries. However, sporadic cases of confirmed infections continue to occur though most cases of influenza-like illness are not due to influenza virus infection. Globally, the world remains in pandemic Phase 6.

The [ECDC Weekly influenza surveillance overview](#) is published on Friday afternoons on the ECDC web page (see 'latest publications').

Updates from *Eurosurveillance*

In *Eurosurveillance*, [Volume 15](#), the following articles related to the 2009 influenza A(H1N1) pandemic were published (click title to access article):

- [Issue 14, 08 April 2010:](#)

Rapid communications

[The emergence of oseltamivir-resistant pandemic influenza A\(H1N1\) 2009 virus amongst hospitalised immunocompromised patients in Scotland, November-December, 2009](#)

H Harvala, R Gunson, P Simmonds, A Hardie, S Bennett, F Scott, H Roddie, J McKnight, T Walsh, D Rowney, A Clark, J Bremner, C Aitken, K Templeton.

- [Issue 16, 22 April 2010:](#)

Letters

[Occurrence of haemagglutinin mutation D222G in pandemic influenza A\(H1N1\) infected patients in the West of Scotland, United Kingdom, 2009-10](#)

R S Miller, A R MacLean, R N Gunson, W F Carma.

Scientific advances

Behavioural intentions in response to an influenza pandemic

In an article by Bio Med Central, BMC Public Health results of a survey that investigated possible behavioural reactions to an influenza pandemic among people living in the Netherlands are discussed. Its main objective was to determine how people intend to behave when a large-scale influenza pandemic occurs.

Link to the [article and to the ECDC commentary](#).

Hypothesis: Possible association between prior 2008-09 trivalent influenza vaccine (TIV) and infection with the 2009 A(H1N1) pandemic virus

Four observational studies were conducted in Canada during the spring and summer of 2009 to assess the association between having had the 2008–09 seasonal influenza vaccine and the risk of infection with the 2009 pandemic H1N1. All four studies indicated that people seeking medical care with confirmed 2009 H1N1 infection were more likely to have been vaccinated with the 2008–09 seasonal influenza vaccine than those who tested negative for influenza.

Link to the [article and to the ECDC commentary](#)

Canadian survey on pandemic flu preparations

BMC Public Health published the results of a survey with the aim of obtaining opinions on key ethical issues that arise in pandemic preparedness planning.

Link to the [article and ECDC commentary](#)

Past meetings and events

29 March: ECDC participated in a meeting on A(H1N1) vaccines and Guillain-Barré syndrome organised by EMA, London.

12 April: ECDC participated in a workshop on the behavioural aspects of influenza A(H1N1), London.

12–15 April: ECDC participated as an observer at a meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on immunisation, organised by the World Health Organization, WHO, Geneva.

22 April: ECDC took part in a meeting on Pandemic Response, Finland.

27–28 April: ECDC participated in the EUROMOMO meeting.

Upcoming meetings and events

4–6 May: ECDC will participate in a vaccines meeting organised by the World Health Organization, WHO, in Na Trang, Vietnam.

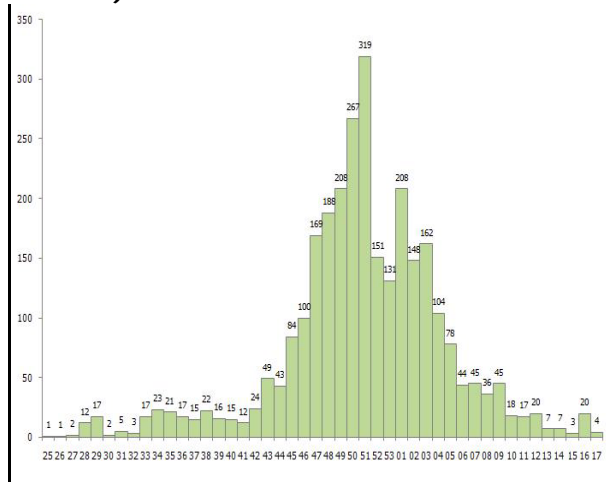
3–7 May: ECDC will attend a meeting on Historical Influenza Pandemics: Lessons learned, Copenhagen, Denmark.

7 May: ECDC will give a presentation on 'Influenza H1N1 in children', at the meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Infectious diseases, ESPID 2010, in Nice, France.

17–20 May: ECDC will participate in the I-MOVE meeting on influenza vaccination in Budapest, Hungary.

European epidemiology

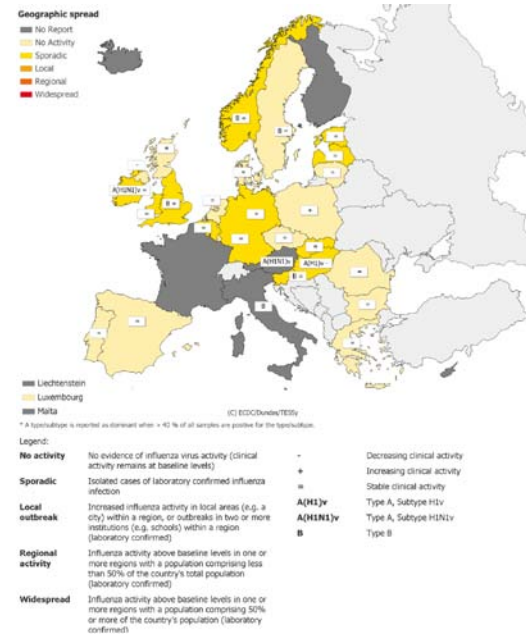
Figure 1: Deaths reported among 2009 pandemic influenza A(H1N1) cases in EU and EFTA countries (from week 25/2009 to week 17/2010)



This figure shows a weekly number of deaths from mid-October onwards.

Source: [ECDC 2009 influenza A\(H1N1\) pandemic web page](#)

Map 1: Geographic spread distribution map week 16/2010



This map shows how widespread influenza activity was in most European countries during week 16/2010.

Source: [ECDC Weekly influenza surveillance overview](#) of 30 April 2010

Table 1: Countries reporting community incidence in Week 16/2010

Rising trend	Stable	Declining trend
Poland	Belgium	Lithuania
	Bulgaria	Luxembourg
	Czech Republic	Netherlands
	Denmark	Norway
	Estonia	Portugal
	Germany	Romania
	Greece	Slovakia
	Ireland	Slovenia
	Latvia	Spain
	Sweden	UK- England, Wales & Scotland

Source: ECDC Weekly influenza surveillance overview, [30 April 2010](#)

European surveillance

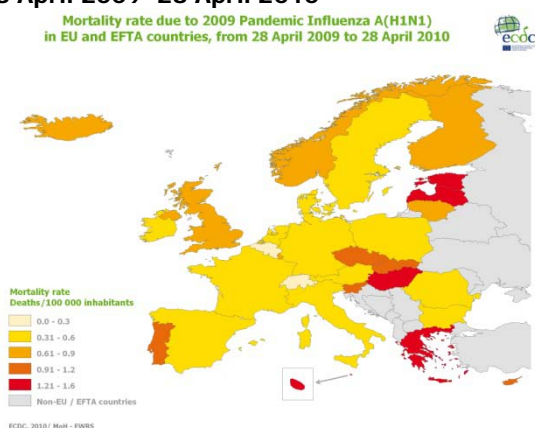
See the [ECDC Forward Look Risk Assessment](#) for what can most reasonably be expected from the first half of 2010 to the end of the 2010/11 influenza season.

Vaccination remains the most potent countermeasure for any human influenza. Given the significant risks to health from the pandemic, ECDC would strongly advise all Europeans who are offered the vaccine to be vaccinated. By being vaccinated you protect not just your own health, but that of the people around you.

For further information on pandemic vaccines, please see the article '[Pandemic influenza A\(H1N1\) 2009 vaccines in the European Union](#)' by K Johansen, A Nicoll, BC Ciancio and P Kramarz, published in *Eurosurveillance* on 15 October 2009. An update on authorised vaccines is provided in the ECDC Q&As on vaccines and vaccination [for experts](#) and for the [general public](#) and can be found on the ECDC 2009 pandemic influenza A(H1N1) web page.

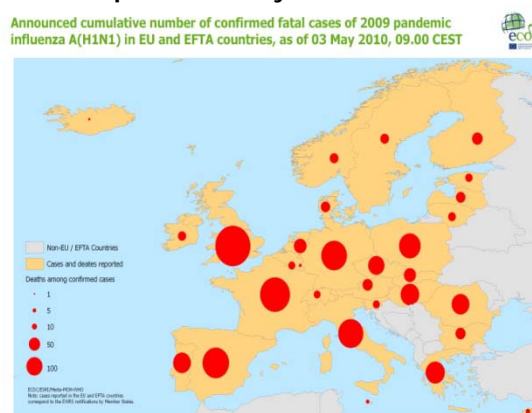
Other effective countermeasures: The usual hygiene and personal measures should continue to be promoted. These include regular hand washing, using tissues and staying at home if sick. There is very little resistance to the drugs used against seasonal influenza (oseltamivir and zanamivir) and treatment with antivirals is working, especially if given early.

Map 2: Mortality rate due to 2009 pandemic influenza A(H1N1) in EU and EFTA countries, 28 April 2009–28 April 2010



This map shows how countries in Western Europe have been affected. Source: [ECDC 2009 influenza A\(H1N1\) pandemic web page](#)

Map 3: ECDC reported number deaths due to 2009 pandemic influenza A(H1N1) in Europe as of 3 May 2010



This map shows how countries in Western Europe have been affected. Source: [ECDC 2009 influenza A\(H1N1\) pandemic web page](#)

Note: the ECDC Executive Update is now published on a monthly basis. Also, as of the end of April 2010 ECDC has stopped scanning national websites in EU/EFTA countries for reports of deaths confirmed due to the 2009 pandemic influenza A(H1N1). The updated figures from 3 May 2010 above are the last published for the time being.