



**For public distribution  
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**EOC SITUATION REPORT #15  
Influenza A (H1N1)**

**Status of Influenza A (H1N1) in the Americas Region**

- Two new countries, Brazil and Argentina, have confirmed cases of Influenza A/H1N1.
- The total confirmed cases of influenza A (H1N1) recorded in the Americas is as follows:
  - Mexico has reported 1.364 confirmed cases, 45 deaths;
  - USA, 1.639 confirmed cases with 2 deaths;
  - Canada, 242 confirmed cases with 1 death;
  - El Salvador, 2 confirmed cases;
  - Brazil, 4 confirmed cases;
  - Colombia, 1 confirmed case;
  - Costa Rica, 1 confirmed case;
  - Guatemala, 1 confirmed case.
  - Argentina, 1 confirmed case.
  - Panama, 1 confirmed case.
- The increase in the number of cases in the United States since yesterday is due to the recent laboratory-confirmation of samples that were collected in previous weeks.
- The President of Guatemala declared a “Public Disaster” for 30 days in response to the first case reported.
- The World Health Organization maintains pandemic alert of [Phase 5](#).

**Concerns over food safety**

The current Influenza A (H1N1) epidemics have not been linked to contact with either live pigs or the consumption of pork or pork products. Investigations by public health authorities of people infected by the new virus have succeeded in showing a link with another infected person.

FAO, WHO and OIE reissued on 7 May their joint statement first issued on 30 April on Influenza A (H1N1) and the safety of pork. It states that:

- Influenza viruses are not known to be transmissible to people through eating processed pork or other food products derived from pigs.
- Heat treatments commonly used in cooking meat (e.g. 70°C/160°F core temperature) will readily inactivate any viruses potentially present in raw meat products.

- Pork and pork products, handled in accordance with good hygienic practices recommended by the WHO, Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE, will not be a source of infection.
- Authorities and consumers should ensure that meat from sick pigs or pigs found dead are not processed or used for human consumption under any circumstances.
- WHO's guidance on the safe handling and consumption of animal products applies to all animal products, no matter the virus.
- More information:
  - [Joint FAO/WHO/OIE Statement on influenza A\(H1N1\) and the safety of pork.](#)
  - [Prevention of foodborne disease: Five keys to safer food.](#)

### **Vaccines/antiviral production**

- Conservative estimates of global vaccine requirements are thought to be in the range of 1-2 billion doses. Note that seasonal influenza vaccine requires one dose per person and avian flu two doses. The number of doses per person needed for A (H1N1) immunizations will not be known until first clinical trials in humans are completed.

### **Other Highlights**

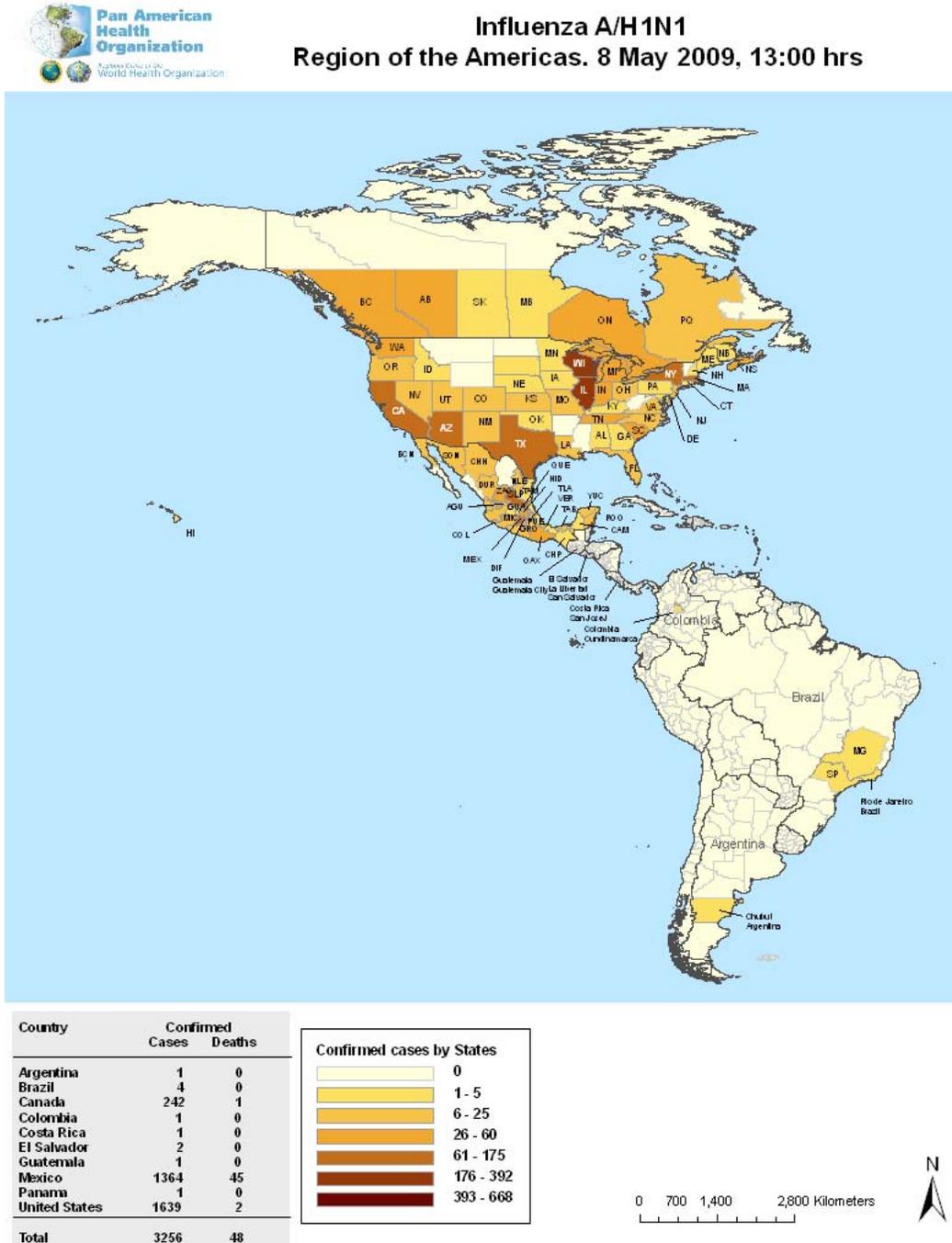
- The following countries have reported laboratory confirmed cases with no deaths - Austria (1), China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (1), Denmark (1), France (12), Germany (11), Ireland (1), Israel (7), Italy (6), Netherlands (3), New Zealand (5), Poland (1), Portugal (1), Republic of Korea (3), Spain (88), Sweden (1), Switzerland (1) and the United Kingdom (34).
- [In a briefing today](#)<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the WHO emphasized several points:
  - Dr. Chan thanked the diligence all these years in tracking the H5N1 virus in humans and animals, in reporting and treating so many cases, and in dealing with so many tragic deaths.
  - H5N1 has taught the world to expect a pandemic, and to plan for this event, therefore world is now better prepared for influenza pandemic. WHO and its regional offices have tested their alert and response plans, also in operational exercises.
  - It is important for countries to refrain from introducing economically and socially disruptive measures that lack solid scientific backing and bring no clear public health benefit.
- In a press conference today at PAHO/WHO, Dr. Jon Andrus highlighted the following important measures that countries should be considering if the WHO raises the pandemic level:

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.who.int/dg/speeches/2009/asean\\_influenza\\_ah1n1\\_20090508/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/dg/speeches/2009/asean_influenza_ah1n1_20090508/en/index.html)

- Protection of health care workers since they are on the front lines of protecting the health of the people and their families.
- Strengthening infection control measures.
- Preparation in the area of social risk communication to ensure transparency and to build trust and cooperation with the public.
- Effective coordination at every level to implement pandemic emergency plans.
- Oseltamivir from the PAHO/WHO contingency supply arrived in several Member Countries, including Jamaica, Barbados, Guatemala, Colombia y Costa Rica. PAHO/WHO is also supporting countries in obtaining other immediate needs such as Personal Protective Equipments (PPE).
- A total of 54 experts from PAHO/WHO and GOARN partners as CDC and Institut Pasteur were deployed from April 24th to date, including team leaders from PAHO and CDC. At the moment there are 30 staff members from PAHO and partners.
- During UNICEF's regional meeting of experts on communications and resource mobilization from Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Panama from 4-9 May, there was a specific working session related to response on the current emergency caused by the outbreak of influenza A(H1N1).
  - Experts from PAHO/WHO's Area on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief coordinated this session and shared with UNICEF's Representatives and Communication Officers the most relevant issues about the emergency and discussed the critical areas of risk communications, with the aim of sharing in the management of the crisis.
- PAHO and the Inter-American Development Bank jointly organized a meeting to discuss the current influenza situation and further cooperation with countries in Central America.

Map of at-risk areas



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