



For public distribution
Tuesday, April 28, 2009

**EOC SITUATION REPORT #5
SWINE INFLUENZA IN THE AMERICAS
(MEXICO, THE UNITED STATES, CANADA)**

Summary

- Phase 4 remains in effect and, as the situation rapidly evolves, countries are responding to this alert.
- Several other countries are reporting confirmed cases, and others are investigating suspected cases. Mexico has reported the largest number of cases and deaths.
- United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced yesterday that the World Bank and other UN development and humanitarian agencies will provide funding to countries needing additional resources to combat an epidemic.
- Countries, with assistance from PAHO/WHO, are carrying out intense epidemiological and laboratory investigations. A daily epidemiological report is daily posted on the [PAHO website](#)¹.

Status of the Region

- Mexico has reported 26 confirmed cases with 7 deaths. Geographical distribution of confirmed cases: 17 DF (4 deaths); 7 State of Mexico (2 Deaths); 1 Oaxaca (1 death), 1 Veracruz. Suspected cases are 1324 with 84 deaths.
- The United States Government has reported 64 laboratory confirmed human cases of swine influenza A(H1N1): California (10 cases), Kansas (2 cases), New York City (45 cases), Ohio (1 case) and Texas (6 cases). No deaths have been reported.
- Canada has reported 6 cases (4 in Nova Scotia; 2 British Columbia), with no deaths.

WHO and PAHO Response

- PAHO today hosted a teleconference with Minister of Health from throughout Latin America and the Caribbean to exchange information and address questions raised by the epidemic. PAHO/WHO is constantly briefing its partners by various media and has prepared guidelines and information documents on the topic.
- PAHO/WHO continues to mobilize multidisciplinary teams of experts to Mexico, including epidemiologists, disasters experts, logisticians and communicators.
- The WHO SHOC room and PAHO Emergency Operations Center (EOC) remain activated.

¹ http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1239&Itemid=1091

WHO Pandemic Phase

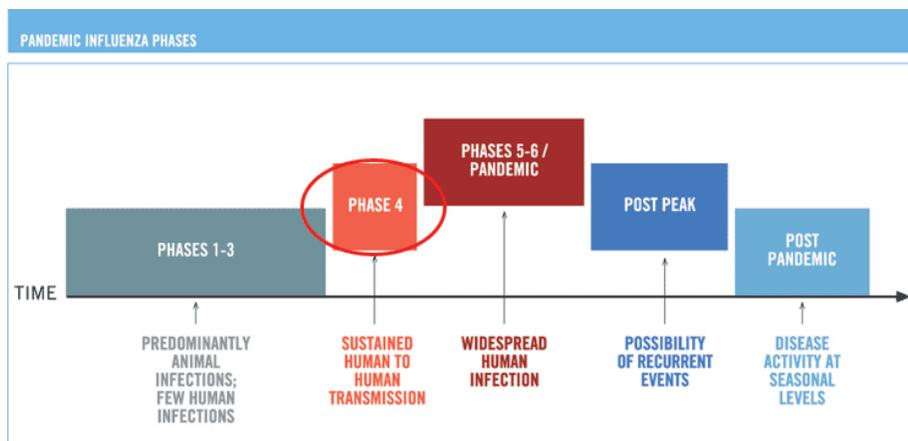


Figure 1: The current WHO phase of pandemic alert is 4

Overall Recommendations

- WHO/PAHO advises no restriction of regular travel or closure of borders.
- There is no risk of infection from this virus from consumption of pork and pork products.
- Individuals are advised to wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water on a regular basis and should seek medical attention if they develop any symptoms of influenza-like illness.
- It is strongly recommended that people who are sick should postpone travel. People who have recently traveled, and have become ill, should seek medical attention.

At Risk Area see Map

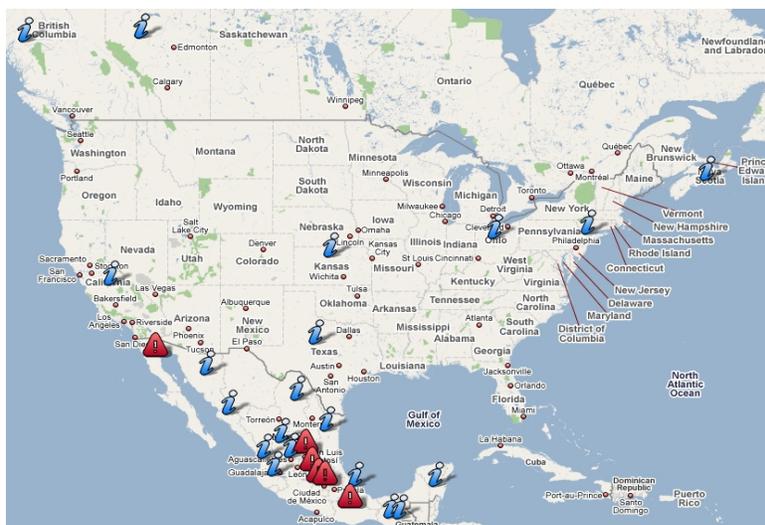


Figure 2²

² Summary of locations with reported deaths (red triangles) and confirmed cases (blue icons).

Resources

- WHO has published guidelines for the surveillance of human infection for National Focal Points for the International Health Regulations (IHR). It includes a [case definition](#)⁵ for surveillance purposes.
- WHO information on the use of antiviral treatments for influenza including tamiflu is [available online](#)⁶.

Instructions for shipments of samples

- WHO has published recommendations on how to ship swine influenza A(H1N1) specimens and virus isolates to WHO Collaborating Centers for influenza. More information on sampling and shipping of influenza clinical specimens and virus isolates is available at the [WHO website](#)⁷.
- Please note that in the Americas all countries have prepared national influenza pandemic preparedness plans which contain information on national and regional reference laboratories for receiving and testing samples for influenza.

Conclusions

- The situation is very fluid, evolving every day.
- All cases reported worldwide are mild cases or not confirmed; to date only Mexico has reported some fatal cases.
- The Director-General of WHO has raised the pandemic phase level from 3 to 4. For more information on the different phase levels please check Annex 1 below.

For more information

- [Alerta preventiva por brote de influenza](#)⁹ (Secretaría de Salud de México).
- [Human Swine Influenza Investigation](#)¹⁰ (CDC).
- [Information on Influenza](#)¹¹ (Public Health Agency of Canada).
- [PAHO Influenza website](#)¹².
- [World Health Organization](#)¹³.

Further information on the situation will be available on the PAHO website on a regular basis.

⁵ http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/WHO_case_definitions.pdf

⁶ http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/guidelines/useofoseltamivir2006_03_17A.pdf

⁷ <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/FAQInfluenzaLogistics.pdf>

⁹ http://portal.salud.gob.mx/contenidos/noticias/influenza/alerta_influenza.html

¹⁰ <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm>

¹¹ <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/index-eng.php>

¹² http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=805&Itemid=569

¹³ <http://www.who.int>

Annex 1: WHO PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE GUIDANCE 2009

Phase	WHO Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Guidance, 2009
<i>Phase 1</i>	No animal influenza virus circulating among animals has been reported to cause infection in humans.
<i>Phase 2</i>	An animal influenza virus circulating in domesticated or wild animals is known to have caused infection in humans and is therefore considered a specific potential pandemic threat.
<i>Phase 3</i>	An animal or human-animal influenza reassortant virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.
Phase 4	Human-to-human transmission (H2H) of an animal or human-animal influenza reassortant virus able to sustain community-level outbreaks has been verified.
<i>Phase 5</i>	The same identified virus has caused sustained community level outbreaks in two or more countries in one WHO region.
<i>Phase 6</i>	In addition to the criteria defined in Phase 5, the same virus has caused sustained community level outbreaks in at least one other country in another WHO region.
<i>Post-peak period</i>	Levels of pandemic influenza in most countries with adequate surveillance have dropped below peak levels.
<i>Possible new wave</i>	Level of pandemic influenza activity in most countries with adequate surveillance rising again.
<i>Post-pandemic period</i>	Levels of influenza activity have returned to the levels seen for seasonal influenza in most countries with adequate surveillance.

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