Update
New virus *Influenza* A (H1N1)

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ALERTS

Regional Report
(28 May 2009 – 23 h GMT; 18 h EST)
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The data and information of this report are updated daily and are available at: http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1&lang=en Data can change as new notifications from countries are received.

The information is obtained from official websites of the Ministries of Health of the countries of the Americas and information submitted by the International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Points.
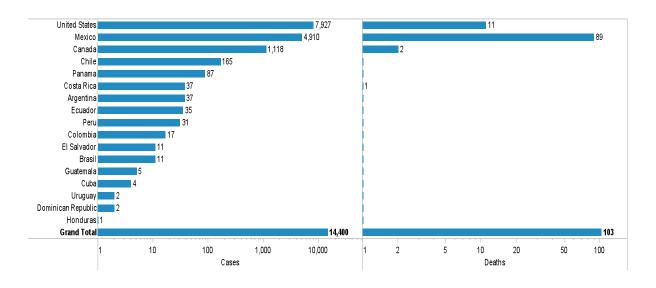
Summary of the current situation

Up to 28 May 2009, **14,400 confirmed cases** of the new virus influenza A (H1N1) infection, including **103 deaths**, have been notified in **17 countries** of the Americas: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras Mexico, Panama, Peru, United States and Uruguay. **(Figure 1)**

The date of the onset of symptoms of the first confirmed case was 28 March 2009 in the United States.

WHO is not recommending any travel restrictions related to the outbreak of the *Influenza* A (H1N1) virus.

In the Americas Region, there were **102 confirmed cases** more than the previous day.

Figure 1. Number of confirmed cases and deaths by the new virus *Influenza* A (H1N1)
Countries of the Americas - Updated to 28 May 2009

Source: Ministries of Health of the countries of the Americas.

Tracking the contacts in an epidemic: Field Information Management System (FIMS)

The transmission of diseases from person to person by respiratory and other secretions, such as blood or other corporal fluids cause transmission chains. Due to its complexity, the identification and pursuit of the contacts of ill or asymptomatic individuals represent a challenge for the public health services, as illustrated by the introduction of *Influenza* A (H1N1) to several countries by from travelers. The implementation of a system for the tracking of contacts in populated and densely impoverished areas where the *Influenza* A (H1N1) virus could be present represents significant challenges to the health authorities mainly due to their limited resources.

The WHO has developed the Field Information Management System (FIMS) to manage the information generated in the field during an outbreak investigation, including the information of the contacts. The data of contacts of the case can be stored easily and generate an analysis to facilitate the additional investigation.

The model of the FIMS is being introduced through several PAHO country offices to allow its implementation by the Ministries of Health when managing epidemiological cases. As a result of the current epidemic, a new checklist has been adapted for the cases of *Influenza* A (H1N1) as a module of FIMS, in order to provide a fast answer to this need. This is a system under development and PAHO will provide technical support to countries according to its available capacity.

What is FIMS?

FIMS software has been developed to support data collection and information production of cases and contacts during an outbreak investigation. It was developed by the Alert and Response Operations Team of the Department of Alert and Epidemic and Pandemic Answer under WHO's Health Security and Environment Cluster, in Geneva, Switzerland.

FIMS covers the following main activity areas:

- Record of cases and related data,
- Record of contacts and related data,
- Daily information production of contacts tracing
- Production of standard summaries and detailed reports,

- Export of data to different formats (txt, xls, xml, etc.) for a greater analysis;
- Summary of cases and mapping of contacts (using HealthMapper software, developed by WHO's SIG team);
- Visualization of the transmission chains (through AiSee software, developed by Absint Angewandet Informatik Gmbh);
- FIMS operates on Microsoft Access 2003 and VBA plattforms. It also uses two third parts of the HealthMapper software application, to produce maps based on FIMS records and AiSee software to visualize transmission chains.

FIMS users manual provides a training guide for its application in the field. It is necessary to note that this training guide focuses only in the operational aspects of data management and not in clinical and epidemiological aspects of an outbreak.

FIMS will be implemented in the countries of the Region of the Americas. Access to the system will be restricted. Only IHR National focal points of the Ministries of Health will have a password protected access assigned PAHO country offices.

The **manual** and **software** is available in:
http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=1779&Itemid=

Source: Program for Disease Control in Humanitarian Emergencies, WHO.

For further information visit the PAHO portal for the new Influenza virus A (H1N1):
http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=805&Itemid=569&lang=en

Influenza A (H1N1). Region of the Americas.
28 May 2009 (23 h GMT; 18 h EST)

0   700   1,400   2,800 Kilometers

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Map Production: Health Information and Analysis, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

Cases		Deaths	
United States	7,927	11	
Mexico	4,910	59	
Canada	1,118	2	
Chile	165		
Panama	67		
Costa Rica	37	1	
Argentina	37		
Ecuador	28		
Peru	31		
Colombia	17		
El Salvador	11		
Brasil	11		
Guatemala	5		
Cuba	4		
Uruguay	2		
Dominican Republic	2		
Honduras	1		
Grand Total	14,460	103	

Cases

Deaths

Confirmed cases by States

- 0
- 1 - 2
- 3 - 10
- 11 - 20
- 21 - 100
- 101 - 500
- 501 - 1734