

ECDC DAILY UPDATE

2009 influenza A (H1N1) pandemic

29 December 2009
14.00 CEST

Main developments in the past 24 hours

- United States reports for the week 50 a continued decrease of influenza activity. Also visits to doctors for influenza-like illness, flu-associated hospitalizations, and flu-associated deaths all declined from the previous week. In week fifty there have been 9 deaths in children attributed to influenza bringing the total to 221 since late august
- The seventh Harvard pandemic survey has found that immunisation uptake in the United States has increased substantially recently, especially in children among whom it is estimated that 38% have now been immunised. Just over half of Adults state they do not intend to be immunised and 35% of parents stated they did not intend to have their children immunised.
- A total of 1 832 fatal cases in Europe and EFTA countries and 10 944 in the rest of the world have been reported up to date.

This report is based on official information provided by national public health websites or through other official communication channels. Reported number of confirmed 2009 pandemic influenza A (H1N1) cases admitted to hospitals and intensive care, by country, as of 29 December 2009, 14.00 CEST in EU and EFTA countries are in Table 1. An update on the number of confirmed fatal cases for the world and Europe is presented in Table 2.

Epidemiologic update

Officially Reported Deaths in the EU

All 27 EU and 4 EFTA countries are reporting cases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza. A total of 1 832 deaths have been reported since April 2009 (Table 2). From week 41 to 51 the numbers of deaths had shown a steady increase almost doubling every fortnight over six weeks. The fall observed in week 52 was to be expected as it represents official reports placed on national web-sites and a number of Member States have not been doing this in what was a holiday week. A similar phenomenon can be expected for the coming week. While the most deaths have to date been in Western Europe there are increasing numbers of deaths being reported from Central and Eastern Europe. The reported cumulative fatal pandemic (H1N1) cases in the world have now passed 10 000 cases (Table 2). However, because of lack of laboratory confirmation and underreporting among other factors, this is recognised to be a gross underestimation of the true number of fatalities associated with the pandemic. Available updates on hospital admissions, per Member State, can be found in Table 1.

Updates from the United States

Routine weekly report from U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) weekly influenza surveillance report (FluView):

During the week 50 (December 13-19), 2009, influenza activity in the United States continued to decrease over the previous week across all key indicators. This is the eighth consecutive week of national decreases in ILI after five consecutive weeks of sharp increases. Visits to doctors for influenza-like illness, flu-associated hospitalizations, and flu-associated deaths all declined from the previous week. Other key features are:

- 306 (6.9%) specimens tested by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories and reported to CDC/Influenza Division were positive for influenza. Of these
 - all subtyped influenza A viruses being 2009 influenza A(H1N1) viruses (there were no A(H3) or seasonal A(H1) viruses
 - 3 viruses (1%) were influenza type B.
- The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) has declined to be below the epidemic threshold having been above that level since September.
- Nine influenza-associated paediatric deaths were reported. Eight of these deaths were associated with 2009 influenza A (H1N1) virus infection and one was associated with an influenza A virus for which the subtype was undetermined. Since late August there have been 221 deaths in children due to influenza.
- The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 2.3% which is at the national baseline of 2.3% and seven of the 10 US regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels.
- However as before the state by state picture is more heterogeneous. Seven states (Alabama, California, Delaware, Maine, Nevada, New Jersey, and Virginia) reported geographically widespread influenza activity, 18 states reported regional influenza activity, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and 13 states reported local influenza activity, the U.S. Virgin Islands and 11 states reported only sporadic influenza activity, Guam and one state reported no influenza activity.

From U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report (FluView):

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

For background information on how influenza surveillance is undertaken in the United States see

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/pdf/overview.pdf>

Influenza Immunisation in the United States

Because of the diversity of providers of immunisation in the US rapid estimates of the uptake of pandemic and seasonal vaccine are made through population surveys undertaken by telephone polls which also investigate attitudes to the infection and immunisation. Two of these surveys have been reported in the last week. One is the seventh in the series relating to the pandemic from the Harvard School of Public Health while the other was described briefly at the most recent [regular press briefing by CDC](#). The latter was only referred to briefly as broadly validating the Harvard findings.

The Harvard poll has been described in some detail in a [press release](#) through which it is also possible to access detailed tables and some simple powerpoint charts which are posted on the internet. The poll was conducted for the Harvard School by an independent polling company and interviews were conducted from December 16-17th accessing 1,637 respondents aged 18 and older. The poll found that concern over the pandemic had declined since September when 52% of adult Americans said they were concerned that they or a family member would become sick with the pandemic virus in the coming 12 months. That figure had now declined to 40%. In the United States vaccine prioritisation was initially towards adults in risk groups (those with chronic conditions, pregnant women) people caring for babies under six months, young adults aged 18-24 years, all children and all health and emergency personnel. As more vaccine became available immunisation has subsequently been offered and recommended to all adults. The survey found that among adults in the initial priority groups 22% reported they had been immunised, another 31% said they intended to be immunised while 44% said they did not intend to be immunised. Looking at adults overall 14% reported they had now been immunised and another 27% said they intended to be immunised while 55% stated they did not intend to get immunised. Parents in the survey with eligible children (babies under 6 months cannot be immunised) reported that 38% had now had their children immunised, an increase from 14% when the poll was undertaken in late October / early November. Another 24% stated they intended to get their children immunised. Just over a third of parents (35%) reported they did not intend to get their children immunised citing as reasons safety concerns (38%), a belief that the pandemic is less serious than originally thought (32%) or that their child was not at risk of severe disease (28%). The survey report cites that the margin of error is +/-2.93% at the 95% confidence level for figures involving all respondents but larger margins for sub-groups .

These Harvard Surveys are part of a programme of research on the public's response to public health emergencies called the Harvard Opinion Research Program. The surveys on the public attitudes to the pandemic go back to late April. They are undertaken through a cooperative arrangement with the United States CDC and the US [National Public Health Information Coalition](#).

Table 1. Reported number of confirmed 2009 pandemic influenza A(H1N1) cases admitted to hospitals and intensive care, by country, as of 29 December 2009, 14.00 CEST in EU and EFTA countries.

Country (date of report)	Number of cases currently hospitalised	Cumulative number of cases admitted in hospitals	Number of cases currently in intensive care	Cumulative number of cases admitted to intensive care
Austria (17.12.)	172	-	-	-
Belgium (24.12.)	-	-	-	-
Bulgaria (13.12)	-	-	-	-
Cyprus(23.11)	-	-	-	6
Czech Republic (23.12.)	-	-	-	-
Denmark (23.12.)	-	-	4	68
Estonia (23.12.)	-	-	-	-
Finland (23.12.)	11	-	3	-
France (28.12.)	-	-	209	985
Germany (22.12.)	-	-	-	-
Greece (23.12.)	-	-	-	-
Hungary (23.12.)	-	-	-	-
Iceland (10.12.)	3	180	1	20
Ireland (23.12.)	150	1027	10	87
Italy (24.12.)	-	832	-	452
Latvia (17.12.)	-	-	-	-
Liechtenstein (23.12.)	-	-	-	-
Lithuania (21.12.)	-	-	-	-
Luxembourg (16.11.)	-	-	0	0
Malta (04.09.)	-	46	-	1
Netherlands (28.12.)	31	2156	6	209
Norway (23.12.)	5	1310	4	170
Poland (22.12.)	-	-	-	-
Portugal (23.12.)	95	-	20	-
Romania (21.12.)	-	-	-	-
Slovakia (22.12.)	51	260	18	94
Slovenia (17.12.)	76	-	-	-
Spain (23.12.)	-	-	-	-
Sweden (17.12.)	18	1169	-	-
Switzerland (23.12.)	11	389	-	72
United Kingdom* (24.12.)	454	-	103	-

Note: Data for the EU and EFTA countries correspond to the Ministry of Health or surveillance centre websites. New updates with changes in figures are highlighted in gray. (-) denotes no information readily available in official sources.

* Data includes information for England only. Other cumulative hospitalisations are: Scotland (1439), Wales (437) and Northern Ireland (574).

Table 2. Reported number of new and cumulative confirmed fatal 2009 pandemic influenza A(H1N1) cases in EU and EFTA countries, as 29 December 2009, 14.00 CEST, and in the rest of the world by country, as of 29 December 2009, 14.00 CEST.

Country	Number of new fatal cases since previous national update	Cumulative number of fatal cases
EU and EFTA countries		
Austria	-	3
Belgium	-	17
Bulgaria	-	35
Cyprus	-	3
Czech Republic	-	48
Denmark	-	25
Estonia	-	8
Finland	-	36
France	23	223*
Germany	-	132
Greece	-	59
Hungary	-	45
Iceland	-	2
Ireland	-	22
Italy	-	188
Latvia	-	27
Lithuania	1	16
Luxembourg	-	3
Malta	-	3
Netherlands	2	53
Norway	-	29
Poland	-	116
Portugal	-	57
Romania	-	49
Slovakia	-	30
Slovenia	-	13
Spain	-	256
Sweden	-	22
Switzerland	-	9
United Kingdom	3	303
Total	29	1832
Other European countries and central Asia		
Albania	-	6
Armenia	1	3
Belarus	-	20
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	7
Croatia	-	23
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	-	14
Georgia	3	10
Kosovo	-	10
Moldova	3	25
Montenegro	-	5
Russia	-	19
Serbia	3	50
Ukraine	-	202
Total	10	394
Mediterranean and Middle-East		
Algeria	-	42
Bahrain	-	7
Egypt	-	109
Iran	-	147
Iraq	-	40
Israel	-	71
Jordan	-	16
Kuwait	-	27
Lebanon	-	5
Libya	-	1

Country	Number of new fatal cases since previous national update	Cumulative number of fatal cases
Morocco	14	50
Occupied Palestinian Territory	1	23
Oman	-	30
Qatar	-	8
Saudi Arabia	-	97
Syria	-	110
Tunisia	6	15
Turkey	-	415
United Arab Emirates	-	6
Yemen	2	27
Total	23	1246
Africa		
Ghana	-	1
Madagascar	-	3
Mauritius	-	8
Mozambique	-	2
Namibia	-	1
Sao Tome & Principe	-	2
South Africa	-	93
Sudan	4	5
Tanzania	-	1
Total	4	116
North America		
Canada	-	401
Mexico	23	823
USA	-	2160
Total	23	3384
Central America and Caribbean		
Bahamas	-	4
Barbados	-	3
Cayman Islands	-	1
Costa Rica	-	47
Cuba	-	41
Dominican Republic	-	23
El Salvador	-	31
Guatemala	-	18
Honduras	-	16
Jamaica	-	6
Nicaragua	-	11
Panama	-	11
Saint Kitts and Nevis	-	2
Saint Lucia	-	1
Suriname	-	2
Trinidad-Tobago	-	5
Total	-	222
South America		
Argentina	-	617
Bolivia	-	58
Brazil	-	1632
Chile	-	150
Colombia	-	193
Ecuador	-	96
Paraguay	-	52
Peru	-	205
Uruguay	-	33
Venezuela	-	121
Total	-	3157
North-East and South Asia		
Afghanistan	-	17
Bangladesh	-	6
China (Mainland)	-	509

Country	Number of new fatal cases since previous national update	Cumulative number of fatal cases
Hong Kong SAR China	-	51
India	-	880
Japan	-	107
Macao SAR China	-	2
Maldives	-	1
Mongolia	-	26
Nepal	2	2
Pakistan	-	1
South Korea	-	148
Sri Lanka	-	35
Taiwan	-	35
Total	2	1820
South-East Asia		
Brunei Darussalam	-	1
Cambodia	-	6
Indonesia	-	10
Laos Peoples Democratic Republic	-	1
Malaysia	-	77
Philippines	-	30
Singapore	-	19
Thailand	-	191
Vietnam	3	53
Total	3	388
Australia and Pacific		
Australia	-	191
Cook Islands	-	1
Marshall Islands	-	1
New Zealand	-	20
Samoa	-	2
Solomon Islands	-	1
Tonga	-	1
Total	-	217
TOTAL	94	12776

* Deaths reported from France include 1 in Guyana, 9 in New Caledonia, 7 in the French Polynesia, 7 in La Réunion, 1 in Martinique, 2 in Mayotte, 5 in Guadeloupe and 191 in mainland France.

Figure 1. Number of confirmed deaths among 2009 pandemic influenza A (H1N1) cases by week of notification in EU and EFTA countries

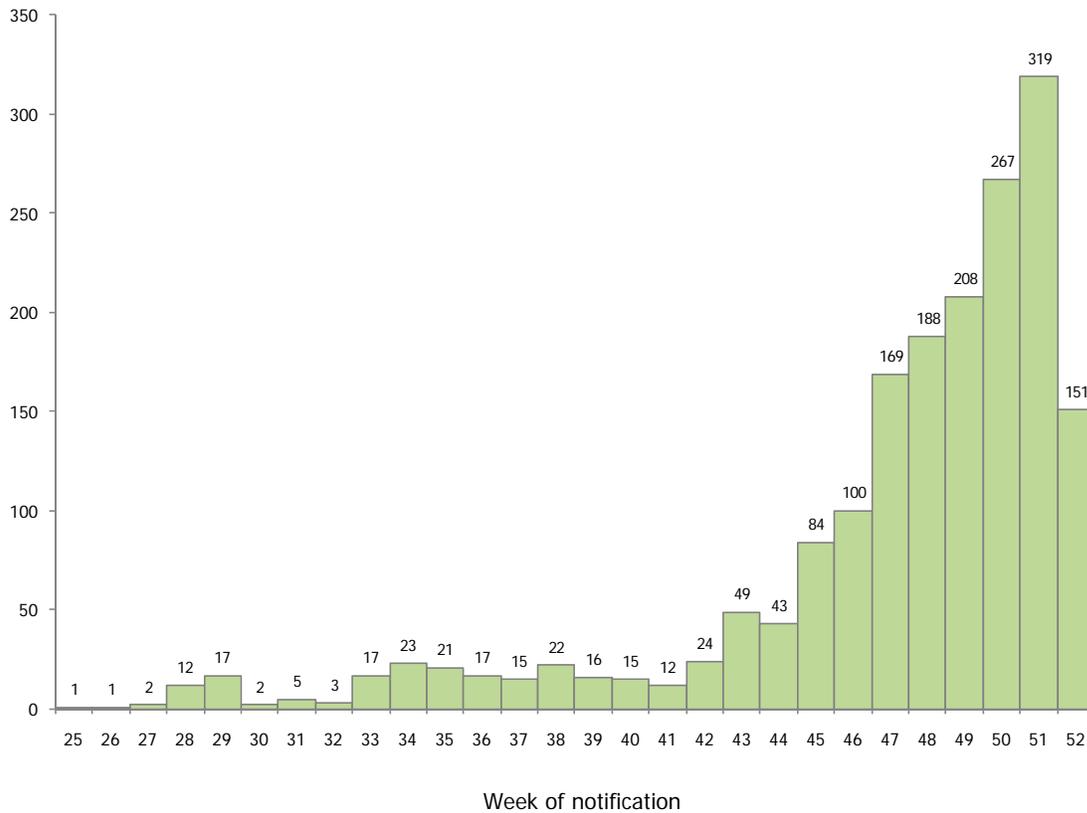
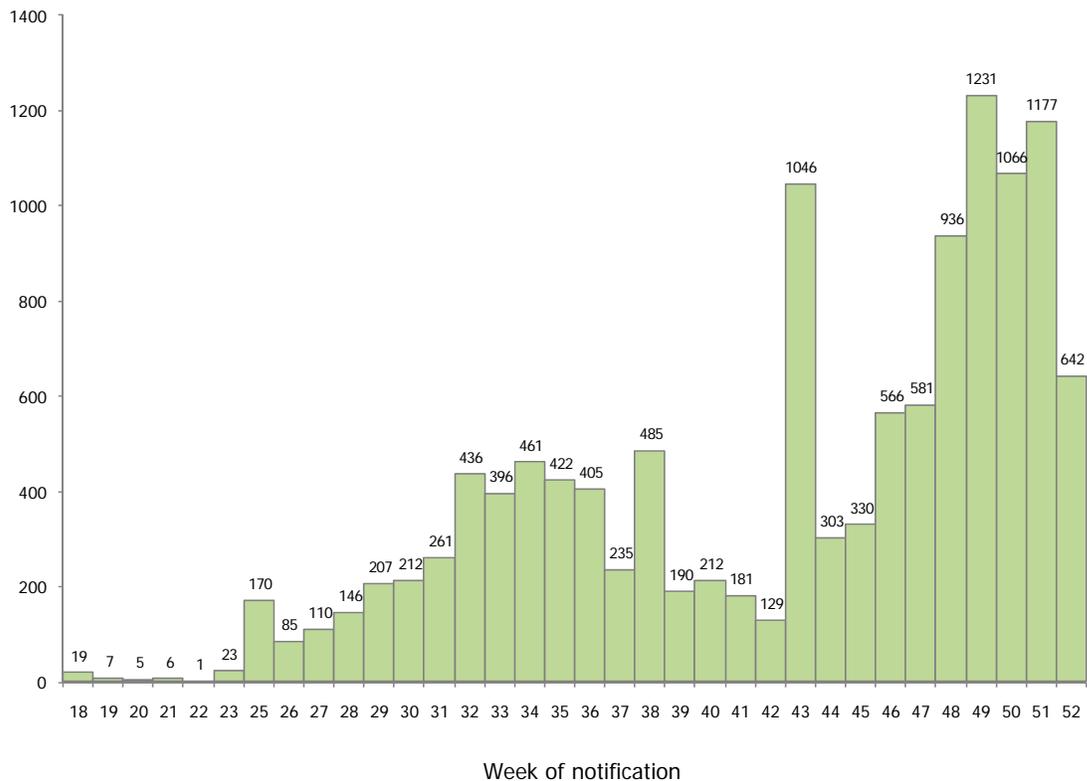


Figure 2. Number of confirmed deaths among 2009 pandemic influenza A(H1N1) 2009 influenza cases by week of notification in the rest of the world*.



* The apparent increase in the number of deaths in week 43 is due to the aggregate reporting of fatal cases from Brazil from weeks 37 to 40 and to our batch report of US fatal cases since 1 August 2009.

Figure 3. Reported cumulative number of confirmed fatal cases of 2009 pandemic influenza A (H1N1) in EU and EFTA countries, as of 29 December 2009, 14.00 CEST

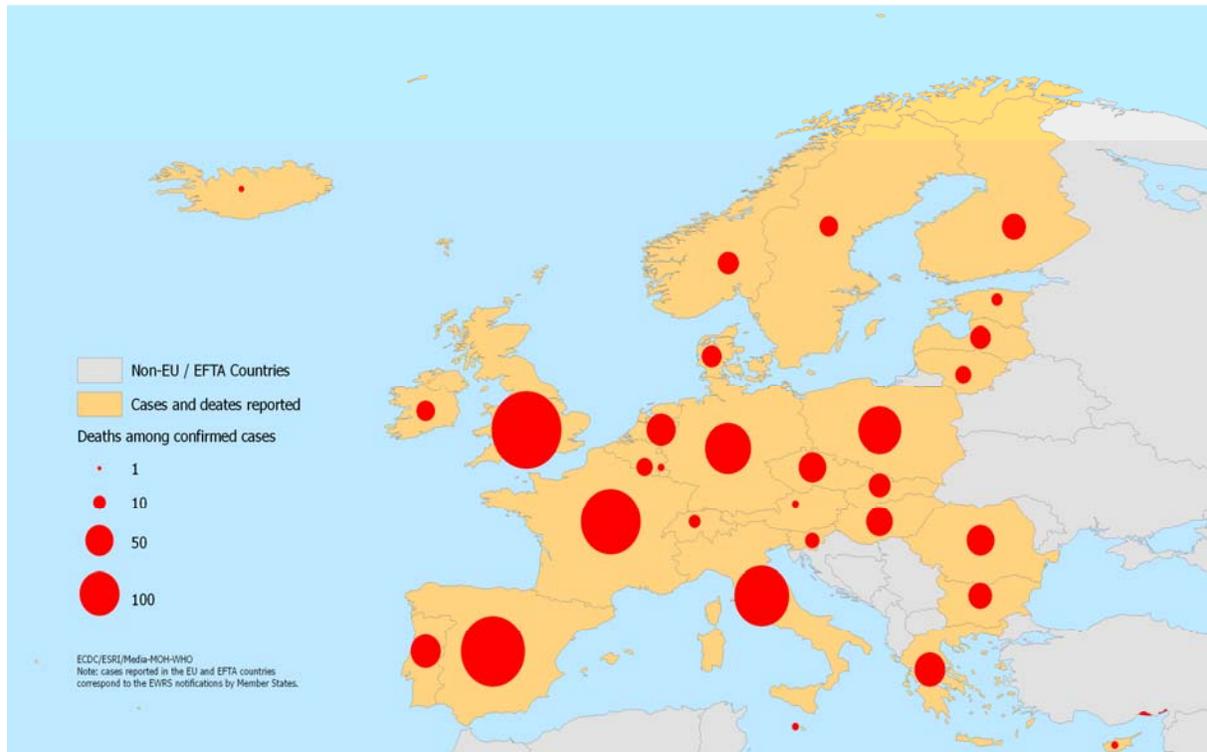


Figure 4. Reported cumulative number of confirmed fatal cases of 2009 pandemic influenza A (H1N1) and country status, by country, as of 29 December 2009, 14.00 CEST

