

WHO Representative's Office in Iraq

**Situation Report on Influenza A H1N1 Pandemic –Iraq
As of 29th December 2009**

As of 29th December 2009, 9:00 AM Baghdad time, **18** governorates (All Iraq governorates) have reported **2,884** laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 including **40** deaths. Out of the total cases **558** are members of the multinational forces. *Since 21st December, only 4 cases have been H1N1 confirmed*

Table-1: Laboratory confirmed H1N1 cases reported in Iraq

Governorate	Number of cases	Number of deaths
Baghdad	1113	11
Wassit	293	1
Basra	73	2
Babel	35	1
Kirkuk	87	1
Suleimaniyah	27	2
Kerbala	50	1
Erbil	49	1
Najaf	108	1
Thiqar	46	1
Diala	64	10
Missan	30	1
Diwaniyah	248	4
Ninewah	21	0
Salaheddin	10	0
Muthana	40	2
Anbar	27	-
Dahuk	5	1
Multinational forces	558	-
Total	2884	40

At the EMR regional level, As of 26 December 2009, 23:00 hours, Cairo time, 57,809 laboratory-confirmed cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 were reported to WHO by 22 out of 22 Member States of WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region. There are 693 related deaths from Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 reported, so far, from 19 Member States in the Region. These deaths were reported from Islamic Republic of Iran (140), Syria (110), Saudi Arabia (97), Egypt (89), Morocco (50), Iraq (40), Oman (30), Kuwait (27), Yemen (27), Palestine (23), Tunisia (15), Afghanistan (14), Jordan (10), Bahrain (7), United Arab Emirates (6), Lebanon (5), Qatar (1), Pakistan (1) and Libya (1).

As of 20th December 2009, worldwide more than 208 countries and overseas territories/communities have reported laboratory confirmed cases of pandemic influenza H1N1 2009, including at least **11,516 deaths**. As many countries have stopped counting individual cases, particularly of milder illness, the case count is likely to be significantly lower than the actual number of cases that have occurred. WHO is actively monitoring the progress of the pandemic through frequent consultations with the WHO Regional Offices and member states and through monitoring of multiple sources of data.

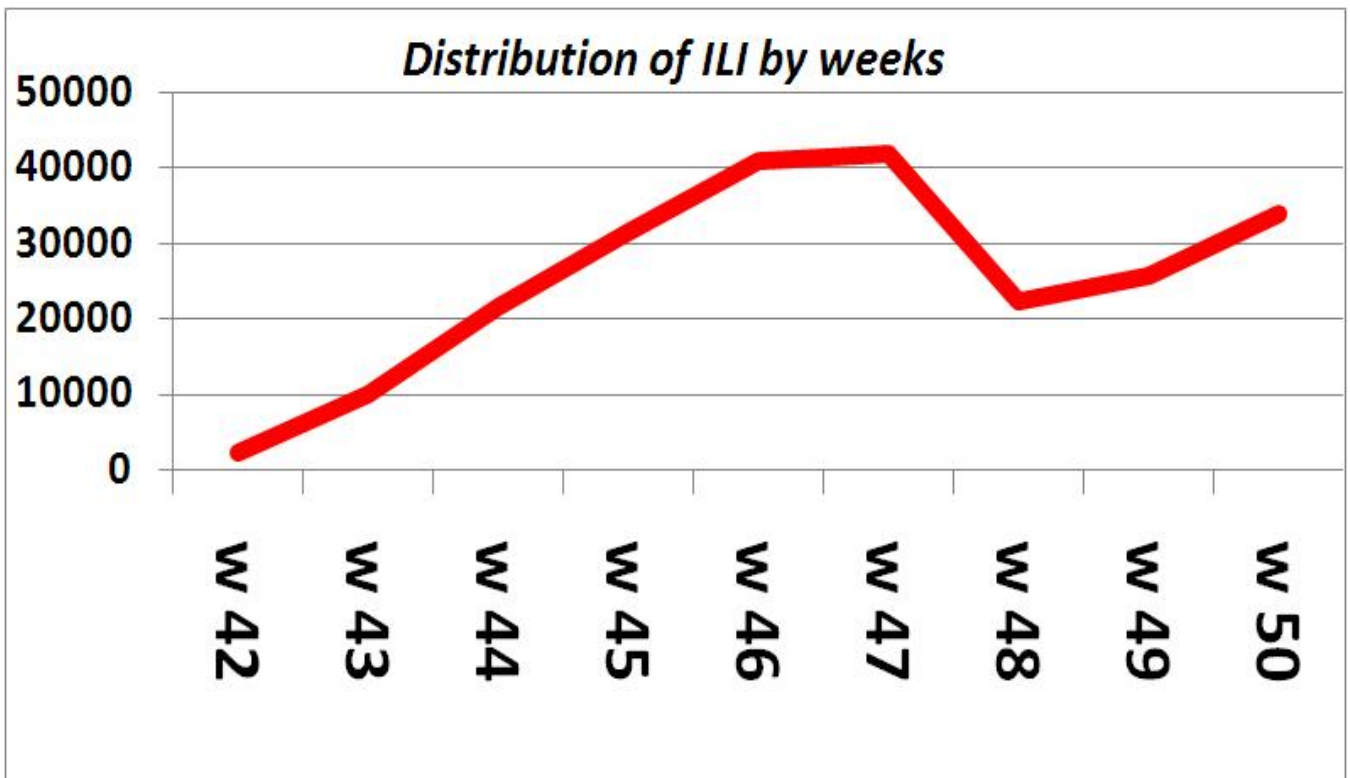
* The financial support of the European Committee and their continued follow-up is greatly acknowledged

Influenza like Illness

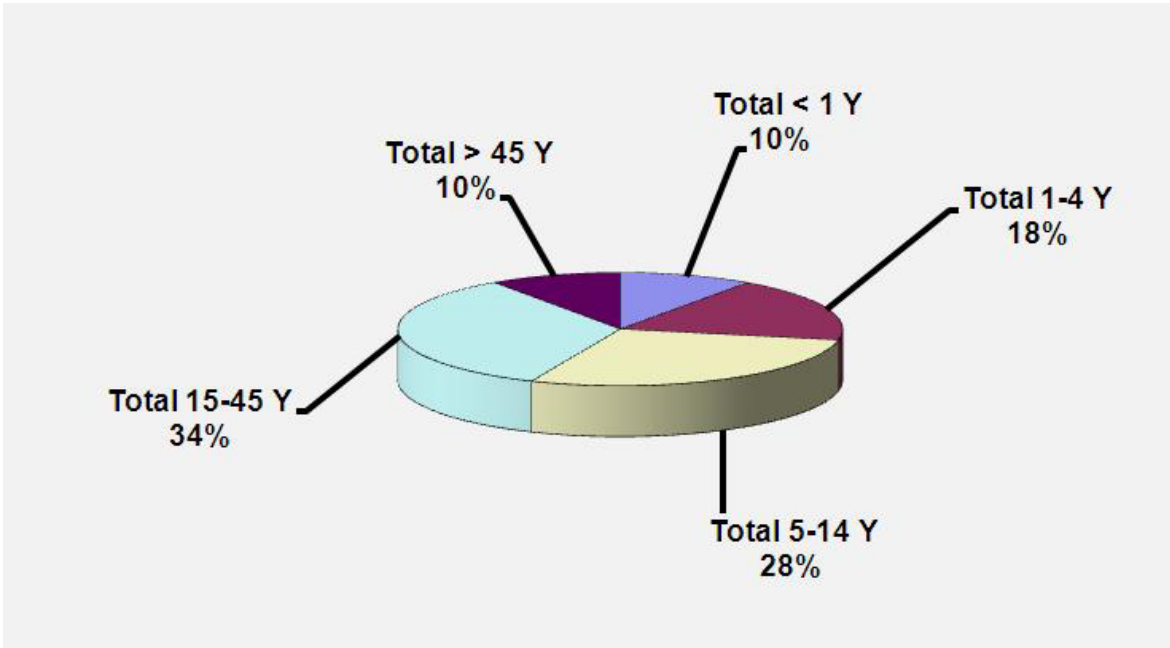
Influenza like Illness (ILI) surveillance has been started and included in the list of the weekly communicable diseases report since week 42. Reduction in the incidence of ILI has been noticed in weeks 48 and 49 in comparison with weeks 46 and 47, while in week 50, the incidence of ILI started to increase again

Table-2: Reported ILI by Directorate of Health, Iraq, week 42-50

Governorate	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	W48	W49	W50
Baghdad/Kerkh	116	983	2108	1874	2467	2190	1079	1079	1705
Baghdad/ Rasafa	NA	963	2859	2149	1184	1030	486	1068	2292
Babel	NA	NA	87	741	1329	452	189	123	309
Wassit	236	313	347	939	1184	898	490	697	674
Basra	213	752	2535	3143	2401	3243	487	1666	2490
Kirkuk	NA	189	639	1838	1792	1581	1368	1044	1262
Suleimaniyah	477	1171	2263	3548	5920	7814	6157	5540	5819
Dahuk	175	599	2387	4421	9340	7696	4483	3691	5029
Kerbala	NA	5	236	416	371	295	144	107	86
Erbil	NA	1782	2119	4575	5370	5828	2358	3375	5549
Najaf	979	1591	1941	1760	1386	1287	1171	886	970
Thi qar	NA	26	21	10	893	2429	522	1731	1299
Diala	NA	258	1310	1717	2436	1498	1014	1150	2373
Missan	17	227	501	1453	471	529	186	841	266
Diwaniyah	NA	455	881	962	2005	1960	829	452	261
Ninewah	34	350	1175	1160	1507	1525	334	1410	1061
Muthana	102	284	291	419	666	950	794	303	753
Anbar	NA	10	11	432	131	672	236	559	1690
Salaheddin	7	26	NA	23	54	61	33	13	26
Total	2,356	9,984	21,711	31,580	40,907	41,938	22,360	25,735	33914



Distribution of ILI cases according to Age



Distribution of ILI cases according to governorates



Legend - SUM_Total
1 Dot = 220

Government and Partners Response

Iraq Pandemic Influenza Strategic Plan which has been developed with full technical support from WHO has been endorsed by the High National Pandemic Influenza Committee

- ✓ Early 2009, the pandemic Influenza preparedness strategies have been updated and the operational plans of action were developed. These plans have been activated as soon as the threat of Pandemic Influenza due to H1N1 emerged;
- ✓ Influenza like illness surveillance has been activated at the national level. Following WHO guidelines, Iraq has changed the policy of testing, isolating and hospitalizing every suspected H1N1 case.
- ✓ ON 11th November, WHO Iraq Epidemiologist with other WHO Iraq team visited the CPHL in Baghdad to assess the situation on the ground and provide the needed technical advice.
- ✓ Lab capacity for testing Influenza specimens has been upgraded, the team in the CPHL have been trained on testing H1N1 specimens, an additional team will be sent to NAMRU 3/ Cairo for training. All needed supplies are available. WHO provided 60,000 tubes of Virus Transport Media. 6000 H1N1 diagnostic tests have been procured; an additional 6000 diagnostic tests are under procurement. List of other lab needs have been sent to WHO for procurement including two PCRs.
- ✓ Health education activities are on going, posters and leaflets have been distributed to all governorates, subtitles in many Iraqi channels about the community role in prevention of the disease have been broadcasted, etc. WHO is currently developing 2000 H1N1 rollup stands to be distributed to all governorates
- ✓ Stockpiles of PPEs have been developed. in addition to the PPEs provided by WHO (worth to 500,000 US\$), an additional quantities have been procured by Ministry of health, there is need for more quantities of masks N 95 and WHO started the procurement of 150,000 masks
- ✓ IOM is planning to distribute surgical masks, filtered masks, Hand washing liquid/ soap and hand disinfectants in Al-Hay/ Wassit governorate to aprox. 30,000 students at intermediary schools.
- ✓ Stockpile of Antiviral drugs have been developed in all governorates, in addition to the original stock (810,000 capsules of 75 mg), 1,500,000 capsules have been procured and distributed to the governorates, an additional quantities of 3,500,000 capsules are under procurement by MOH. The syrup for children is still under procurement, to fill the gap, WHO has procured 50,000 capsules of Oseltamivir 30 mg in addition to 10,000 capsules of 75 mg
- ✓ 4,000,000 doses of Influenza A H1N1 vaccine is under procurement. Criteria to whom the vaccine will be given has been developed
- ✓ All WHO guidelines related to case definition, case management, surveillance, lab diagnosis, infection control, Hajj, etc have been distributed to all concerned. Daily updates regarding the situation at the regional and global levels are provided to all concerned.
- ✓ Orientation activities to health workers in health facilities have been conducted. Currently WHO is supporting 23 training workshops to be conducted in all governorates in addition to 42 health education advocacy meetings which will be conducted in all governorates.
- ✓ Schools preparedness plans have been developed which clarify the policy of schools closure. According to the plan only the classes and schools which report cases should be closed. After the cases have been reported in Wassit and Thiqr, local decisions were taken to close all schools in both governorates which were not in line with the government plan and WHO advice. In Baghdad only 7 schools have been closed which have reported cases

- ✓ To strengthen the role of media and all other ministries in response to the current pandemic, two joint WHO- UNICEF H1N1 communication workshops have been conducted in Erbil between 17-23 October 2009.
- ✓ Special unit has been designated in the fever hospital in each governorate to deal with H1N1 cases
- ✓ H1N hot lines have been established
- ✓ WHO Hajj guidelines have been distributed to all concerned in Iraq. Screening for Influenza like illness is going on for pilgrims returning back to Iraq. Till 29th December, non of the Iraqi pilgrims reported for having Influenza Like Illness.