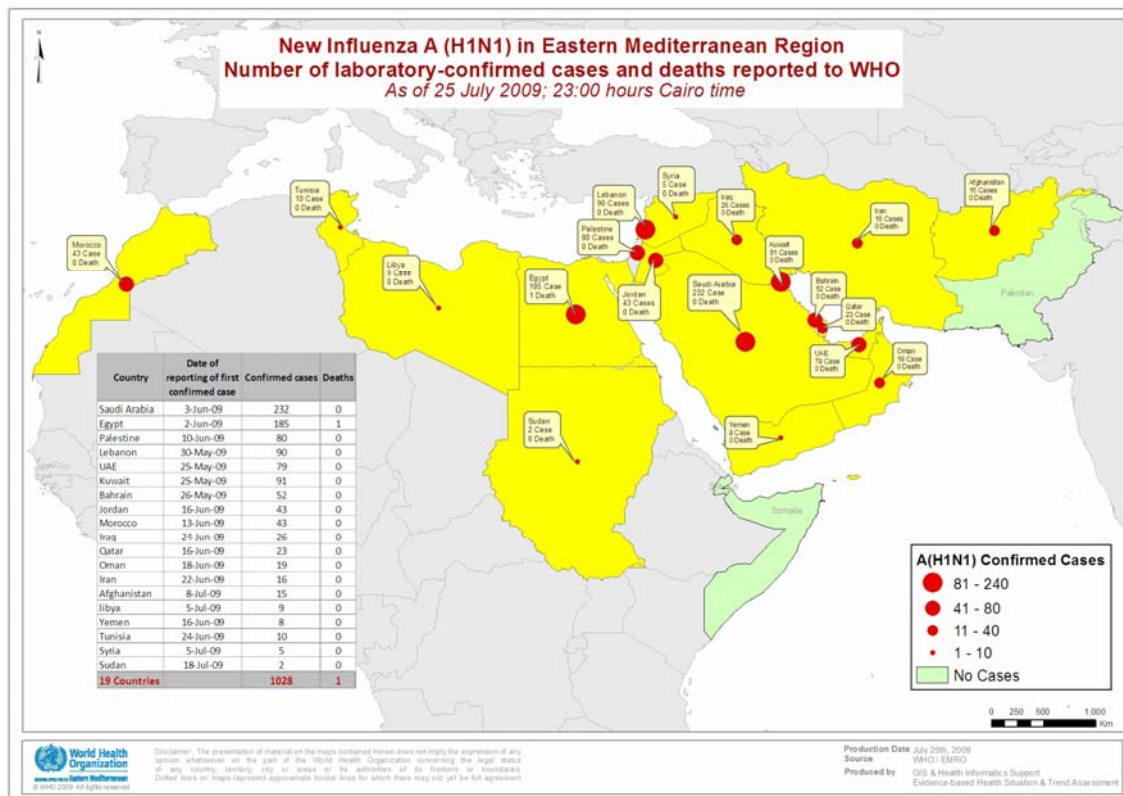


Pandemic (H1N1) 2009: WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region

Regional update no 5. Date of Reporting: 26 July 2009, 0900 hrs. Cairo Time

**Laboratory-confirmed cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection reported from EMR
As of 25 July 2009; 2300 hrs Cairo time**



1. Highlights

- The first death from pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region was reported on 19 July 2009 from Egypt;
- On 17 July 2009 Sudan became the latest Country in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region to report its first cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection. This leaves only 3 countries in the Region (Djibouti, Pakistan and Somalia) without reported cases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection;
- The first laboratory-confirmed case from the WHO-Eastern Mediterranean Region was notified in Kuwait on 25 May 2009;

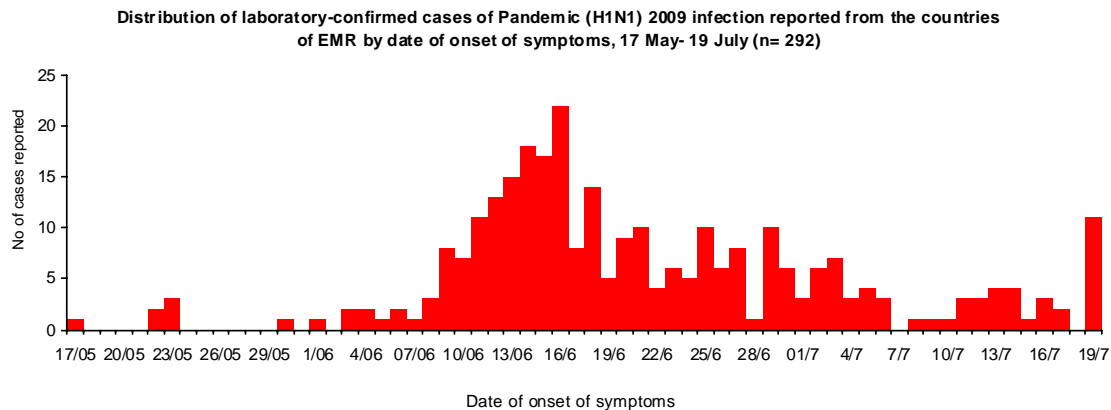
This report is based on official information provided by State Parties to WHO-EMRO. Further information available at www.emro.who.int/csr/h1n1

- Between 25 May and 25 July 2009, a total 1,028 laboratory-confirmed cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection were reported from 19 countries of WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region.
- Of the total reported cases, 766 (74.5%) cases were travel related while the remaining 262 (25.5%) cases were locally acquired (either through contact with a laboratory-confirmed case or with epidemiological link to a travel-related confirmed case);

Table 1: Laboratory-confirmed cases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection reported in the Region (As of 25 July 2009; 2300 hours Cairo time)

| Country | Date of reporting of first confirmed case | Cumulative number of reported cases | Cumulative number of reported deaths | Cumulative number of locally acquired cases |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Kuwait | 25/05/2009 | 91 | 0 | 0 |
| United Arab Emirates | 25/05/2009 | 79 | 0 | 0 |
| Bahrain | 26/05/2009 | 52 | 0 | 7 |
| Lebanon | 30/05/2009 | 90 | 0 | 9 |
| Egypt | 02/06/2009 | 185 | 1 | 5 |
| Saudi Arabia | 03/06/2009 | 232 | 0 | 192 |
| Occupied Palestinian Territory | 10/06/2009 | 80 | 0 | 34 |
| Morocco | 13/06/2009 | 43 | 0 | 3 |
| Jordan | 16/06/2009 | 43 | 0 | 3 |
| Qatar | 16/06/2009 | 23 | 0 | 4 |
| Yemen | 16/06/2009 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Oman | 18/06/2009 | 19 | 0 | 3 |
| Iran, Islamic Republic of | 22/06/2009 | 16 | 0 | 1 |
| Tunisia | 23/06/2009 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Iraq | 24/06/2009 | 26 | 0 | 0 |
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya | 04/07/2009 | 9 | 0 | 1 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 04/07/2009 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Afghanistan | 08/07/2009 | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Sudan | 17/07/2009 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 1,028 | 1 | 262 |

2. Progression of outbreak



3. Assessment of situation

Although, majority of cases reported from the countries of WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) are still travel related (74.5%), the number of locally transmitted cases and number of countries reporting locally transmitted cases are also increasing over time. Bahrain, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Occupied Palestine Territory, Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have, all, reported cases which were locally acquired or had epidemiological link to travel related laboratory-confirmed cases. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has reported the maximum number of locally acquired cases (73.3%) followed by Palestine (13%). These data should be interpreted with caution as they do not reflect the true picture of local transmission in the Region. So far, only a few countries indicate whether cases are imported or locally transmitted. None of the countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, however, reported any sustained community outbreaks of pandemic (H1N1) 2009.

4. Summary of major events of the week

A special session of the Regional Committee of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region on pandemic (H1N1) 2009 was held on 22 July 2009 at WHO-EMRO Office, Cairo, Egypt. Twenty one countries participated in this special session represented by 15 Ministers, 4 Deputy Ministers and 2 Directors. Following the technical discussions the Regional Committee approved a draft resolution directed to the Member States and the Regional Director in the form of recommendations. Key recommendations included a call to Member States to adopt and implement the public health measures recommended for Hajj and Umra by the international consultative workshop held in Jeddah from 27 to 30 June 2009, and request Saudi Arabia to translate the recommendations of the workshop into clear requirements for the Hajj and Umra this year; and other requests the Regional Director to “Form a regional technical committee comprising experts from the countries of the Region and the WHO Secretariat to study and update all information regarding the development of the pandemic and viral change, and establish appropriate criteria for measuring the severity of the infection”

5. Upcoming events:

The workshop on *“Influenza A (H1N1) Pandemic Communication Strategies: Principles, Lessons Learnt and the Way Forward”* is scheduled to be held in Cairo from 29 to 30 July 2009. This workshop is being organized by the WHO’s Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and will be participated by the communication focal points of Ministries of Health of Member States of WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, WHO Country Offices and UNRWA.

Updated behavioural interventions, communication strategies for public with regards to Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 as well as risk communication strategies for religious mass gatherings will be discussed and presented in the workshop.
