

WHO Representative's Office in Iraq

**Situation Report on Influenza A H1N1 Pandemic –Iraq
As of 15th November 2009**

As of 15th November 2009, 9:00 AM Baghdad time, **18** governorates (All Iraq governorates) have reported **1835** laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 including 9 deaths. Out of the total cases **480** are members of the multinational forces.

Table-1: Laboratory confirmed H1N1 cases reported in Iraq

Governorate	Number of cases	Number of deaths
Baghdad	808	7
Wassit	212	0
Basra	38	1
Babel	7	0
Kirkuk	49	0
Suleimaniyah	10	0
Kerbala	12	0
Erbil	12	0
Najaf	50	1
Thiqar	25	0
Diala	30	0
Missan	11	0
Diwaniyah	64	0
Ninewah	2	0
Salaheddin	2	0
Muthana	10	0
Anbar	11	0
Dahuk	2	0
Multinational forces	480	
Total	1835	9

At the EMR regional level, As of 7 November 2009, 23:00 hours, Cairo time, **25,531** laboratory-confirmed cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 were reported to WHO by 22 out of 22 Member States of WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region. Somalia has reported the first 2 cases on the beginning of November. There are **153** related deaths from Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 reported, so far, from 14 member states in the Region. These deaths were reported from Saudi Arabia (28), Oman (25), Islamic Republic of Iran (22), Kuwait (17), Yemen (17), Afghanistan (11), Iraq (9), Bahrain (6), Syria (6), Egypt (5), Jordan (3), Lebanon (2), Palestine (1), and Qatar (1).

As of 8 November 2009, worldwide more than 206 countries and overseas territories/communities have reported over **503,536** laboratory confirmed cases of pandemic influenza H1N1 2009, including at least **6,260** 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. During week 44, 18 out of the 19 DoHs were able to report.

Table-2: Reported ILI by Directorate of Health, Iraq, week 42-44

Governorate	W42	W43	W44
Baghdad/Kerkh	116	983	2108
Baghdad/ Rasafa	NA	963	2859
Babel	NA	NA	87
Wassit	236	313	347
Basra	213	752	2535
Kirkuk	NA	189	639
Suleimaniyah	477	1171	2263
Dahuk	175	599	2387
Kerbala	NA	5	236
Erbil	NA	1782	2119
Najaf	979	1591	1941
Thiqar	NA	26	21
Diala	NA	258	1310
Missan	17	227	501
Diwaniyah	NA	455	881
Ninewah	34	350	1175
Muthana	102	284	291
Anbar	NA	10	11
Salaheddin	7	26	NA
Total	2,356	9,984	21,711

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 including points of entry. Still Iraq is following the containment strategy through testing, isolating and hospitalizing every suspected H1N1 case, following up the contacts, etc. since the numbers of cases have increased, WHO has advised Iraq to revise the policy of testing, treating with Oseltamivir and hospitalizing every case, monitoring the pandemic H1N1 situation in Iraq will be achieved through the use of data delivered by the surveillance systems used to routinely monitor influenza activity, including ILI and sentinel systems. WHO Iraq Epidemiologist has conducted a meeting with the technical committee in Baghdad on the 10th of November and agreed on a new policy for testing and treating H1N1 cases.
- ✓ 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 advise.
- ✓ 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 30,000 tubes of Virus Transport Media and currently procuring additional 30,000 tubes, 2000 H1N1 diagnostic tests have been procured; an additional 4000 diagnostic tests are under procurement. List of other lab needs have been sent to WHO for procurement

- ✓ 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, 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
- ✓ 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