

H1N1 (Swine Flu) Update

May 2, 2009

This daily report is designed to provide you with current information about the swine flu, the NPS role, and how it affects our jobs and lives. For your convenience, this document summarizes both **official** (NPS and other government sources) and **non-official** (media coverage) information. It includes four sections: (1) Overview of Current Situation, (2) NPS Monitoring and Response, (3) Information from Other Official Sources, and (4) Summaries of News (National and Global).

1. Current Situation

Today's media accounts of worldwide cases of infection with the A (H1N1) influenza range between 615 to more than 650, while the official confirmed case count from World Health is 367. In the US, media is stating the CDC count for US confirmed cases today is 161, while CDC official confirmed case count as of yesterday morning stand at 141. The Education Department reports that more than 430 schools closed in 18 states as of yesterday. The government has issued new guidance for schools, suggesting that schools with confirmed cases should close for at least 14 days. The acting deputy director of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dr. Ann Schuchat, said that although experts are still concerned about the likelihood of severe cases, the majority have been "mild, self-limited illness". Furthermore, it was found that the new virus does not have similar genetic characteristics that had made the 1918 flu pandemic so severe.

2. National Park Service – Monitoring and Response

- Coordinating and communicating with federal health agencies and DOI
- Formed a Servicewide H1N1 Coordination and Response Team, led by the Emergency Services Branch and the Office of Public Health
- Providing daily updates and briefings for NPS senior staff
- Participating in daily CDC briefings with state and county health officials
- Established two websites—[intranet](#) and [public use](#)—for improving dissemination of information and guidance materials
- Assisting NPS units and regional offices in:
 - developing and/or implementing pandemic flu preparedness or response measures
 - interpreting CDC guidance documents as applicable to NPS employees, visitors, and work settings

3. Information from Other Official Sources

- (World Health Organization, 5/1/09) The situation continues to evolve. As of 23:30 GMT, 1 May 2009, 13 countries have officially reported 367 cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection.

The United States Government has reported 141 laboratory confirmed human cases, including one death. Mexico has reported 156 confirmed human cases of infection, including nine deaths. The following countries have reported laboratory confirmed cases with no deaths - Austria (1), Canada (34), China, Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region (1), Denmark (1), Germany (4),

Israel (2), Netherlands (1), New Zealand (4), Spain (13), Switzerland (1) and the United Kingdom (8).

- (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 5/1/09)

April 30, 2009 CDC TOTAL COUNTS 109 cases 1 death

U.S. Human Cases of H1N1 Flu Infection		
<i>(As of May 1, 2009, 11:00 AM ET)</i>		
States	# of laboratory confirmed cases	Deaths
Arizona	4	
California	13	
Colorado	2	
Delaware	4	
Illinois	3	
Indiana	3	
Kansas	2	
Kentucky*	1	
Massachusetts	2	
Michigan	2	
Minnesota	1	
Nebraska	1	
Nevada	1	
New Jersey	5	
New York	50	
Ohio	1	
South Carolina	16	
Texas	28	1
Virginia	2	
TOTAL (19)	141 cases	1 death
International Human Cases of Swine Flu Infection See: World Health Organization		
*Case is resident of KY but currently hospitalized in GA.		

4. Media Coverage

Worldwide Update:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) announced on Saturday a sharp increase in the number of officially reported cases of a new kind of influenza around the world, but was quick to note that the increase almost entirely reflected laboratory confirmation of suspected cases in Mexico (NY Times, 5/02/09). The WHO said that 15 countries had reported a total of 615 cases of infection with the A(H1N1) influenza virus, up from 367 cases late Friday (NY Times, 5/02/09), while the Associated Press confirmed more than 650 cases (AP, 5/02/09).
- Mexico continues a five-day shutdown in an attempt to contain the spread of the virus. Italy reported its first case, bringing the number of countries affected to 17. Five countries outside Mexico have confirmed person-to-person transmission. China is trying to stop the spread of the virus, after getting its first case on Friday. Flights from Mexico have been suspended, and fellow guests and staff at the Hong Kong hotel where he was staying have been quarantined. South Korea has also now confirmed a case of the virus (BBC, 5/02/09).
- The swine flu outbreak in Mexico may be considerably smaller than originally feared, test results released there on Friday indicate (NY Times, 5/02/09). Of 908 suspected cases that were tested, only 397 people turned out to have the virus, officially known as influenza A(H1N1), Mexican health officials reported at a news conference. Of those, 16 people have died (AP, 5/02/09). Mexico had reported about 2,500 suspected cases as of Friday, but the number of real cases could turn out to be less than half the suspected number if further testing follows the same pattern as the original round. Officials said that the tests were being done quickly, and that 500 more would be completed Friday. Health Minister Jose Angel Cordova told the BBC that, based on samples tested, the mortality rate was comparable with that of seasonal flu (BBC, 5/02/09).

US Update:

- During his weekly address on Saturday, President Obama discussed the government's response to the 2009 H1N1 flu virus, from school closings to activating online social networks. He urged Americans to be calm but cautious (White House, 5/2/09).
- Confirmed cases had risen from 109 on Thursday to 161 Friday, the CDC said, with the flu reported in about double the number of states as the 11 reported Thursday. The U.S. death toll remained at one — the Mexican toddler who visited Texas with his family and died there (AP, 5/02/09).
- The government issued new guidance for schools with confirmed cases, saying they should close for at least 14 days because children can be contagious for seven to 10 days from when they get sick. That means parents can expect to have children at home for longer than previously thought (AP, 5/02/09).
- The Education Department said that more than 430 schools had closed, affecting about 245,000 children in 18 states. That was about 100 more schools reported closed than reported on Thursday (AP, 5/02/09). The closure total was up more than 40 percent from Thursday. Federal

officials said they expect a further increase and encouraged teachers to prepare materials to send home with students (Washington Post, 5/02/09).

- Though most U.S. cases have been relatively mild and have not required a doctor's visit, U.S. precautions include shipping millions of doses of anti-flu drugs to states in case they're needed, replenishing the U.S. strategic stockpile with millions more treatment courses, and shipping 400,000 treatment courses to Mexico (AP, 5/02/09).
- Dr Anne Schuchat, acting deputy director of America's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said that although experts were concerned about the possibility of severe cases, the majority so far had been "mild, self-limited illness". The new virus lacked the traits that made the 1918 flu pandemic so deadly, another CDC official said (BBC, 5/02/09).