

H1N1 (Swine Flu) Update

May 5, 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 influenza A (H1N1) report the total nearing 1,000 cases, while the official confirmed case count from World Health is 1124 in 21 different countries. Portugal has been added to the list today as a new country reporting a confirmed case (1 case). In the US, both the media and CDC confirmed case count is at 286. The media is also reporting numerous school closures across the nation.

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, 5/4/09) The situation continues to evolve. As of 06:00 GMT, 5 May 2009, 21 countries have officially reported 1124 cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection. Portugal has been added to the list as a new country reporting one confirmed case.
- Mexico's numbers are unchanged today and reports 590 laboratory confirmed human cases of infection, including 25 deaths. The higher number of cases from Mexico reflects ongoing testing of previously collected specimens.
- The following countries have reported laboratory confirmed cases with no deaths - Austria (1), Canada (140), China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (1), Costa Rica (1), Colombia (1), Denmark (1), El Salvador (2), France (4), Germany (8), Ireland (1), Israel (4), Italy (2), Netherlands (1), New Zealand (6), **Portugal (1)**, Republic of Korea (1), Spain (54), Switzerland (1) and the United Kingdom (18).
- The following table from (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 5/4/09) summarizes the state-by-state breakdown of confirmed cases.

May 3, 2009 CDC TOTAL **226** **1**
COUNTS **cases** **death**

U.S. Human Cases of H1N1 Flu Infection

(As of May 4, 2009, 11:00 AM ET)

States	# of laboratory confirmed cases	Deaths
Alabama	4	
Arizona	17	
California	30	
Colorado	7	
Connecticut	2	
Delaware	20	
Florida	5	
Idaho	1	
Illinois	8	
Indiana	3	
Iowa	1	
Kansas	2	
Kentucky*	1	
Louisiana	7	
Maryland	4	
Massachusetts	6	
Michigan	2	
Minnesota	1	
Missouri	1	
Nebraska	1	
Nevada	1	
New Hampshire	1	
New Jersey	7	
New Mexico	1	
New York	73	
North Carolina	1	
Ohio	3	
Oregon	3	
Pennsylvania	1	
Rhode Island	1	
South Carolina	15	
Tennessee	1	

Texas	41	1
Utah	1	
Virginia	3	
Wisconsin	3	
TOTAL (36)	279 cases	1 death

4. Media Coverage

Worldwide Update:

- Authorities are confining over 50 Mexicans to hotels and other sites, fearing the spread of the H1N1 flu, an official at the Mexican embassy in Beijing said on Sunday, adding only one had symptoms of the flu. (Reuters, 5/3/09). This situation remains unchanged as of this morning (5/5/09).
- WHO has no immediate plans to raise the worldwide alert level to the highest level, Phase 6. That designation would mean "that we are seeing continued spread of the virus to countries outside of one region," Assistant Director-General Keiji Fukuda said. (CNN, 5/4/09)
- WHO started distributing 2.4 million doses of a common anti-viral drug to 72 nations. (CNN, 5/4/09)
- But the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned against complacency. WHO Chief Margaret Chan said the real test would come when the winter influenza season hits countries. "We hope the virus fizzles out, because if it doesn't we are heading for a big outbreak," she told the UK's Financial Times. (BBC, 5/4/09)

US Update:

- Some U.S. media reports continue to focus on the fact that the virus appears to lack severe virulence and that the response and threat may have been overblown. CDC officials are now stating that closing schools is not an effective method of preventing the spread of Influenza A H1N1 virus "Closing schools is not effective" in halting the spread of the virus, said Dr. Richard E. Besser, acting director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (N.Y. Times 5/5/09)
- However, however that message is balanced by the fact the number of confirmed cases continues to steadily grow and is fully expected to eventually impact all states. Probable cases in the U.S. are up to 700 affecting 44 different states. 99% of probable cases have eventually been confirmed so the evidence indicates that the spread is continuing. CDC is cautiously optimistic but still emphasizes that it is not time to become complacent. The virus could come back worse when temperatures cool in the fall. "I think specifically we're viewing this incidence, this flu outbreak as a possible precursor to a subsequent outbreak in the fall," Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano told reporters later. (Reuters, 5/5/09).
- The U.S. government expects to have flu vaccines ready for both the new strain of the H1N1 virus and the seasonal flu by autumn, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said on Sunday. (Reuters, 5/3/09)
- As the number of swine flu cases rises around the world, so is a gradual backlash -- with some saying the threat the virus poses is overblown. "We have people without symptoms going into the emergency rooms asking to be screened for swine flu at the expense of people with real illness," said Cathy Gichema, a nurse in Pikesville, Maryland. "Schools are being shut for probable causes -- sending these kids congregating to the malls. How is that helping?" Gichema said. (CNN, 5/4/09)