

H1N1 (Swine Flu) Update

May 8, 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

Although cases in the world (WHO is reporting 2,384 cases in 24 countries today) and US (CDC is reporting 896 cases in 41 states today) are increasing daily, severity of the H1N1 has not increased. Even though it is anticipated that the H1N1 may be winding down, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano cautions that the flu may come back in the fall. Scientists and public health officials will be observing the Southern Hemisphere when they start their flu season for clues as to what may happen in the Northern Hemisphere in the fall. Genetic mixing of the swine flu with the current seasonal flu viruses and with H5N1 is a concern that scientists have expressed and are considering the possibilities.

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-- As of 06:00 GMT, 8 May 2009, 24 countries (with Poland reporting its first case) have officially reported 2384 cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection. Mexico has reported 1112 laboratory confirmed human cases of infection, including 42 deaths. The United States has reported 896 laboratory confirmed human cases, including two deaths. The following countries have reported laboratory confirmed cases with no deaths - Austria (1), Canada (214), China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (1), Colombia (1), Costa Rica (1), Denmark (1), El Salvador (2), France (5), Germany (10), Guatemala (1), Ireland (1), Israel (6), Italy (5), Netherlands (2), New Zealand (5), **Poland (1)**, Portugal (1), Republic of Korea (3), Spain (81), Sweden (1), Switzerland (1) and the United Kingdom (32). WHO is not recommending travel restrictions related to the outbreak of the influenza A(H1N1) virus. Individuals who are ill should delay travel plans and returning travelers who fall ill should

seek appropriate medical care. These recommendations are prudent measures which can limit the spread of many communicable diseases, including influenza.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

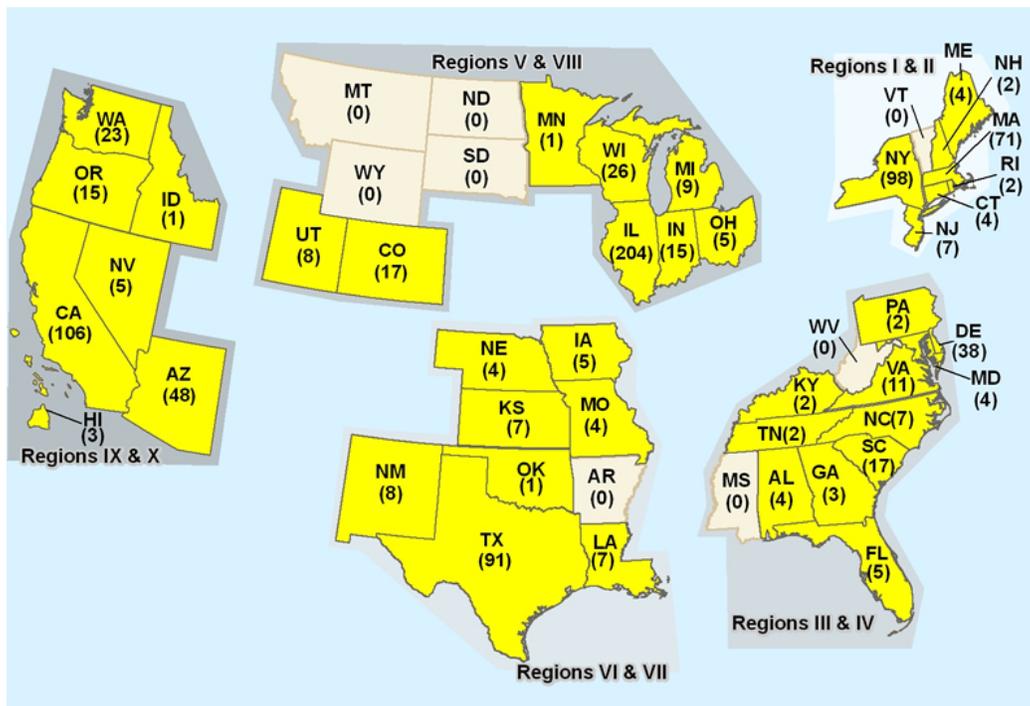
| U.S. Human Cases of H1N1 Flu Infection | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| <small>(As of May 7, 2009, 11:00 AM ET)</small> | | |
| States | Laboratory confirmed cases | Deaths |
| Alabama | 4 | |
| Arizona | 48 | |
| California | 106 | |
| Colorado | 17 | |
| Connecticut | 4 | |
| Delaware | 38 | |
| Florida | 5 | |
| Georgia | 3 | |
| Hawaii | 3 | |
| Idaho | 1 | |
| Illinois | 204 | |
| Indiana | 15 | |
| Iowa | 5 | |
| Kansas | 7 | |
| Kentucky* | 2 | |
| Louisiana | 7 | |
| Maine | 4 | |
| Maryland | 4 | |
| Massachusetts | 71 | |
| Michigan | 9 | |
| Minnesota | 1 | |
| Missouri | 4 | |
| Nebraska | 4 | |
| Nevada | 5 | |
| New Hampshire | 2 | |
| New Jersey | 7 | |
| New Mexico | 8 | |
| New York | 98 | |

| | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------|
| North Carolina | 7 | |
| Ohio | 5 | |
| Oklahoma | 1 | |
| Oregon | 15 | |
| Pennsylvania | 2 | |
| Rhode Island | 2 | |
| South Carolina | 17 | |
| Tennessee | 2 | |
| Texas | 91 | 2 |
| Utah | 8 | |
| Virginia | 11 | |
| Washington | 23 | |
| Wisconsin | 26 | |
| TOTAL (41) | 896 cases | 2 deaths |
| TOTAL (41) | 642 cases | |
| <p>May 6 confirmed cases</p> <p>International Human Cases of Swine Flu Infection See: World Health Organization</p> <p>*Case is resident of KY but currently hospitalized in GA.</p> <p>NOTE: Because of daily reporting deadlines, the state totals reported by CDC may not always be consistent with those reported by state health departments. If there is a discrepancy between these two counts, data from the state health departments should be used as the most accurate number.</p> | | |

CDC H1N1 Flu Update: U.S. Human Cases of H1N1 Flu Infection

Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Cases by HHS Joint Field Office Coordination Groups
May 7, 2009, 11:00 AM ET

896 Confirmed Cases in 41 States



4. Media Coverage

Worldwide Update:

- There are two reasons to think the 2009 H1N1 outbreak will wind down in the coming weeks. First, cases of influenza tend to dwindle when the weather gets warmer. Second, the 2009 H1N1 virus outbreak in Mexico has reached its peak, and numbers there are going down. It is expected that same pattern could happen in the United States. (CNN, 5/7/09)
- Scientists are unsure the likelihood of H1N1 and H5N1 (bird flu) mixing, but note that the new swine flu strain - a never-before-seen mixture of pig, human and bird viruses - has shown itself to be especially adept at snatching evolutionarily advantageous genetic material from other flu viruses. "This particular virus seems to have this unique ability to pick up other genes," said

leading virologist Dr. Robert Webster, whose team discovered an ancestor of the current flu virus at a North Carolina pig farm in 1998. The current swine flu strain has sickened more than 2,300 people in 24 countries. While people can catch bird flu from birds, the bird flu virus does not easily jump from person to person. It has killed at least 258 people worldwide since it began to ravage poultry stocks in Asia in late 2003. Malik Peiris, a flu expert at Hong Kong University, said the more immediate worry is that swine flu will mix with regular flu viruses, as flu season begins in the Southern Hemisphere. It is unclear what such a combination would produce. But he said there are indications that scenario is possible. Peiris noted that the swine flu virus jumped from a farm worker in Canada and infected about 220 pigs. The worker and the pigs recovered, but the incident showed how easily the virus can leap to a different species. (Washington Post, 5/8/09)

- Asian countries will increase stockpiles of medicine to fight the H1N1 flu virus and look at ways to share essential supplies in the event of an emergency, according to a statement drafted for a meeting Friday. Health ministers from the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) plus China, Japan and South Korea will intensify cross-border cooperation and establish joint response teams to fight the spread of the virus, also known as swine flu. According to the statement, the ministers were concerned that most of the production capacity for vaccines was located in North America and Europe and it was inadequate for a global pandemic. (Washington Post, 5/8/09)

US Update:

- "H1N1 flu could die down soon and return later again this fall when the flu season enters back in full swing," says Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano. "This is always a concern with a new strain of a flu virus." Napolitano adds that public health officials will be keeping a close eye on the Southern Hemisphere, where flu season starts soon. "We'll be working very closely with the international community to understand what happens to this virus over the next few months as flu season begins in the Southern Hemisphere," she says. "That will tell us a lot about whether the virus is changing, whether it's becoming more severe and what measures we might want to take in the fall." (CNN, 5/7/09).
- Scientists are already working on a vaccine for 2009 H1N1. Making a new vaccine takes five to six months, according to the World Health Organization. The first step is for government scientists to grow "seed stock" of the virus to send to pharmaceutical companies, who would turn that stock into a vaccine. Pilot lots of the vaccine would then be tested on people. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases alerted its eight vaccine testing centers to be ready to test a 2009 H1N1 vaccine. Public health officials have emphasized that even if a vaccine is available by fall, it doesn't mean everyone will be encouraged to get it. Dr. Ted Cohen, an assistant professor of epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health, comments that if the vaccine is available only in limited quantities, priority might be given to health care workers and to those at high risk of complications from the flu, such as the elderly, the very young and those with certain chronic diseases. (CNN, 5/7/09)