

# H1N1 (Swine Flu) Update

## May 13, 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 the media is reporting that 33 countries have a total of 5,916 confirmed flu cases (World Health Organization (WHO) is reporting 5,728 cases) while the US has a total of 3,009 confirmed cases in 45 states (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported the same number). The World Health Organization is encouraging that antiviral drugs be given to only high risk patients to make sure that supplies are available if the virus mutates and becomes more virulent. In the US, CDC is encouraging that pregnant should be given Tamiflu if the patient has flu symptoms and history of contact with someone who has swine flu. The CDC and WHO state that case histories from Mexico and the US indicate that pregnancy is an emerging risk factor that may be even greater than asthma, diabetes, immunosuppression, and cardiovascular disease, warranting prompt treatment, even if risks to the fetus are unknown. Dr. Anne Schuchat of the CDC comments, "We really want to get the word out about the likely benefits of prompt antiviral treatment" for pregnant women, she said

### 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 weekly updates and briefings for NPS senior staff
- Participating in 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-- 13 May 2009 -- As of 06:00 GMT, 13 May 2009, 33 countries have officially reported 5728 cases of influenza A(H1N1) infection. Mexico has reported 2059 laboratory confirmed human cases of infection, including 56 deaths. The United States has reported 3009 laboratory confirmed human cases, including

three deaths. Canada has reported 358 laboratory confirmed human cases, including one death. Costa Rica has reported eight laboratory confirmed human cases, including one death.

The following countries have reported laboratory confirmed cases with no deaths - Argentina (1), Australia (1), Austria (1), Brazil (8), China (3, comprising 1 in China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and 2 in mainland China), Colombia (6), Cuba (1), Denmark (1), El Salvador (4), Finland (2), France (13), Germany (12), Guatemala (3), Ireland (1), Israel (7), Italy (9), Japan (4), Netherlands (3), New Zealand (7), Norway (2), Panama (29), Poland (1), Portugal (1), Republic of Korea (3), Spain (98), Sweden (2), Switzerland (1), Thailand (2), and the United Kingdom (68).

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		
(As of May 12, 2009, 11:00 AM ET)		
States*	Laboratory confirmed cases	Deaths
Alabama	9	
Arizona	187	
California	193	
Colorado	44	
Connecticut	28	
Delaware	45	
Florida	55	
Georgia	4	
Hawaii	6	
Idaho	2	
Illinois	554	
Indiana	61	
Iowa	55	
Kansas	22	
Kentucky**	10	

Louisiana	20	
Maine	6	
Maryland	23	
Massachusetts	107	
Michigan	133	
Minnesota	24	
Missouri	14	
Montana	1	
Nebraska	19	
Nevada	12	
New Hampshire	16	
New Jersey	7	
New Mexico	30	
New York	192	
North Carolina	11	
Ohio	7	
Oklahoma	14	
Oregon	74	
Pennsylvania	17	
Rhode Island	7	
South Carolina	32	
South Dakota	3	
Tennessee	54	
Texas	206	2
Utah	67	
Vermont	1	
Virginia	17	
Washington	176	1
Washington, D.C.	7	
Wisconsin	437	

<b>TOTAL*(45)</b>	<b>3009 cases</b>	<b>3 deaths</b>
<b>May 7 Confirmed Cases TOTAL (41) 896 cases 2 deaths</b>		

International Human Cases of Swine Flu Infection  
 See: [World Health Organization](#)

\*includes the District of Columbia

\*\*one case is resident of KY but currently hospitalized in GA.

**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.

---

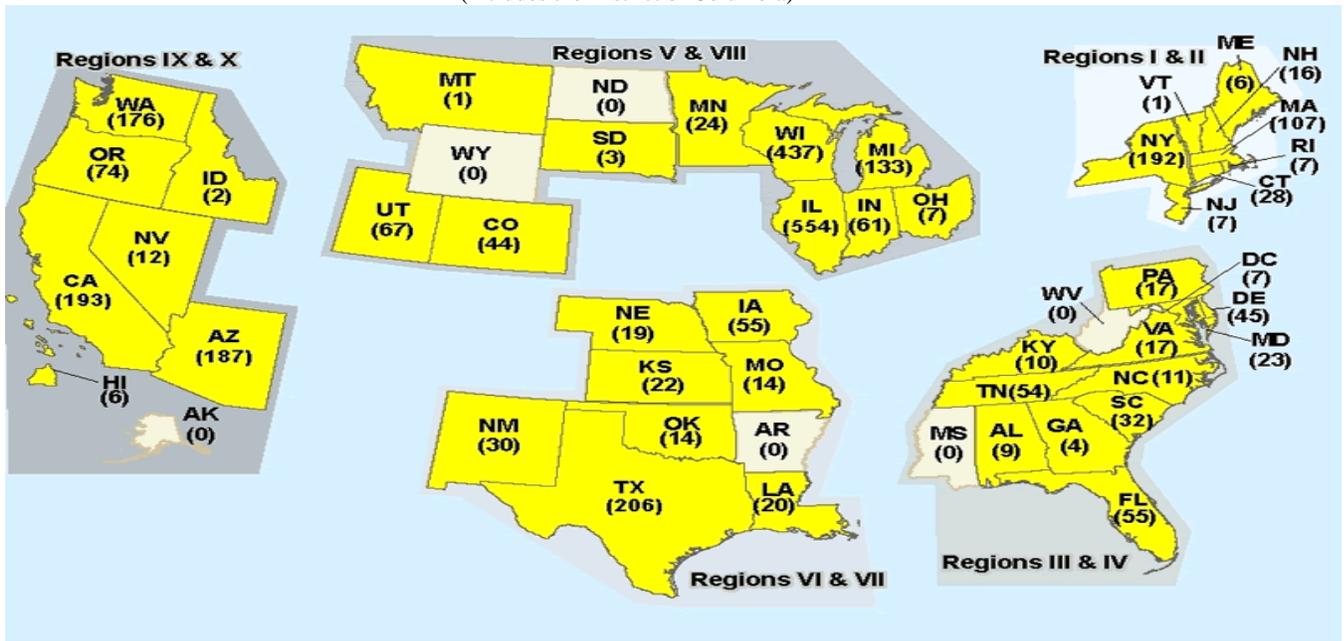
## CDC H1N1 Flu Update: U.S. Human Cases of H1N1 Flu Infection

---

Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Cases by HHS Joint Field Office Coordination Groups  
May 12, 2009, 11:00 AM ET

### 3,009 Confirmed Cases in 45 States

(includes the District of Columbia)



## 4. Media Coverage

Worldwide Update:

- (BBC, 5/13/09)



- Many people suffering from swine influenza, even those who are severely ill, do not have fever, an odd feature of the new virus that could increase the difficulty of controlling the epidemic, said a leading American infectious-disease expert who examined cases in Mexico last week. Fever is a hallmark of influenza, often rising abruptly to 104 degrees at the onset of illness. Because many infectious-disease experts consider fever the most important sign of the disease, the presence of fever is a critical part of screening patients. But about a third of the patients at two hospitals in Mexico City where the American expert, Dr. Richard P. Wenzel, consulted for four days last week had no fever when screened, he said (NY Times, 5/13/09).
- With swine flu still spreading, the U.N. health agency is warning countries to limit their use of antiviral drugs to only high-risk patients to ensure adequate supplies in case the virus should mutate and become more dangerous. The World Health Organization said Tuesday that antiviral drugs should be given to only patients most at risk. Its comments appeared aimed at European countries, which have been using antiviral drugs such as Tamiflu and Relenza much more aggressively than the U.S. and Mexico, administering them whenever possible in an attempt to contain the virus before it spreads more widely. A WHO medical expert, Dr. Nikki Shindo, said the U.N. agency thinks antivirals should be targeted mainly at people already suffering from other diseases or complications \_ such as pregnancy \_ that can lower a body's defenses against flu (Washington Post, 5/13/09).
- Three more nations - Cuba, Thailand and Finland - reported their first confirmed swine flu cases, all in people who had traveled to Mexico (Washington Post, 5/13/09).
- There are now 33 countries reporting an estimated total of 5,916 confirmed swine flu cases, including 3,009 in 45 U.S. states, 2,282 in Mexico and 358 in Canada. The death total is relatively low -63, of which 58 were in Mexico, three in the U.S., one in Canada and one in Costa Rica (Washington Post, 5/13/09).
- Mainland China reported its first case of swine flu on May 11-- a 30-year-old man "currently enrolled in a university in the United States," the country's ministry of health said; China's first

case of swine flu came last week in Hong Kong, a region that has a special legal status and that the WHO lists as a separate country in its H1N1 statistics (CNN, 5/11/09).

- Britain's health secretary announced Friday that his country's Health Protection Agency had sequenced the full genetic code of the H1N1 virus, the first step in producing a European prototype of a swine flu vaccine. "This is critical in understanding how the virus operates and identifying the crucial parts of the virus that can be used in vaccine manufacture," said a statement from the agency (CNN, 5/09/09).

#### US Update:

- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said pregnant women in particular should take the drugs if they are diagnosed with swine flu, even though the effects on the fetus are not completely known. Pregnant women are more likely to suffer pneumonia when they catch flu, and flu infections have raised the risk of premature birth in past flu epidemics. A pregnant Texas woman who had swine flu died last week, and at least 20 other pregnant women have swine flu, including some with severe complications. For all these reasons, risks from the virus are greater than the unknown risks to the fetus from Tamiflu and Relenza, said Dr. Anne Schuchat of the CDC. "We really want to get the word out about the likely benefits of prompt antiviral treatment" for pregnant women, she said (Washington Post, 5/13/09). Additionally, because a positive test for the new H1N1 flu can take days, the agency said, Tamiflu should be given to any pregnant patient with flu symptoms and a history of likely contact with someone else with swine flu. "If I'm thinking influenza — the classic symptoms, febrile, aching all over, came on all of a sudden — and this flu is in the community, and I'd otherwise give the patient Tamiflu if she wasn't pregnant, we're saying, 'Don't delay because she's pregnant,'" said Dr. Denise Jamieson, a C.D.C. medical officer. "At that point, the benefit of giving Tamiflu outweighs the risk." Tamiflu is not normally recommended for use by pregnant women because the effects on the unborn child are unknown, according to its maker, Roche. The C.D.C. and the World Health Organization said case histories in Mexico and the United States suggested that pregnancy was emerging as a risk factor rivaling asthma, diabetes, immunosuppression and cardiovascular disease (NY Times, 5/13/09).
- CDC officials said that while the swine flu may seem mild now, there is a danger the virus will mutate into something more dangerous, perhaps by combining with the more deadly but less easily spread bird flu virus circulating in Asia and Africa. Another concern is that it will combine with the northern winter's seasonal H1N1 virus. While not unusually virulent, it was resistant to Tamiflu, and health officials worry it could make the new swine flu resistant to Tamiflu as well (Washington Post, 5/13/09).
- In Mexico's Baja California state, on the U.S. border, 5,689 children were turned away from schools when classes resumed Monday because they had symptoms like runny noses, headaches or sore throats, the state education department reported Tuesday (Washington Post, 5/13/09).

- The US has reported its third death from swine flu, as Costa Rica confirmed a fatality and three more countries found cases of the virus. A man with a heart condition who died in the US state of Washington was found to have the virus, officials said. In the US, health officials said that the man in his 30s who died in Washington state last week had a heart condition (BBC, 5/10/09).
- In the US, the number of confirmed cases rose to 2,254 on Saturday - up from 1,639 a day earlier. Of these, 104 people were in hospital, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said. CDC official Dr Anne Schuchat said that it was more important to focus on trends than numbers. "Fortunately, the severity of illness that we are seeing at this point doesn't look as terrible as a category five kind of pandemic or the severity of impact that some had feared," she said. But viruses were unpredictable, she said, and it was important to focus on how the virus was spreading and how it developed in the southern hemisphere, which was just beginning its flu season. "So a lot of our emphasis ... is still understanding the epidemiology transmission, severity and viral characteristics, but also working with partners internationally to really prepare and evaluate issues in their countries," she said (BBC, 5/10/09).