

# H1N1 (Swine Flu) Update

## June 10, 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

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced again yesterday that they are very close to declaring the first influenza pandemic in more than 40 years but are waiting for countries to prepare themselves for a possible public panic. "The situation has really evolved a lot over the past several days. We are getting really very close to knowing that we are in a pandemic situation, or I think, declaring that we are in a pandemic situation," Keiji Fukuda, acting WHO assistant director-general, told a teleconference. Also, WHO along with other health experts are closely monitoring the impact of H1N1 influenza infections on Canada's Inuit population after reports from the community have indicated that a disproportionate share of cases amongst the young Inuit population have developed serious illness resulting in hospitalization. In the US, President Obama has been seeking funds from various sources to combat H1N1 swine flu (\$4 billion) and to help finance the production of the swine flu vaccine (\$9 billion).

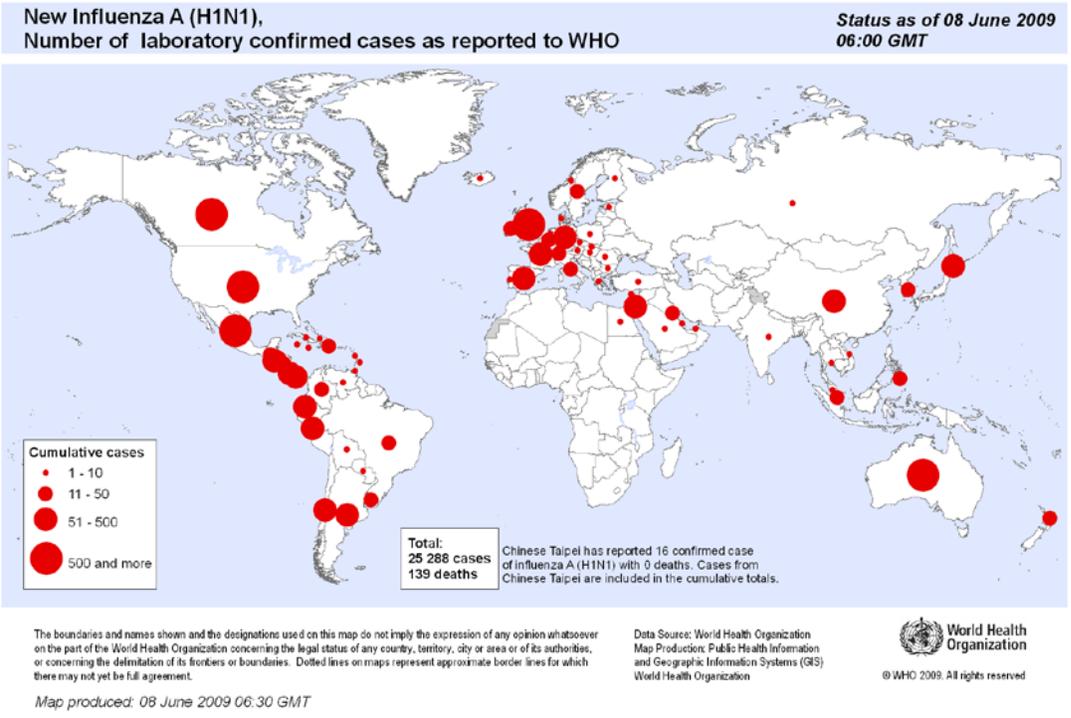
### 2. National Park Service – Monitoring and Response

- 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 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

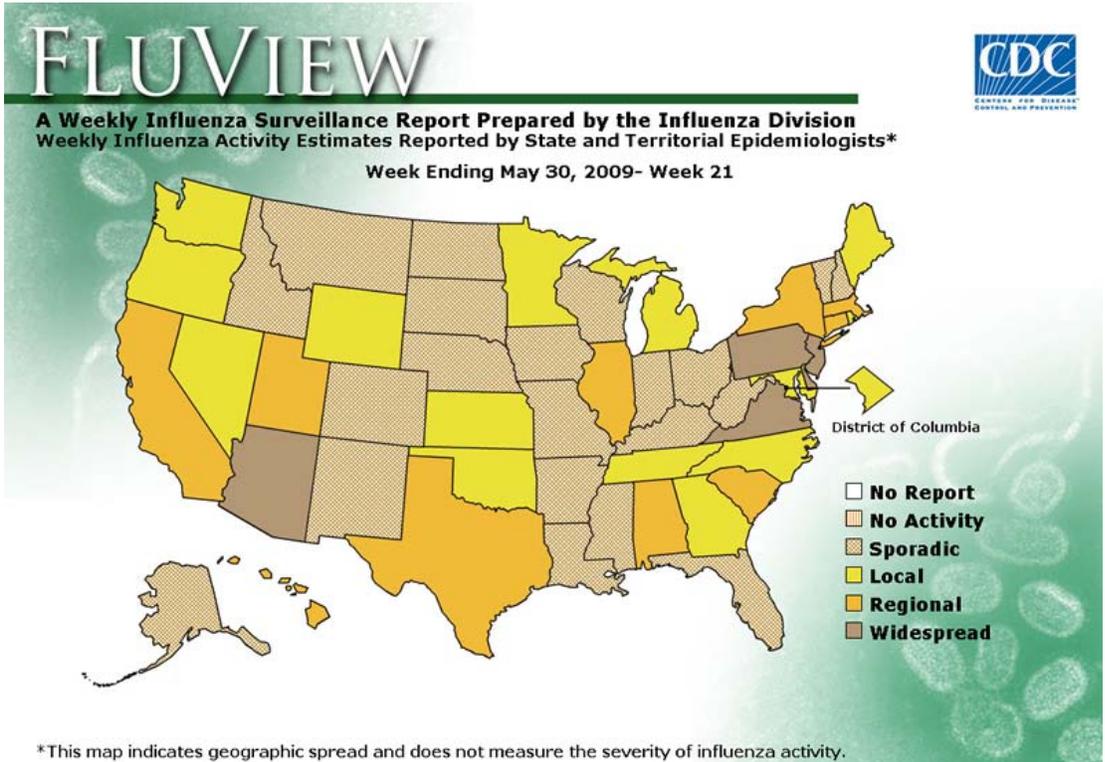
### 3. Information from Other Official Sources

- World Health Organization 8 June 2009 -- As of 06:00 GMT, 8 June 2009, 73 countries (up from 66 countries reported on June 3) have officially reported 25,288 cases (up from 19,273 cases

reported June 3) of influenza A (H1N1) infection, including 139 deaths (up from 117 deaths reported June 3).



- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



**Table. U.S. Human Cases of H1N1 Flu Infection**

Web page updated June 5, 2009,

11:00 AM ET (Updated each Friday)

Data reported to CDC by June 4, 2009, 5:00 PM ET

States and Territories*	<u>Confirmed and Probable Cases</u>	Deaths
<b>STATES</b>		
Alabama	94	
Alaska	3	
Arkansas	9	
Arizona	547	4
California	973	
Colorado	75	
Connecticut	395	1
Delaware	142	
Florida	247	
Georgia	33	
Hawaii	115	
Idaho	16	
Illinois	1357	5
Indiana	173	
Iowa	92	
Kansas	92	
Kentucky	96	
Louisiana	134	
Maine	17	
Maryland	89	
Massachusetts	787	
Michigan	298	1
Minnesota	82	
Mississippi	40	
Missouri	46	1
Montana	15	
Nebraska	60	
Nevada	128	
New Hampshire	64	
New Jersey	148	
New Mexico	108	
New York	858	8
North Carolina	30	

North Dakota	23	
Ohio	35	
Oklahoma	93	
Oregon	167	
Pennsylvania	299	
Rhode Island	18	
South Carolina	60	
South Dakota	10	
Tennessee	104	
Texas	1670	3
Utah	461	2
Vermont	9	
Virginia	55	1
Washington	577	1
Washington, D.C.	24	
West Virginia	6	
Wisconsin	2217	
Wyoming	25	

**TERRITORIES**

Puerto Rico	1	
<b>TOTAL*(52)</b>	<b>13,217 cases</b>	<b>27 deaths</b>

<b>May 28 TOTAL*(51)</b>	<b>10,053 cases</b>	<b>17 deaths</b>
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\*includes the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico

This table will be updated each Friday at 11 AM ET.

International Human Cases of H1N1 Flu Infection

See: [World Health Organization](#).

**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.

For more information about how these case counts are updated, see [Questions & Answers About CDC's Online Reporting](#).

## 4. Media Coverage

### General:

- The new virus has been described as “a real mutt” by Walter R. Dowdle, the former chief of virology for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, because of its unique mix of Eurasian and American swine, human and bird genes. Flu chromosomes are quite simple — eight short strands of RNA that issue the genetic code for a grand total of 11 proteins. They break apart in a jumble inside cells they infect, and then they reassemble, picking up random bits of other flus, which makes the results unpredictable. The current swine flu strain lacks several genes believed to increase lethality, including those that code for two proteins known as PB1-F2 and NS-1, and one that codes for a tongue-twister called the polybasic hemagglutinin cleavage site. PB1-F2 appears to weaken the protective membrane of the energy-producing mitochondria in an infected cell, ultimately killing the cell. Specifically, it attacks dendritic cells, the sentinels of the immune system. Its lethality could be accidental — a protein good at killing sentries might just go on killing other cells once inside the fort. All pandemic flus, including those of the Spanish, Hong Kong and Asian flus, make PB1-F2. So does the H5N1 bird flu. The current swine strain does not. (NY Times, 6/8/09).

### Worldwide Update:

- An official from the World Health Organization (WHO) said today that health experts are closely monitoring novel H1N1 influenza infections in Canada's Inuit populations, following reports that the communities are seeing more than their share of severe cases. Keiji Fukuda, MD, told reporters at a press briefing, "We can say now that we know a larger number than expected of young Inuit people developed serious illnesses and had to get hospitalized." He added that the WHO doesn't know if the trend is linked to socioeconomic factors, genetic factors, or chronic underlying diseases, and commented that Inuit groups were hit hard in some earlier pandemics. Fukuda is the WHO's assistant director-general for health security and the environment. Yesterday, Joel Kettner, MD, Manitoba's chief medical officer, told reporters that 26 people were being treated in intensive care units for suspected novel influenza infections, which is unusual for an influenza outbreak, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) reported. He said more than half of the patients are of aboriginal descent, with an average age of 35 (CIDRAP News, 6/9/09).
- The World Health Organization (WHO) is on the verge of declaring the first influenza pandemic in more than 40 years, but wants to ensure countries are well prepared to prevent a panic, its top flu expert said on Tuesday. "The situation has really evolved a lot over the past several days. We are getting really very close to knowing that we are in a pandemic situation, or I think, declaring that we are in a pandemic situation," Keiji Fukuda, acting WHO assistant director-general, told a teleconference. A very real danger after declaring a pandemic was that hospitals could be overwhelmed by people seeking help when they did not really need it, while other patients requiring emergency treatment risked being neglected, according to Fukuda (Reuters, 6/9/09).

- Egypt extended a quarantine of 234 people inside a dormitory at the American University in Cairo on Tuesday, ordering them isolated for a week after five more residents tested positive for the H1N1 flu, the university said (Reuters, 6/9/09).

## US Update:

- The Navy is reporting 21 cases of swine flu on board the USS Iwo Jima. Navy spokesman Cmd. Cappy Surette says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed the first case on May 27. The amphibious assault ship left New York on May 26 after participating in Fleet Week. Surette says the cases were mild. All 21 sailors and Marines were treated in New York and have since returned to duty (AP, 6/9/09).
- Three crew members on a cruise ship that visited Ketchikan tested positive for swine flu. The 1,460- passenger Zaandam from Holland America Line was on a seven-night, round-trip cruise that departed Seattle on May 29 and returned Friday. It visited Ketchikan on Wednesday. Affected crew members were treated and isolated in their cabins. Andrews says symptoms were minor and they're recovering (AP, 6/8/09).
- President Obama's contingency plan to help finance production of a swine flu vaccine with funds set aside to develop defenses against biological attacks would weaken the nation's preparedness for terrorism, the leaders of a bipartisan commission on weapons of mass destruction said yesterday. The White House asked Congress on Tuesday for authority to spend up to \$9 billion more for an H1N1 flu vaccine and other preparations against the novel flu strain that first appeared in April. Of the total, the administration asked Congress to provide \$2 billion in "contingent" funding. Another \$3 billion could come from the Project BioShield Special Reserve Fund, created in 2004 to field countermeasures against nuclear, biological or chemical threats; \$3.1 billion from stimulus funds appropriated to spur economic recovery; and \$800 million from the Department of Health and Human Services. "Using BioShield funds for flu preparedness will severely diminish the nation's efforts to prepare for WMD events and will leave the nation less, not more, prepared," the commission's chairman, former senator Bob Graham (D-Fla.), and vice chairman, former senator James M. Talent (R-Mo.), wrote to Obama in a letter sent yesterday and in another dated Wednesday to his budget director, Peter Orszag (Washington Post, 6/8/09).
- A \$100 billion bill to fund U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is rapidly accumulating extra items such as money for military aircraft the Pentagon doesn't want and possibly a scheme to jump-start sagging auto sales. President Barack Obama originally sought \$83.4 billion for the two wars and more foreign aid for countries like Pakistan. But then he too sought more -- \$4 billion extra to combat H1N1 swine flu ....(Washington Post, 6/8/09)
- Two more deaths linked to swine flu — both of adults in their 40s — were reported by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on Wednesday, bringing the total H1N1-related fatalities in the city to seven. The department said that six of the seven people who had died — including Mitchell Wiener, an assistant principal at a public school in Queens, who was the first swine flu death in the city — had underlying conditions that could interfere with normal breathing. The seventh death is still under investigation. The city will not release the underlying medical conditions, citing medical confidentiality. Officials would not disclose where in the city

the latest two victims lived. However, the department did release an analysis that showed some 80 percent of the more than 300 people hospitalized with swine flu since mid-April have one or more underlying conditions that put them at risk. Asthma, which affects 10 percent of New York City children, is by far the most common underlying condition, affecting some 41 percent of those hospitalized. The analysis also found that about 18 percent of those hospitalized were younger than 2, 13 percent had a compromised immune system and 12 percent had heart disease. Other risk factors include pregnancy, diabetes, kidney problems, blood disorders, emphysema and liver problems (NY Times, 6/3/09).