

## Current major event

### Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

As of 29 August 2009, a total of 5,031 laboratory-confirmed cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 including 21 related deaths were, officially, reported to WHO Regional Office by 21 out of 22 Member States of WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region. More and more countries in the Region are reporting deaths due to pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in recent time. At least 10 Member States in the EMR has, so far, reported deaths from pandemic (H1N1) 2009.

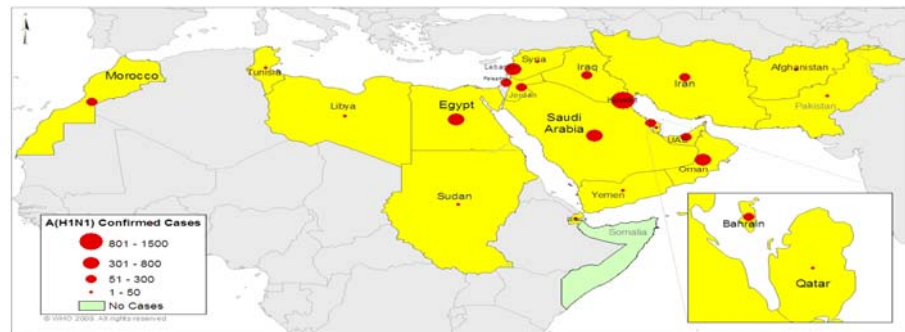
### Editorial note

There has been a recent surge in number of deaths reported by the EMR Member States due to pandemic (H1N1) 2009. Although the clinical picture of pandemic influenza remains largely consistent across all countries and the overwhelming majority of patients continue to experience mild illness, evidence shows that the virus can cause severe and fatal illness particularly amongst adults under the age of 50 years. Data continue to show that certain medical conditions increase the risk of severe and fatal illness. Therefore, more and more severe and fatal illnesses can be expected in the coming days if early and standardized treatment can not be ensured for a vast majority of patients who are "at-risk".

The current situation in the EMR, therefore, necessitates that health authorities in the Region adopt and disseminate standardized guidelines for clinical management of cases infected with pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus in order to reduce "avoidable" deaths. Treatment of probable or suspected cases of human infection with the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus needs to be instituted as early as possible without waiting for laboratory confirmation in order to maximize potential benefits from the antiviral treatment.

WHO has recently issued a new guideline on pharmacological management of

### EMR Countries with laboratory-confirmed cases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection



### Recommended use of antivirals for treatment of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection

- Patients who have severe or progressive clinical illness due to confirmed or suspected pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection should be treated with oseltamivir as early as possible (zanamivir in case of oseltamivir resistance)
- Patients in "at-risk" groups with uncomplicated illness due to confirmed or suspected pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection should be treated with oseltamivir as early as possible (zanamivir in case of oseltamivir resistance)
- Patients not in "at-risk" group who have uncomplicated illness due to confirmed or suspected pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection need not be treated with antivirals.

pandemic (H1N1) 2009 (*Please refer to the box for key recommendations*) and EMRO is currently in the process of adapting these guidelines to the regional context. This should help the EMR Member States to respond to their need and expand their clinical management protocol for pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection.

Evidence from multiple outbreak sites outside the EMR demonstrate that the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus can rapidly establish itself as the dominant influenza strains in the northern hemisphere countries during the coming winter season. As such, the EMR countries may expect a second wave of pandemic spread in the coming days. It is thus imperative that EMR countries remain prepared for this eventuality.

### Update on outbreaks

#### in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Avian influenza A/H5N1 in Egypt; Pandemic H1N1 2009 in all countries in the Region except Somalia

### Current public health events of international concern

[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

#### Avian influenza A/H5N1

Egypt	[85 (27), <b>31.7%</b> ]
Indonesia	[141 (115), <b>81.6%</b> ]
China	[38 (25), <b>65.8%</b> ]
Vietnam	[111(56), <b>50.5%</b> ]
Global total	440 (262), <b>59.5%</b>

#### Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

Global	[209,438 (2,185) <b>1.0%</b> ]
EMR	[5,031(21), <b>0.41%</b> ]

#### Acute Haemorrhagic Fever Syndrome

Uganda	#
--------	---

#### Acute Watery Diarrhoeal Syndrome

Nepal	[52014 (282), <b>0.54%</b> ]
Ethiopia	[1000 (0) <b>0%</b> ]
Nigeria	[99 (18), <b>18.1%</b> ]

CFR=Case-Fatality Rate  
# Risk assessment ongoing