



**WHO Representative's Office in Iraq**

**Situation Report on Influenza A H1N1 Pandemic –Iraq  
As of 24<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

As of 24 October 2009, 10:00 AM Baghdad time, 11 governorates have reported 604 confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 including 3 deaths. Out of the total cases 403 are members of the multinational forces.

**Table-1: Laboratory confirmed H1N1 cases reported in Iraq**

Governorate	Number of cases	Number of deaths
Baghdad	83	2
Wassit	86	0
Basra	5	0
Babel	2	0
Kirkuk	1	0
Suleimaniyah	8	0
Kerbala	3	0
Erbil	2	0
Najaf	4	1
Thiqar	6	0
Diala	1	0
Multinational forces	403	
<b>Total</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>3</b>

At the EMR regional level, as of 17 October 2009, 23:00 hours, Cairo time, 14,739 laboratory-confirmed cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 were reported to WHO by 21 out of 22 Member States of WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region. Djibouti became the latest country in the Region to report cases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009. There are 96 related deaths from Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 reported, so far, from 13 member states in the Region.

As of 17 October 2009, worldwide there have been more than 414,000 laboratory confirmed cases of pandemic influenza H1N1 2009 and nearly 5000 deaths reported to WHO.

As many countries have stopped counting individual cases, particularly of milder illness, the case count is significantly lower than the actually number of cases that have occurred.

**Response**

- ✓ Early 2009, the pandemic Influenza preparedness strategies have been updated and the operational plans of action were developed. These plans have been activated as soon as the threat of Pandemic Influenza due to H1N1 emerged;
- ✓ Influenza like illness surveillance has been activated at the national level including points of entry. Still Iraq is following the containment strategy through testing, isolating and hospitalizing every suspected H1N1 case, following up the contacts, etc. As numbers of cases will increase, confirming cases through laboratory testing and the counting of individual cases will be no longer

essential for monitoring the level or nature of the risk posed by the pandemic virus. Therefore, monitoring the pandemic H1N1 situation will be achieved through the use of data delivered by the surveillance systems used to routinely monitor influenza activity, including ILI and sentinel systems

- ✓ Lab capacity for testing Influenza specimens has been upgraded, the team in the CPHL have been trained on testing H1N1 specimens, and all needed supplies are available. Recently WHO provided 30,000 of Virus Transport Media, 2000 H1N1 diagnostic tests , an additional 2000 diagnostic tests are under procurement
- ✓ Health education activities are on going, posters and leaflets have been distributed to all governorates, subtitles in many Iraqi channels about the community role in prevention of the disease have been broadcasted, etc.
- ✓ Stockpiles of PPEs have been developed. in addition to the PPEs provided by WHO ( worth to 500,000 US\$), an additional quantities have been procured by Ministry of health, there is need for more quantities of masks N 95 and WHO will procure it as soon as possible
- ✓ Stockpile of Antiviral drugs have been developed in all governorates, in addition to the original stock (810,000 capsules of 75 mg), 1,500,000 capsules have been procured and distributed to the governorates, an additional quantities of 3,500,000 capsules are under procurement by MOH. The syrup for children is still under procurement, to fill the gap, WHO has procured 50,000 capsules of Oseltamivir 30 mg in addition to 10,000 capsules of 75 mg
- ✓ 4,000,000 doses of Influenza A H1N1 vaccine is under procurement. Criteria to whom the vaccine will be given has been developed
- ✓ All WHO guidelines related to case definition, case management, surveillance, lab diagnosis, infection control, etc have been distributed to all concerned. Daily updates regarding the situation at the regional and global levels are provided to all concerned.
- ✓ Orientation activities to health workers in health facilities have been conducted. More activities will be conducted with the support of WHO
- ✓ Schools preparedness plans have been developed which clarify the policy of schools closure. According to the plan only the classes and schools which report cases should be closed. After the cases have been reported in Wassit and Thiqr, local decisions were taken to close all schools in both governorates which was not in line with the government plan and WHO advice. In Baghdad only 7 schools have been closed which have reported cases
- ✓ To strengthen the role of media and all other ministries in response to the current pandemic, two joint WHO- UNICEF H1N1 communication workshops have been conducted in Erbil between 17-23 October 2009.