

Updated on 2009 December 24

[Abstract]

Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare updated trend information about influenza A(H1N1)pdm.

[Risk Assessment]

Serious public health impact - These cases fit the case definition of human influenza caused by a new subtype for notification under the IHR (2005).

Unusual or unexpected - Human infection with influenza A(H1N1)pdm has been considered to be unusual.

International disease spread - Several cases had travel history abroad.

Interference with international travel or trade - The event has attracted significant attention from the international community and media.

[Body]

During epidemiological week (EW) 50, the number of the influenza like illness (ILI) cases reported from approximately 5,000 sentinel sites nationwide was 131,972. The trend of ILI during EW 50 compared with the previous week: 153,131 in EW 49 was characterized as decreasing.

Based on the reports from prefectural and municipal public health institutes, influenza A(H1N1)pdm dominated by over 99% among the proportion of influenza virus isolation/detection from the ILI cases during from EW 36 (the first week of the 2009/10 season) to EW 51. The report has submitted to WHO FluNet weekly bases (Chronological chart can be obtained at <http://idsc.nih.go.jp/iasr/influ-e.html>).

Other two sporadic cases with oseltamivir-resistant influenza A(H1N1)pdm were reported in Hiroshima and Aichi prefecture since the last report on December 16.

During the period between December 14 and 20, five clusters of influenza like illness patients have been reported from medical facilities and 51 clusters have been reported from day-care facilities. The occurrences of clusters are defined as equal or more than ten clinically diagnosed patients within seven days in the same facilities.

During the period between December 16 and December 22, 363(three hundred and sixty-three) hospitalized cases due to influenza A(H1N1) pdm have been reported. Among those, 16 cases suffered encephalopathy and 15 cases were put on a ventilator. The total number of hospitalized cases since July 28 reached 13,784. As of December 22, total of 128 fatal cases have been reported.