Updated on January 20, 2010

[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 new subtype influenza was considered to be unusual.

International disease spread - Several cases had travel history abroad.

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

[Body]

During epidemiological week (EW) 1/2010, the number of the influenza like illness (ILI) cases reported from approximately 5,000 sentinel sites nationwide was 43,759. The trend of ILI during EW 1 compared with the previous week: 48,128 in EW 53/2009 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 EW 50/2009 through EW 1/2010. The report has submitted to WHO FluNet weekly (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 have been reported in Wakayama and Saitama prefecture since the last report on January 14.

During the period between January 11 and 17, seven clusters of influenza like illness patients have been reported from medical facilities and 30 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 facility.

During the period between January 13 and 19, 211(two hundred and eleven) hospitalized cases due to influenza like illness have been reported. Among those, six H1N1 cases suffered encephalopathy and 10 H1N1 cases were put on a ventilator. The total number of hospitalized cases since July 28 reached 16,125. As of January 19, total of 168 fatal H1N1 cases have been reported.