Updated on March 3, 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) 7, the number of the influenza like illness (ILI) cases reported from approximately 5,000 sentinel sites nationwide was 8,438. The trend of ILI during EW 7 compared with the previous week: 13,479 in EW 6 was characterized as decreasing.

Based on the reports from prefectural and municipal public health institutes, influenza A(H1N1)pdm dominated by 99% among the proportion of influenza virus isolation/detection from the ILI cases during EW 3 through EW 7. The report has submitted to WHO FluNet weekly (Chronological chart can be obtained at http://idsc.nih.go.jp/iasr/influ-e.html).

During the period between February 22 and 28, one cluster of influenza like illness patients has been reported from medical facilities and eight clusters have been reported from day-care facilities. The occurrences of clusters are defined as equal or more than 10 clinically diagnosed patients within seven days in the same facility.

Other nine sporadic cases with oseltamivir-resistant influenza A(H1N1)pdm have been reported in Fukuoka, Niigata, Saitama, Shizuoka and Yamaguchi prefecture since the last report on February 24.

During the period between February 24 and March 2, 38(thirty-eight) hospitalized cases due to influenza like illness have been reported. Among those, two H1N1 cases suffered encephalopathy and three H1N1 cases were put on ventilators. The total number of hospitalized cases since July 28, 2009 reached 17,567. As of March 2, total of 195 fatal H1N1 cases have been reported.