

Updated on 2009 August 19

[Abstract]

Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare updated the 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 is considered to be unusual.

International disease spread - The first three identified cases in Japan had recently travelled to Canada.

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

[Body]

During epidemiological week (EW) 32, the number of the influenza like illness (ILI) cases reported from about 5,000 sentinel sites nationwide was 4,630. The trend of ILI during EW 32 compared with the previous week: 2,665 in EW 31 was characterized as increasing.

During the period between 10 and 16 August, 662 clusters defined as at least one case with laboratory confirmation among two or more ILI patients in the same group such as school or workplace has been reported. For the same period, 586 laboratory-confirmed cases and 1,936 cases with epidemiological link has been reported at the present.

During the period between August 12 and 18, 86 hospitalized cases due to influenza A (H1N1)pdm have been reported. Among those, 1 case suffered encephalopathy and 6 cases were put on a ventilator. The total number of hospitalized cases since July 28 became 230.

As of today, two fatal cases have been reported from Okinawa and Hyogo. This is the first report of the fatal cases due to novel influenza A (H1N1) in Japan.