

Updated on 2009 September 30

[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) 38, the number of the influenza like illness (ILI) cases reported from approximately 5,000 sentinel sites nationwide was 23,275. The trend of ILI during EW 38 compared with the previous week: 15,382 in EW 37 was characterized as increasing.

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 35 to EW 39. The report has submitted to WHO FluNet weekly bases (Chronological chart can be obtained at <http://idsc.nih.go.jp/iasr/influ-e.html>).

During the period between September 21 and 27, 2,991 clusters of influenza like illness patients have been reported. The occurrences of clusters were defined as clinically diagnosed influenza like illness in the same group such as school or workplace.

During the period between September 23 and 29, 152 hospitalized cases due to influenza A(H1N1) pdm have been reported. Among those, 7 cases suffered encephalopathy and six cases were put on a ventilator. The total number of hospitalized cases since July 28 became 1,323. As of September 29, total of 19 fatal cases have been reported.