

Updated on 2009 October 7

[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) 39, the number of the influenza like illness (ILI) cases reported from approximately 5,000 sentinel sites nationwide was 20,365. The trend of ILI during EW 39 compared with the previous week: 23,275 in EW 38 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 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 28 and October 4, 5,428 clusters of influenza like illness patients have been reported. The occurrences of clusters were defined clinically in the same group such as school or workplace.

During the period between September 30 and October 6, 198 hospitalized cases due to influenza A(H1N1) pdm have been reported. Among those, six cases suffered encephalopathy and nine cases were put on a ventilator. The total number of hospitalized cases since July 28 became 1,615. As of October 6, total of 21 fatal cases have been reported.