

Updated on 2009 November 18

[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) 45, the number of the influenza like illness (ILI) cases reported from approximately 5,000 sentinel sites nationwide was 157,626. The trend of ILI during EW 45 compared with the previous week: 159,651 in EW 44 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 42 to EW 46. The report has submitted to WHO FluNet weekly bases (Chronological chart can be obtained at <http://idsc.nih.go.jp/iasr/influ-e.html>).

Another sporadic case with oseltamivir-resistant influenza A(H1N1)pdm was reported in Kanagawa prefecture since the last report on November 11. The case was associated with oseltamivir treatment. The case fully recovered.

During the period between November 9 and 15, three clusters of influenza like illness patients have been reported from medical facilities and 869 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 facilities.

During the period between November 11 and 17, 724 hospitalized cases due to influenza A(H1N1) pdm have been reported. Among those, 22 cases suffered encephalopathy and 24 cases were put on a ventilator. The total number of hospitalized cases since July 28 reached 7,708. As of November 17, total of 65 fatal cases have been reported.