

Updated on 2009 December 16

[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) 49, the number of the influenza like illness (ILI) cases reported from approximately 5,000 sentinel sites nationwide was 153,131. The trend of ILI during EW 49 compared with the previous week: 190,801 in EW 48 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 from EW 36 (the first week of the 2009/10 season) to EW 50. The report has submitted to WHO FluNet weekly bases (Chronological chart can be obtained at <http://idsc.nih.go.jp/iasr/influ-e.html>).

Other five sporadic cases with oseltamivir-resistant influenza A(H1N1)pdm were reported in Aichi, Kanagawa, Mie, Shimane and Niigata prefecture since the last report on December 9. The cases fully recovered.

During the period between December 7 and 13, seven clusters of influenza like illness patients have been reported from medical facilities and 955 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 December 9 and December 15, 520(five hundred and twenty) hospitalized cases due to influenza A(H1N1) pdm have been reported. Among those, 13 cases suffered encephalopathy and 18 cases were put on a ventilator. The total number of hospitalized cases since July 28 reached 12,923. As of December 15, total of 116 fatal cases have been reported.