

Updated on February 17, 2010

[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 new subtype influenza was considered to be unusual.

International disease spread - Several cases had travel history abroad.

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

[Body]

During epidemiological week (EW) 5, the number of the influenza like illness (ILI) cases reported from approximately 5,000 sentinel sites nationwide was 20,481. The trend of ILI during EW 5 compared with the previous week: 31,049 in EW 4 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 1 through EW 5. The report has submitted to WHO FluNet weekly (Chronological chart can be obtained at <http://idsc.nih.go.jp/iasr/influ-e.html>).

During the period between February 8 and 14, three clusters of influenza like illness patients have been reported from medical facilities and two clusters have been reported from day-care facilities. The occurrences of clusters are defined as equal or more than 10 clinically diagnosed patients within seven days in the same facility.

During the period between February 10 and 16, 71(seventy-one) hospitalized cases due to influenza like illness have been reported. Among those, one H1N1 case suffered encephalopathy and one H1N1 case was put on a ventilator. The total number of hospitalized cases since July 28, 2009 reached 17,360. As of February 16, total of 193 fatal H1N1 cases have been reported.