Pandemic H1N1 2009

CHRONOLOGY: (Western Pacific Region in blue)

August 10  Malaysia reported six additional deaths linked to Pandemic (H1N1) 2009, taking to 32 the number of fatalities associated with the virus in that country.

August 6  WHO advises the public that regulatory procedures for the licensing of pandemic vaccines, including procedures for expediting regulatory approval, are rigorous and do not compromise safety or quality controls.

August 3  Singapore reported its sixth death linked to the virus, a 29-year old Indian woman with no other known underlying medical conditions other then being overweight.

July 28  The toll of fatalities linked to Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 increases to 81 after several deaths were reported in the Western Pacific Region.

July 24  WHO reported that the average age of cases is appearing to increase slightly as the disease expands broadly into communities.

July 23  Malaysia announced first virus-linked fatality.

July 21  South Korea raised its pandemic alert to the second highest level and announces a shift to mitigation of the disease.

July 20  Guam and Tonga reported their first deaths related to the virus.

July 18  Singapore announced its first death linked to the virus.

July 16  Data compiled by WPRO on the initial outbreak of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 suggests the virus started spreading in the Region in the third week of May, after arriving in late April from Mexico, the United States of America and Canada.

WHO discontinued publication of global tables showing numbers of confirmed cases for all countries, urging countries to focus on collecting broader data about the disease.

July 13  Singapore ended thermal screening of travelers entering the country, continuing a shift from containment to mitigation of the virus.

WHO's Strategic Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization emphasized the importance of striving to achieve equity among countries to access vaccines developed in response to the virus.

July 8  The World Health Organization said it would ask countries hardest hit by the pandemic to shift from testing of individual cases and towards collecting broader data about the disease.

Australia announced AU$7 million (US$5.45 million) in funding from for research projects to learn more about Pandemic (H1N1) 2009.
July 5  Peru confirms first two deaths.

July 4  New Zealand reported the deaths of three people infected with the virus.

July 1  Australia announced two more virus-related deaths, in the state of Victoria.

Argentina reported 17 more swine flu deaths, bringing the total to at least 43 in the country hardest hit by the virus in the southern hemisphere.

July 2  Australia and Brunei Darussalam announced two deaths associated with Pandemic H1N1.

Japan confirmed its first case of resistance to Tamiflu.

June 30  Argentine capital Buenos Aires declared a public health emergency amid surging death toll.

June 29  Australia announced deaths linked to the virus now number seven.

Argentine Health Minister Graciela Ocana resigns as outbreak worsens.

The first case reported, in Denmark, of the new influenza strain showing resistance to Tamiflu.

June 27  First virus-related death in Thailand.

June 24  Australia reported third death linked to the virus.

June 23  Australia reported second death linked to the virus.

June 22  The Philippines reported its first death linked to the virus.

June 20  Singapore raised its alert level to "yellow mitigation", acknowledging that further spread is inevitable and shifting resources to high-risk groups.

June 19  Lao PDR, Macao (China) and Papua New Guinea reported first cases.

Australia reported the first fatality linked to the virus in the Western Pacific Region.

June 18  Samoa reported its first case.

June 17  Australia announced a newly-created phase called "Protect" to guide its response to the virus. The new phase emphasizes treatment and care for patients with severe illness.

June 14  The Philippines reported its first cases of community-level transmission, after eight cases are detected in the municipality of Jaen in the province of Nueva Ecija.

June 11  The Emergency Committee concluded that the criteria for a pandemic have been met. WHO Director General declares that "the world is now at the start of the 2009 influenza pandemic".

Hong Kong decided to suspend classes at all primary schools, kindergartens and childcare centers for 14 days.

June 5  WHO Director-General Margaret Chan convened the third meeting of the International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to update the committee on the global situation and seek advice on proposals to introduce severity assessments in any future announcements of pandemic phase changes.

June 3  The Australian state of Victoria lifted its alert status from "contain" to "modified sustain", allowing allows efforts to be focused on high-risk groups. The remainder of the country stays at "contain".
### June 1
WHO consulted with over 30 experts from 23 countries to consider countries’ needs and concerns and the steps WHO needs to take when considering a move to Phase 6.

### May 31
Viet Nam reported its first case.

### May 27
Japan reported 10 additional cases take its total to 360, most of them associated with high schools.

### May 26
Australia reported several new cases after passengers and a crew member aboard a visiting cruise ship test positive.

### May 25
Iceland, Kuwait and Russia confirmed new cases of the virus.

### May 23
Cases in the Republic of Korea reach 18.

### May 22
The Philippines reported its first confirmed case.

### May 21
Honduras reported its first case.

### May 20
Japan announced it has 276 laboratory-confirmed cases.

### May 19
Australia reported four new cases and China announces its fifth case.

### May 18
Japan announced 104 new laboratory confirmed cases, taking its total to 129.

### May 17-18
China reported its third confirmed case, and Malaysia reports its first two confirmed cases.

### May 15
New Zealand reported two new laboratory confirmed cases, bringing its case count to nine.

### May 13
Hong Kong (China) reported its second confirmed case.

### May 12
WHO called for continued vigilance against Pandemic H1N1 in the Western Pacific Region.

### May 11
China reported its first confirmed case.

### May 9
Australia reported its first confirmed case.

### May 8
Canada reported its first death from the virus, a 30-year old woman with pre-existing medical conditions.

### May 7
South Korea reported its third confirmed case.

### May 6
WHO advised Pandemic H1N1 could affect at least one-third of the world's 6 billion people within the next year.

### May 5
South Korea reported a confirmed case, taking its total to two confirmed.

### May 4
New Zealand reported its fifth confirmed case.
May 6  The number of confirmed cases in the United States increased to 642.
Guatemala and Sweden reported new confirmed cases.

May 5  The US reported its first death related to the virus, a 33-year old school teacher from Texas.
Mexico predicted the outbreak could cut its GDP by 0.3% to 0.5% this year.

May 4  Colombia, El Salvador, Italy and Portugal reported new cases.
Mexico lifted death toll to 26 but lowered its health alert and announces reopening of government offices, businesses, universities and schools.

May 3  New Zealand announced it has four confirmed cases.
Mexico lifted its death toll to 22 and says 590 people have been infected.

May 2  South Korea reported its first confirmed case, bringing the number of countries with confirmed infections to 15.
Mexico reported 241 new cases after processing a backlog of samples.
Canada reported transfer of Pandemic H1N1 from a human to swine at a farm in Alberta.

May 1  One new case confirmed in Hong Kong (China), prompting the government to cordon off the hotel in which he was staying.
France and Denmark reported their first confirmed cases.

April 29  WHO raised pandemic alert level from Phase 4 to Phase 5.
United States President Barack Obama said the world faces "a very serious situation" as confirmed cases in the United States hit 91.

April 28  Confirmed cases in the United States jumped to 64.
New Zealand announced the first infections in Western Pacific Region.

April 27  The United Kingdom confirmed two people have the virus.

26 April  New Zealand school group quarantined after returning from Mexico with flu symptoms.

24 April  Mexico announced 20 people dead from the virus.
Director General Margaret Chan stated that Pandemic H1N1 2009 constitutes "a public health emergency of international concern".

21 April  Two cases reported in San Diego County, California.

19 April  WHO notified Mexico of cases occurring in California.

17 April  WHO requested verification of media reports of an atypical pneumonia case in Oaxaca State of Mexico.