WHO Response to Influenza A (H1N1) 2009

CAPSCA
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Outline

• Background.
• Preparedness planning.
• Evolution of the pandemic.
• WHO and other UN support.
History of Human Pandemics

- 1918-1919: “Spanish Flu” [A (H1N1)]
  20 to 40 million deaths

- 1957-1958: “Asian Flu” [A (H2N2)]
  1 to 2 million deaths

- 1968-69: “Hong Kong Flu” [A (H3N2)]
  1 to 2 million deaths
Prerequisites for pandemic influenza

A new influenza virus emerges to which the general population has little/no immunity

The new virus must be able to replicate in humans and cause disease

The new virus must be efficiently transmitted from one human to another
WHO pandemic expectations

• WHO Did not PREDICT:
  – Which virus sub-type will be responsible?
  – Where it will emerge?
  – When it will start?

• Re-assortment of H1N1 virus (quadriple virus).
WHO Pandemic Phases

- Six phases
- Current revision retains six-phased approach
- Grouping of phases
  - Phases 1 – 3
  - Phases 5 – 6
- Post peak and post pandemic
April

- April 25 : Public Health Emergency of International Concern
- April 26 : 38 cases reported from Mexico and the US
- April 27 : Canada and Spain reported confirmed cases
- April 28 : UK, New Zealand
- April 27 : WHO declared phase 4
- April 29 : WHO declared phase 5

![Map showing countries and areas with confirmed cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009](image)
May

- May 2: Diagnostic kits made globally available
- May 5: Consultation on severity
- May 26: Vaccine strain recommendation
- May 27: Vaccine reassortants available

27 May 2009 Pandemic (H1N1) 2009
Countries, territories and areas with lab-confirmed cases and number of deaths as reported to WHO
June

• June 11: WHO declared phase 6
  – Nearly 30,000 confirmed cases have been reported in 74 countries
  – Further spread is considered inevitable
  – Moderate severity
• June 24: WHO consultation on school and mass gatherings
July (77,201 cases/332 deaths)

- July 13: Target groups for vaccination recommended by SAGE (Established in 1999)

Immunize HCWs and special groups.

1 July 2009  Pandemic (H1N1) 2009
Countries, territories and areas with lab-confirmed cases and number of deaths as reported to WHO

Target groups for Vaccination recommended by SAGE
August

WHO/Julienne Anoko

• August 17: Collaborative call to action to reduce impact of pandemic (H1N1) 2009

WHO, IFRC, UNSIC, OCHA and UNICEF, prompted by the humanitarian imperative, will work with partners such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, NGOs and civil society to support governments and communities to reduce the impact from the pandemic (H1N1) 2009.

6 August 2009  Pandemic (H1N1) 2009
Countries, territories and areas with lab-confirmed cases and number of deaths as reported to WHO

"Call to Action"
October / November

• Northern hemisphere
  – peaked between late October and late November 2009
  – and has continued to decline since

4 October 2009 Pandemic (H1N1) 2009
Countries, territories and areas with lab-confirmed cases and number of deaths as reported to WHO
January 2010 (12799 deaths)

WHO has coordinated the distribution of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 vaccine donated by several countries and vaccine manufacturers.

3 January 2010  Pandemic (H1N1) 2009
Countries, territories and areas with lab-confirmed cases and number of deaths as reported to WHO
February 2010
(212 countries/15292 deaths)

- 7th Meeting of the Emergency Committee
  - Premature to conclude that all parts of the world have experienced peak transmission
  - No change in the pandemic phase

7 February 2010  Pandemic (H1N1) 2009
Countries, territories and areas with lab-confirmed cases and number of deaths as reported to WHO
Pandemic (H1N1) 2009: Spread in an unprecedented speed

3 May 2009

26 September 2009
WHO support activities

• Provision of technical assistance:
  – Pandemic preparedness planning.
  – Coordination of response activities.
    • Containment.
    • Mitigation.
  – Selection of the pandemic vaccine strain and production.
  – Oseltimivir and vaccine task forces (negotiation with manufacturers - distribution).
WHO Response

• Emergency response rooms – mobilized – 24/7
• Operations
  – Field team of 26 experts to Mexico (from WHO and CDC/GOARN)
  – Initiated distribution of oseltamivir stockpile
• Global monitoring and assessment
  – Coordination with Regions and National Focal Points (NFP)
  – Case report form
  – EIS web updates
• Anti-virals Taskforce
  – Oseltamivir stockpile distribution to regions and 72 priority countries (including Mexico)
  – Consultation with manufacturers.
THANK YOU
WHO Response (2)

• Technical guidance
  – Analysis of available data (modelling)
  – Guidelines on surveillance, lab and diagnostic, infection control, health care management, pandemic response plan, vaccines made available to the public

• Vaccine Taskforce
  – Consultation with manufacturers
  – Consultation with scientific experts
WHO Response (3)

- Communication
  - daily press conference
  - interviews will hundreds of media
  - Disease Outbreak News web updates
  - media monitoring