

医薬品 研究報告 調査報告書

識別番号・報告回数		報告日	2009年7月22日	第一報入手日	2009年4月25日	新医薬品等の区分	該当なし	機構処理欄
一般の名称	ヘパリンナトリウム		研究報告の公表状況	http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009_04_24/en/index.html http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009_04_27/en/index.html http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2009/h1n1_20090427/en/index.html		公表国	米国	
販売名(企業名)	ヘパリンナトリウム注1万単位/10mL「味の素」 ヘパリンナトリウム注5万単位/50mL「味の素」 ヘパリンナトリウム注10万単位/100mL「味の素」 ヘパリンナトリウム注N5千単位/5mL「味の素」 ヘパリンナトリウム注N1万単位/10mL「味の素」							
141 研究報告の概要	<p>米国、メキシコにおけるインフルエンザ様疾患について (2009.4.24 WHO EPR サイト)</p> <p>米国政府は米国内の7人の豚インフルエンザA/H1N1確定症例 (5人がカリフォルニア、2人がテキサス) と9人の疑いがある症例を報告した。確定症例7人は、1例のみ短期入院を要したが、いずれも軽度のインフルエンザ様疾患であり、死亡例は報告されていない。メキシコ政府は、3つの別々の事例を報告した。メキシコ連邦区における調査で、3月18日からインフルエンザ様疾患の症例が挙がり始めた。4月中旬に症例数は確実に増え、4月23日までに854人以上の肺炎が首都圏で発生している。うち、59人は死亡している。メキシコ中部のSan Luis Potosiでは24人のインフルエンザ様疾患が発生し、3人が死亡と報告されている。また、米国国境近くのMexicaliからは、4人のインフルエンザ様疾患 (死亡例はなし) が報告されている。メキシコの症例では、18例がカナダの研究機関で豚インフルエンザA/H1N1であることが確認されており、そのうち12症例はカリフォルニアの豚インフルエンザA/H1N1ウイルスと遺伝学的に一致している。これらの症例は主に若年健康人に発生している。インフルエンザは、通常幼児か高齢者が罹患するが、メキシコではこの年齢層に大きな影響が出ていない。人の症例が動物インフルエンザウイルスに関連していること、地理的に離れた多地域で発生していること、さらに通常見られない年齢層が罹患していることにより、これらの事例は非常に危険される。今回流行した豚インフルエンザA/H1N1ウイルスはこれまでに豚やヒトから検出されていない。このウイルスは少なくともオセルタミビルには感受性を示すが、アマンタジンとリマンタジンには耐性を示している。</p> <p>豚インフルエンザ update 3 (2009.4.27 WHO EPRサイト)</p> <p>最近の豚インフルエンザA (H1N1) の発生状況は刻々と変化している。2009.4.27現在、米国政府は、40症例 (死亡例なし) で人への豚インフルエンザ (H1N1) 感染を確認したと報告した。メキシコは、7症例の死亡を含む同ウイルスへの感染を26症例で確認したと報告した。スペインが1症例 (死亡例なし)、カナダは、6症例 (死亡例なし) を報告した。</p> <p>豚インフルエンザ (2009.4.27 WHO Media centre サイト)</p> <p>国際保健規則 (2005年) にのっとり設立した緊急委員会が2009年4月27日、2回目となる会合を開催した。委員会は米国、メキシコ、カナダで確認された豚インフルエンザA/H1N1型の発生について入手可能なデータを検討した。また、ほかの国への感染拡大可能性の報告についても検討された。委員会の助言を基に、WHOの事務局長は次のように決定した。インフルエンザの大流行についてのパンデミックアラートを現行のフェーズ3からフェーズ4に引き上げる。引き上げは大流行の危険性が高まったことを示すが、大流行は不可避ではない。さらなる情報によっては、WHOはパンデミックアラートをフェーズ3に戻すか、より高度な水準へ引き上げることを決定するかもしれない。引き上げの決定は、第一に疫学的データが人から人への感染を示すこと、また地域レベルでの感染を引き起こすウイルスである可能性があることに基づいてなされた。</p>						使用上の注意記載状況・その他参考事項等	特になし



報告企業の意見	今後の対応
豚由来のインフルエンザA/H1N1が人に感染し、感染拡大を示唆する報告、人において死亡する恐れがある報告、及びインフルエンザA/H1N1が人から人に感染することが示されたとの報告。既知の感染症であるが、発生頻度の増加、感染症の重大性、新たに人から人へ感染することが示された点から研究報告に該当すると判断する。 弊社ヘパリンナトリウム製剤は、ウイルス不活性能力が高いと考えられる工程を経て製造を行っている。 現時点で特別な安全対策を講じる必要はないと考える。	今後も情報収集に努める。

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printable version

Influenza-like illness in the United States and Mexico

24 April 2009 -- The United States Government has reported seven confirmed human cases of Swine Influenza A/H1N1 in the USA (five in California and two in Texas) and nine suspect cases. All seven confirmed cases had mild Influenza-Like Illness (ILI), with only one requiring brief hospitalization. No deaths have been reported.

The Government of Mexico has reported three separate events. In the Federal District of Mexico, surveillance began picking up cases of ILI starting 18 March. The number of cases has risen steadily through April and as of 23 April there are now more than 854 cases of pneumonia from the capital. Of those, 59 have died. In San Luis Potosi, in central Mexico, 24 cases of ILI, with three deaths, have been reported. And from Mexicali, near the border with the United States, four cases of ILI, with no deaths, have been reported.

Of the Mexican cases, 18 have been laboratory confirmed in Canada as Swine Influenza A/H1N1, while 12 of those are genetically identical to the Swine Influenza A/H1N1 viruses from California.

The majority of these cases have occurred in otherwise healthy young adults. Influenza normally affects the very young and the very old, but these age groups have not been heavily affected in Mexico.

Because there are human cases associated with an animal influenza virus, and because of the geographical spread of multiple community outbreaks, plus the somewhat unusual age groups affected, these events are of high concern.

The Swine Influenza A/H1N1 viruses characterized in this outbreak have not been previously detected

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Alert & Response Operations

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Diseases

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Global Outbreak Alert & Response Network

Biorisk Reduction

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The majority of these cases have occurred in otherwise healthy young adults. Influenza normally affects the very young and the very old, but these age groups have not been heavily affected in Mexico.

Because there are human cases associated with an animal influenza virus, and because of the geographical spread of multiple community outbreaks, plus the somewhat unusual age groups affected, these events are of high concern.

The Swine Influenza A/H1N1 viruses characterized in this outbreak have not been previously detected in pigs or humans. The viruses so far characterized have been sensitive to oseltamivir, but resistant to both amantadine and rimantadine.

The World Health Organization has been in constant contact with the health authorities in the United States, Mexico and Canada in order to better understand the risk which these ILI events pose. WHO (and PAHO) is sending missions of experts to Mexico to work with health authorities there. It is helping its Member States to increase field epidemiology activities, laboratory diagnosis and clinical management. Moreover, WHO's partners in the Global Alert and Response Network have been alerted and are ready to assist as requested by the Member States.

WHO acknowledges the United States and Mexico for their proactive reporting and their collaboration with WHO and will continue to work with Member States to further characterize the outbreak.

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Swine influenza update 3

27 April 2009 -- The current situation regarding the outbreak of swine influenza A(H1N1) is evolving rapidly. As of 27 April 2009, the United States Government has reported 40 laboratory confirmed human cases of swine influenza A(H1N1), with no deaths. Mexico has reported 26 confirmed human cases of infection with the same virus, including seven deaths. Canada has reported six cases, with no deaths, while Spain has reported one case, with no deaths.

Further information on the situation will be available on the WHO website on a regular basis.

WHO advises no restriction of regular travel or closure of borders. It is considered prudent for people who are ill to delay international travel and for people developing symptoms following international travel to seek medical attention, in line with guidance from national authorities.

There is also no risk of infection from this virus from consumption of well-cooked pork and pork products. Individuals are advised to wash hands thoroughly with soap and water on a regular basis and should seek medical attention if they develop any symptoms of influenza-like illness.

Related links

[Swine influenza web site](#)
Daily updates will be posted on this site.

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Health topics Statement by WHO Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan

Publications 27 April 2009

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Swine influenza

The Emergency Committee, established in compliance with the International Health Regulations (2005), held its second meeting on 27 April 2009.

The Committee considered available data on confirmed outbreaks of A/H1N1 swine influenza in the United States of America, Mexico, and Canada. The Committee also considered reports of possible spread to additional countries.

On the advice of the Committee, the WHO Director-General decided on the following.

- The Director-General has raised the level of influenza pandemic alert from the current phase 3 to phase 4.

The change to a higher phase of pandemic alert indicates that the likelihood of a pandemic has increased, but not that a pandemic is inevitable.

As further information becomes available, WHO may decide to either revert to phase 3 or raise the level of alert to another phase.

This decision was based primarily on epidemiological data demonstrating human-to-human transmission and the ability of the virus to cause community-level outbreaks.

- Given the widespread presence of the virus, the Director-General considered that containment of the outbreak is not feasible. The current focus should be on mitigation measures.

Related links

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[Current WHO phase of pandemic alert](#)

[International Health Regulations \(IHR\)](#)

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Related links

Swine influenza

Current WHO phase of pandemic alert

International Health Regulations (IHR)

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This decision was based primarily on epidemiological data demonstrating human-to-human transmission and the ability of the virus to cause community-level outbreaks.

- Given the widespread presence of the virus, the Director-General considered that containment of the outbreak is not feasible. The current focus should be on mitigation measures.
- The Director-General recommended not to close borders and not to restrict international travel. It was considered prudent for people who are ill to delay international travel and for people developing symptoms following international travel to seek medical attention.
- The Director-General considered that production of seasonal influenza vaccine should continue at this time, subject to re-evaluation as the situation evolves. WHO will facilitate the process needed to develop a vaccine effective against A(H1N1) virus.
- The Director-General stressed that all measures should conform with the purpose and scope of the International Health Regulations.

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医薬品 研究報告 調査報告書

識別番号・報告回数	報告日	第一報入手日	新医薬品等の区分	厚生労働省処理欄
一般的な名称 乾燥濃縮人アンチトロンビンⅢ		2009年5月7日	該当なし	
販売名(企業名) アンスロビンP-ベアリング (CSL ベアリング株式会社)	研究報告の公表状況	Information about Newly Emerging 2009 H1N1 Influenza Virus and Blood Safety http://www.fda.gov/cber/flu/h1n1/bldsafety.htm	公表国 米国	
研究報告の概要	<p>問題点 (2009 年の新興の H1N1 型インフルエンザウイルス感染と血液の安全性)</p> <p>米国で 2009 年に新興の H1N1 型インフルエンザウイルス感染が発生して、このウイルスが輸血により感染するかと疑問視されている。米国や他の国において輸血による季節性インフルエンザが伝播した症例は報告がなく、現在まで輸血による H1N1 型インフルエンザウイルスの伝播の報告はない。FDA は継続して CDC と共同作業しており、またこのインフルエンザの発生と血液の安全性及び有用性に対するインパクトを監視するため、AABB のパンデミックインフルエンザ及び血液供給に関する組織間作業委員会と密接に連絡を取っている。今のところ、臨床上必要な場合、輸血のベネフィットが血液や血液製剤による H1N1 型インフルエンザウイルス伝播の理論的な危険性を含むリスクを上回ることを忘れないのが重要である。FDA の規制 (FDA regulations at 21 CFR 640.3) において、健康でない人は献血には適していないし、血液事業者はこれらの潜在的な供血者の供血を保留しなければならない。</p> <p>現在、血液事業者が実施している供血者スクリーニングにより、H1N1 型インフルエンザウイルスの症状を有する患者を同定すべきである。H1N1 型インフルエンザウイルスの人での症状は、通常のヒトインフルエンザと似ていて発熱、咳や喉の痛み、体の痛み、頭痛、寒気や疲労である。H1N1 型インフルエンザウイルスに関連した下痢や嘔吐の報告もある。メキシコや米国において重症化や死亡例が報告されている。現在実施している供血者スクリーニングは、特にヒトに H1N1 型インフルエンザが発生している地域での H1N1 型インフルエンザ伝播のリスクを減少する上で重要な手段である。さらに、良い衛生状態を維持する際に血液事業者が実施している標準的な手法や感染制御の手法は、血液事業における H1N1 型インフルエンザの起こりうる拡大を最小限にするのに役立つであろう。</p> <p>2006 年 10 月の FDA ガイダンス "Biologic Product Deviation Reporting for Blood and Plasma Establishments" に従い、血液事業者は、供血者のインフルエンザ様疾患の供血後報告 (a post donation report) が、既に収集された製品の適切性またはその供血者の将来の供血の適格性を評価すべきかを示していないか検討すべきである。さらに H1N1 型インフルエンザが同定された症例の国及び現地当局への通常の報告に加えて、インフルエンザの輸血による伝播に関する懸念を引き起こす症例がある血液事業者は、州及び現地健康部門と同様に適切に "Therapeutics and Blood Safety Branch of the CBER Office of Biostatistics and Epidemiology" に電話する。</p> <p>新興の 2009 年の H1N1 型インフルエンザウイルスはエンベロープを有する大きなウイルスである。製造販売業者が実施したバリデーションテストでは、現在の血液製剤の製造工程により類似ウイルスが不活化・除去されることが示されている。</p>			使用上の注意記載状況・その他参考事項等
報告企業の意見	今後の対応			
本剤によるインフルエンザウイルス伝播の報告はない。鳥インフルエンザウイルスが 60℃10 時間の液状加熱で不活化される報告があるため、本剤の製造工程でインフルエンザウイルスが不活化されると考えられる。	今後とも新しい感染症に関する情報収集に努める所存である。			

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2009 H1N1 Flu Virus

Information about Newly Emerging 2009 H1N1 Influenza Virus and Blood Safety

I. Background

The ongoing outbreak of new emerging 2009 H1N1 Influenza Virus (H1N1 flu) infections in the United States has raised questions about whether this virus can be transmitted through blood transfusion. No case of transfusion transmitted seasonal influenza has ever been reported in the United States or elsewhere, and, to date, no cases of transfusion transmitted H1N1 flu have been reported. FDA is continuing to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is in close contact with the AABB Interorganizational Task Force on Pandemic Influenza and the Blood Supply to monitor this outbreak and its impact on blood safety and availability.

At this time, it is important to remember that, when clinically indicated, the benefits of a transfusion far outweigh the risks, including any theoretical risk of H1N1 flu transmission through blood or blood products.

II. Blood Safety Provisions

Donor Deferral

Under FDA regulations, individuals who are not in good health are not suitable to donate blood and blood establishments must defer these potential donors. (See FDA regulations at 21 CFR 640.3.) Blood donor screening procedures currently in place at blood establishments should identify persons with symptoms of H1N1 flu infection. The symptoms of H1N1 flu in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human influenza and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with H1N1 flu. Severe illness and deaths have been reported among infected individuals in Mexico and in the U.S.

The donor screening procedures in place today are important measures in reducing the theoretical risk of transfusion transmitted H1N1 flu, particularly in areas where human cases are occurring. In addition, the continued standard practice of blood establishments in maintaining good hygiene and infection control practices will help to minimize possible spread of H1N1 flu in blood establishments. Staff member hand washing between contacts with different donors is especially important.

Additional information on illness with H1N1 flu and general control strategies can be obtained at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/index.htm>.

Potential Component Quarantine and Retrieval

Consistent with FDA's October 2006 Guidance on Biologic Product Deviation Reporting for Blood and Plasma Establishments (see <http://www.fda.gov/cber/gdins/devbld.htm>) Medical Directors of blood establishments should consider whether a post donation report of a flu-like illness in a donor indicates that the previously collected products are unsuitable and that the donor's suitability for future donations should be assessed (e.g. deferral until well.) In addition to routine reporting of identified cases of H1N1 flu to state and local health departments, medical directors with any case

raising concerns regarding potential transfusion transmission of influenza, may contact us at the Therapeutics and Blood Safety Branch of the CBER Office of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at 301-827-3974, as well as the CDC via state and local health departments, as appropriate.

Safety of Plasma Derivatives

The newly emerging 2009 H1N1 Influenza Virus is a large lipid-enveloped virus. Validation studies performed by the product manufacturers have shown that viruses with similar characteristics to this agent are effectively inactivated and/or removed by the manufacturing processes in place for these products.

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Updated: April 30, 2009

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一般的名称	エプタコグアルファ(活性型)(遺伝子組換え)		研究報告の公表状況	CIDRAP News, 2009年4月24日	公表国 米国	
販売名(企業名)	注射用ノボセペン 1.2mg 注射用ノボセペン 4.8mg					
研究報告の概要	研究報告の題名: インフルエンザ A ウイルス(H1N1)-プタ・ヒト 器官別大分類: 感染症および寄生虫症/基本語: インフルエンザ 2009年4月24日, CDCは、メキシコでの致死的な呼吸器疾患発生例から得た検体は、米国の患者からのプタインフルエンザ株と一致したと発表した。					使用上の注意記載状況・その他参考事項等 【使用上の注意の記載状況】 感染症発現については、記載なし。 感染症に対する安全対策については、冒頭に記載あり。 【その他参考事項】 プタ皮由来ゼラチンについては今回の調査期間後の一部変更承認によって、新たに感染症定期報告対象の成分となっており、次回より感染症定期報告を行なう。
	報告企業の意見	本剤は製造工程においてプタ臓由来トリプシンおよびプタ皮由来ゼラチンを使用しているが、本剤の製造工程においてはウイルスの不活化及び除去を目的とした精製を施す等、感染症に対する安全対策を講じていることから、プタ臓由来トリプシンおよびプタ皮由来ゼラチンを経由して本剤にインフルエンザウイルス(H1N1)が混入する可能性は極めて低いものとする。				
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INFLUENZA A (H1N1) VIRUS, HUMAN - NORTH AMERICA (02)

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Update:
 [1] and [2] Strain identity
 [3] Pandemic warning
 [4] Outbreak in NY ?

 [1] Strain identity
 Date: Fri 24 Apr 2009
 Source: CIDRAP News [edited]
 <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/adr2409swine.

Labs confirm same swine flu in deadly Mexican outbreaks

Samples from a deadly respiratory illness outbreak in Mexico match swine influenza isolates from patients in the United States who had milder illnesses, an official from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said today (24 Apr 2009), fueling speculation that the World Health Organization (WHO) could be on the verge of raising the global pandemic alert level. Richard Besser, MD, CDC's acting director, told reporters today during a press teleconference that the development is worrisome. "Our concern has grown since yesterday, based on what we've learned," he said. "We do not know if this will lead to the next pandemic, but our scientists are monitoring it and take the threat very seriously."

The swine flu A/H1N1 strain has been confirmed in one more US citizen, a child from San Diego who has recovered, raising the total number of US cases to 8, Besser said. The virus contains gene segments from 4 different influenza types: North American swine, North American avian, human, and Eurasian swine.

WHO said today that Mexican officials have reported 3 separate events. In the Federal District, the number of cases rose steadily through April, and as of yesterday, more than 854 cases of pneumonia, 59 of them fatal, had been reported in Mexico City. The illness outbreak in Mexico City prompted the country's health minister, Jose Cordova, to cancel classes in Mexico City today and advise students and adults to avoid crowded public places and large events, Bloomberg News reported. Mexican officials also reported 24 cases with 3 deaths from an influenza-like illness in San Luis Potosi, in the central part of the country, and 4 cases with no deaths in Mexicali, near the US border, WHO reported.

The virus in Mexico has primarily struck otherwise healthy young adults, WHO said, which is a departure from seasonal influenza, which typically affects the very young and very old. CDC's laboratory analyzed 14 samples from severely ill Mexican patients and found that 7 of them had the same swine flu mix as the virus that infected the US patients. Besser called the analysis preliminary, however, and said that CDC doesn't yet have enough information to draw conclusions. "We still don't have enough information

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about the extent of the spread or the illness spectrum." WHO said today that Canada's national laboratory has confirmed swine flu A/H1N1 in 18 isolates from Mexican patients, 12 of which were genetically identical to the swine flu viruses from California.

WHO and CDC both said they were sending representatives to Mexico to assist local authorities, and WHO said it has alerted its Global Alert and Response Network. Besser said that WHO will likely convene an expert panel to discuss raising the pandemic alert level from 3 (human infection with new influenza subtype with only rare human-to-human spread) to 4 (small clusters with localized human-to-human transmission). He said the experts will consider 3 factors: the novelty of the virus, disease severity, and how easily transmission of the virus is sustained. Global health officials might consider a containment strategy such as dispatching antiviral medications to affected parts of Mexico in an attempt to stop the spread of the virus, but Besser said that such a measure might not work, because there are signs that the virus has already spread from human to human over long distances. "A focused, well defined area is not something we've seen here," he said. CDC officials have said the swine flu A/H1N1 virus is susceptible to the newer antivirals oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza), but not the older ones, amantadine and rimantadine. Jeff McLaughlin, a spokesman for GlaxoSmithKline, the maker of Relenza, told CIDRAP News that the company is watching the swine flu developments closely. Terry Hurley, a spokesman for Roche, which produces Tamiflu, said its "rapid response stockpile" is on 24-hour standby, as usual, for deployment to WHO, which has not yet requested it.

The threat from the swine flu virus serves as a reminder for individuals and businesses to think about their own level of preparedness, Besser said. "This is a time for people to be thinking about that teachable moment." So far, federal officials have not changed their travel recommendations to California, Texas, or Mexico, though they have issued an advisory about the increased health risk in certain parts of Mexico, urging travelers to take standard precautions such as hand washing, staying home when sick, and using good coughing and sneezing hygiene.

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[The "swine" influenza A(H1N1) virus associated with current outbreaks of respiratory illness in the southern region of the USA and in Mexico appears to be a complex reassortant containing genome components from avian, human, and swine virus sources. Such a virus is unique and it is too early to conclude that this virus has originated in swine.

According to the CDC website (<<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>>) swine influenza (swine flu) is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza viruses that regularly cause outbreaks of influenza among pigs. Swine flu viruses do not normally infect humans; however, human infections with swine flu do occur, and cases of human-to-human spread of swine flu viruses has been documented. From December 2005 through February 2009, a total of 12 human infections with swine influenza were reported from 10 states in the United States. Since March 2009, a number of confirmed human cases of the new strain of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection in California, Texas, and Mexico have been identified.

Whatever the origin of the current outbreak virus it is likely that the designation swine influenza virus will stick. - Mod.CP]

[2] Strain identity
Date: Fri 24 Apr 2009
Source: CBC News [abbreviated and edited]
<<http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2009/04/24/health-flu-mexico090424.html>>

Canadian lab confirms human swine flu cases in Mexico

"Today we have received results which confirm that the virus is human swine influenza," Leona Aglukkaq told a press conference in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. A handful of cases of flu-like illness in Canadian residents who recently returned from Mexico are being monitored; however, "there have been no confirmed cases of human swine influenza yet" here, said Dr David Butler-Jones, Canada's chief public health officer.

Mexico sent 51 specimens for testing to Canada's National Microbiology Laboratory on Wednesday [21 Apr 2009]. 16 positives of swine flu were found among the samples. Mexican health minister Jose Angel Cordova said on Friday that 20 people were killed in the outbreak and 1004 were infected throughout the country, prompting WHO to convene an emergency meeting on Saturday. Officials closed schools, museums and libraries in Mexico City on Friday to limit spread of the virus.

Dr Rich Besser, acting head of the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), said early analysis of Mexican samples of the virus showed it is very similar to those responsible for 8 American cases, one confirmed on Friday. All the US victims have recovered. Canada is working with Mexican and US health officials to confirm that the virus in both countries is linked and is in fact a new strain of influenza A H1N1 human swine virus, he added.

"This is an interesting virus. It's a brand new virus, not only to humans but to the world," said Dr Frank Plummer, scientific director of the Winnipeg lab. "About 80 per cent of the virus is highly related to a North American body [?] of swine flu that's been around for a number of years, but about 20 per cent of it comes from an Eurasian variety of swine flu 1st seen in Thailand, so it's recombined [re-assorted ?] to create something totally new. How it did that, where it did it, when it did it, I don't think we know yet."

CDC said the current strain of swine flu includes genetic material from 4 sources: North American swine influenza viruses, North American avian influenza viruses, human influenza virus, and swine influenza viruses found in Asia and Europe -- a new combination that has not been recognized anywhere in the world before. There appears to be human-to-human spread in both the US and Mexico over a wide geographic area at this point, but investigators are still checking for direct contact with swine.

WHO spokesperson Gregory Hartl said the agency needs to determine whether the outbreaks constitute an international public health threat. Hartl also said 12 of 18 samples taken from victims in Mexico showed the virus had a genetic structure identical to that of the virus found in California earlier this week. But he said the agency needs more information before it changes its pandemic alert level, which currently stands at 3 on a scale of one to 6. The virus was 1st reported earlier this week as US health officials scrambled to deal with the diagnoses of 7 people with the never-before-seen strain in Texas and California. The states share a border with Mexico not far from a town where 2 deaths were reported.

Hartl said health officials are dealing with 3 separate events in Mexico, with most of the cases in and around the capital, Mexico City. Most of the cases have occurred in healthy young adults, he added. "Because these cases are not happening in the very old or the very young, which is normal with seasonal influenza, this is an unusual event and a cause for heightened concern," Hartl said in an interview from WHO headquarters in Geneva. It is also rare to see such high flu activity so late in the season, he said. "The end of April, especially in a place like Mexico, you would think that we would see quite a steep decline," said Hartl.

On Thursday [23 Apr 2009], Canadian health officials issued advice warning travellers who have recently returned from Mexico to be on alert for flu-like symptoms that could be connected to the illness.

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[3] Pandemic warning
Date: Sat 25 Apr 2009
Source: MSNBC [edited]
<<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/30398682>>

Health officials prepare for swine flu "pandemic"

A new swine flu strain that has killed as many as 68 people and sickened more than 1000 across Mexico has "pandemic potential," the WHO chief said on Saturday [25 Apr 2009], and it may be too late to contain the sudden outbreak. CDC has stepped up surveillance across the United States. "We are worried," said CDC's Dr Anne Schuchat. "We don't think we can contain the spread of this virus," said Schuchat, interim deputy director for the Science and Public Health Program. "We are likely to find it in many other places." Because cases have been detected in California, Texas, and in several sites in Mexico, officials now must work to detect infections and reduce their severity, if possible. "It's time to prepare, time to think ahead and to be prepared for some uncertainty," she told reporters in a telephone briefing on Saturday.

Two dozen new suspected cases were reported Saturday [25 Apr 2009] in Mexico City alone. Schools were closed and all public events suspended in the capital until further notice -- including more than 500 concerts and other gatherings in the metropolis of 20 million. A hot line fielded 2366 calls in its 1st hours from frightened city residents who suspected they might have the disease. Soldiers and health workers handed out masks at subway stops, and hospitals dealt with crowds of people seeking help.

WHO's director-general, Margaret Chan, said the outbreak of the never-before-seen virus is a very serious situation and has "pandemic potential". But she said it is still too early to tell if it would become a pandemic. "The situation is evolving quickly," Chan said in a telephone news conference in Geneva. "A new disease is by definition poorly understood. "This virus is a mix of human, pig, and bird strains that prompted the WHO to meet Saturday to consider declaring an international public health emergency -- a step that could lead to travel advisories, trade restrictions and border closures. Spokesman Gregory Hartl said a decision would not be made on Saturday.

Scientists have warned for years about the potential for a pandemic from viruses that mix genetic material from humans and animals. Another reason to worry is that authorities said the dead so far don't include vulnerable infants and elderly. The Spanish flu pandemic, which killed at least 40 million people worldwide in 1918-19, also 1st struck otherwise healthy young adults. This swine flu and regular flu can have similar symptoms -- mostly fever, cough, and sore throat, though some of the US victims who recovered also experienced vomiting and diarrhea. But unlike with regular flu, humans don't have natural immunity to a virus that includes animal genes -- and new vaccines can take months to bring into use.

But experts at WHO and CDC say the nature of this outbreak may make containment impossible. Already, more than 1000 people have been infected in as many as 14 of Mexico's 32 states, according to daily newspaper El Universal. Tests show 20 people have died of the swine flu, and 48 other deaths were probably due to the same strain.

CDC and Canadian health officials were studying samples sent from Mexico, and airports around the world were screening passengers from Mexico for symptoms of the new flu strain, saying they may quarantine passengers. But CDC officials dismissed the idea of trying that in the United States. They noted there had been no direct contact between the cases in the San Diego and San Antonio areas, suggesting the virus had already spread from one geographic area through other undiagnosed people. "Anything that would be about containing it right now would purely be a political move," said Michael Osterholm, a University of Minnesota pandemic expert.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon said his government only discovered the

nature of the virus late on Thursday, with the help of international laboratories. "We are doing everything necessary," he said in a brief statement. But the government had said for days that its growing flu caseload was nothing unusual, so the sudden turnaround angered many who wonder if Mexico missed an opportunity to contain the outbreak.

Across Mexico's capital, residents reacted with fatalism and confusion, anger, and mounting fear at the idea that their city may be ground zero for a global epidemic. Authorities urged people to stay home if they feel sick and to avoid shaking hands or kissing people on the cheeks.

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[4] Suspected outbreak in New York
Date: Fri 24 Apr 2009
Source: WCBS TV News [edited]
<http://wcbstv.com/health/swine_flu_nyc.2.994071.html>

Possible swine flu outbreak at NYC prep school

New York City health officials say that about 75 students at a Queens high school have fallen ill with flu-like symptoms and testing is under way to rule out the strain of swine flu that has killed dozens in Mexico. The Health Department's Dr Don Weiss said on Friday [24 Apr 2009] that a team of agency doctors and investigators were dispatched to the private St Francis Preparatory School the previous day after students reported fever, sore throat, cough, aches, and pains. No one has been hospitalized.

The handful of sick students who remained at the school were tested for a variety of flu strains. If they're found to have a known human strain that would rule out swine flu. Results could take several days. In the meantime, the school says it's postponing an evening event and sanitizing the building over the weekend.

Mexican authorities said 60 people may have died from a swine flu virus in Mexico, and world health officials worry it could unleash a global flu epidemic. Mexico City closed schools, museums, libraries, and state-run theaters across the metropolis on Friday in hopes of containing the outbreak that has sickened more than 900. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said tests show some of the Mexico victims died from the same new strain of swine flu that sickened 8 people in Texas and California. It's a frightening new strain that combines genetic material from pigs, birds and humans.

WHO was looking closely at the 60 deaths -- most of them in or near Mexico's capital. It wasn't yet clear what flu they died from, but spokesman Thomas Abraham said "We are very, very concerned. We have what appears to be a novel virus and it has spread from human to human," he said. "It's all hands on deck at the moment."

WHO raised its internal alert system on Friday, preparing to divert more money and personnel to dealing with the outbreak. President Felipe Calderon cancelled a trip and met with his Cabinet to coordinate Mexico's response. The government has 500 000 flu vaccines and planned to administer them to health workers, the highest risk group. There are no vaccines available for the general public in Mexico, and authorities urged people to avoid hospitals unless they had a medical emergency, since hospitals are centers of infection. Some Mexican residents have started wearing blue surgical masks for extra protection, reports CBS News correspondent Adrienne Bard. The federal health minister has warned people not to go near anyone with a