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Update on Influenza A/H1N1

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Background Influenza A in Swine

- Respiratory illness described in pigs in 1918 – believed to be the first occurrence of influenza in swine
- “Classical” swine influenza
 - Swine influenza virus first isolated in 1930 in North America as H1N1
 - Swine influenza endemic in many pig populations in the world
 - Pigs can be infected with different influenza viruses - “reassortant strains”
 - Currently - various “avian-like”, reassortant, or triple reassortant influenza viruses circulating among swine populations
 - Swine influenza is not an OIE listed disease

OIE Communications on Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

The screenshot shows the OIE website in Microsoft Internet Explorer. The browser window title is "OIE - World organisation for animal health - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar shows "http://www.oie.int/eng/en_index.htm". The website header includes the OIE logo and the organization's name in three languages: "Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale", "World Organisation for Animal Health", and "Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal".

Navigation and Search: On the left, there are links for "[Español]" and "[Français]", a "Site map", and a "Search" box. A red arrow points from the "Search" box to the "Publications and Documentation" link in the left sidebar.

Alerts - Disease Information: This section features a "weden - Influenza A subtype H1N1 in Chile - Rabies in Finland -" link. Below it are three items: "Latest news on animal diseases", "Update on avian influenza in animals", and "World Animal Health Information Database (WAHID)".

Highlights: This section lists three dates with corresponding news items:

- 31/07/09:** The OIE takes steps to support Members modernize their veterinary legislation.
- 13/07/09:** Pandemic (H1N1) 2009: the OIE reiterates its recommendations to animal health authorities worldwide.
- 06/07/09:** OIE/FAO Global Conference on FMD - Final Recommendations.

A link for "previous press releases..." is also provided.

OIE Conferences: This section lists two conferences:

- Evolving Veterinary Education for a safer world:** Paris (France) 12-14 October 2009.
- OIE Conference on Veterinary Medicinal Products in the Middle East.**

Editorial from the Director General: This section features a portrait of the Director General and the text: "OIE's role in the pandemic influenza H1N1 2009". Below the text, it states: "In April 2009, cases of human illness caused by a novel strain of Influenza A/ H1N1 were reported from Mexico and the United States. Very quickly, in a context of an enhanced worldwide surveillance, cases of human infection with this virus have been notified on all continents, which lead the World Health Organisation to declare an influenza global pandemic."

OIE Publications: This section is titled "Scientific and Technical Review" and lists "Most recent issues":

- Avian influenza, 28 (1), April 2009**
- Climate change: the impact on the epidemiology and control of animal diseases, 27 (2), August 2008**
- Access to other issues**

Media Resources: This section includes a "Focus on..." link and a list of resources:

- Access media resources**
- Swine influenza "classical"**
- Avian Influenza**

A red arrow points from the "Media Resources" section to the "Focus on..." link.

Footer: The footer contains the website URL "http://www.oie.int", copyright information "Copyright (C) OIE 2009", and the name of the Editorial Director, Dr. Vallat.

OIE Communications on Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the OIE website. The address bar shows the URL: http://www.oie.int/eng/press/en_090713.htm. The page title is "Pandemic (H1N1) 2009: the OIE recalls its recommendations to animal health authorities worldwide". The main content area features a red header with the title "Pandemic (H1N1) 2009: the OIE reiterates its recommendations to animal health authorities worldwide". Below the header, there is a sub-header in red: "While the virus continues to spread among humans worldwide, the role of animals has not yet been demonstrated in the epidemiology or spread of the pandemic H1N1 2009". The main text begins with "Paris, 13 July 2009 – The pandemic H1N1 2009 virus continues to spread among humans worldwide currently causing mild symptoms in the majority of cases; however, there is no evidence at this time that animals are playing any role in the epidemiology or the spread of the virus." It then discusses the OIE's role in providing recommendations and lists several key points for national veterinary services to follow. The footer contains contact information for the OIE, including the address, telephone number (+33 (0)1 44 15 18 88), fax number (+33 (0)1 42 67 09 87), and email address (oie@oie.int).

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009: the OIE reiterates its recommendations to animal health authorities worldwide

While the virus continues to spread among humans worldwide, the role of animals has not yet been demonstrated in the epidemiology or spread of the pandemic H1N1 2009

Paris, 13 July 2009 – The pandemic H1N1 2009 virus continues to spread among humans worldwide currently causing mild symptoms in the majority of cases; however, there is no evidence at this time that animals are playing any role in the epidemiology or the spread of the virus.

Public and animal health experts worldwide continue their joint effort on scientific research aimed at better understanding the virus and providing recommendations for its prevention and control. The OIE is in the process to expand the scope of its current Reference Laboratories for avian influenza to include expertise on all animal influenza viruses and emphasize research on the behavior of these viruses at the human-animal interface. The OIE/FAO global network OFFLU already extended its scope of actions by including influenza viruses' diagnosis and research in pigs.

Taking into account all available scientific information, the OIE considers that the recommendations issued since the first appearance of the pandemic H1N1 2009 virus are still valid. They are re-emphasized below:

- national veterinary services must ensure a high level of awareness in the veterinary and producer community and effectively monitor animal populations for clinical signs of respiratory disease, use appropriate confirmation diagnostic methods and rapidly report the initial occurrences of the disease in animals to the OIE by using the qualification of "emerging disease";
- should the presence of the "pandemic H1N1 2009 virus" be detected on a farm, the holding should be subject to a surveillance plan and movement restrictions applied until recovery; the transfer of clinically healthy pigs from the farm to the slaughterhouse can be done using basic bio-security measures.;
- the culling of pigs will not help to guard against public or animal health risks presented by the virus. As for any other disease, slaughtering of sick pigs for human consumption is not recommended;
- the imposition of ban measures related to the import of pigs and pig products from countries with human or animal cases are pointless and do not comply with international standards published by the OIE and all other competent standard setting international bodies for animal health and food safety;
- in the case of countries deciding to cull pigs on the basis of the principle of precaution, culling of animals should always be carried out in accordance with OIE international standards on animal welfare and killing methods for disease control purposes (Volume 1; Section 7; Chapter 7.6 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code; http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_1_7_6.htm);
- pork and pork products, handled in accordance with good hygienic practices jointly recommended by the WHO, FAO, Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE, are not a source of infection from the virus;

The OIE strongly encourages the effective implementation of international standards by all and offers its assistance to any Member wishing to comply with its standards.

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- Not justified to name this human disease swine influenza
- Now called "Pandemic (H1N1) 2009"

Why “Classical” Swine Influenza Is Not an OIE Listed Disease

- It does not meet the criteria outlined in Chapter 1.2 of the Terrestrial Code.
- While swine influenza is capable of rapidly spreading within a herd, it is predominantly a production diseases with very low mortality.
- Human infection with the known swine influenza viruses has been an uncommonly described event and is clinically similar to seasonal influenza.
- Note – The occurrence of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in pigs is currently reportable to the OIE as an emerging disease

First report of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Virus in Swine Canada

- 05/05/2009: An IN to the OIE reports one swine herd tested positive for influenza A H1N1 virus, later confirmed as pandemic (H1N1) 2009 strain
- Based on available epidemiologic information - it is believed that the pigs were exposed to the virus from a human with influenza-like symptoms
- Immediate quarantine of herd and notification by Canada to OIE as an “Emerging Disease”

H1N1 Outbreak in Canada

- Clearwater county, ALBERTA
- Date of start of the event:
21/04/2009
- Possible transmission from humans to pigs
- All susceptible animals were destroyed for overcrowding reasons
- Resolved on 29/07/2009
- Given community spread within human population and subsequent exposure of swine it is anticipated that additional herd detections will occur



Suspicion of H1N1 Outbreak in Mexico not confirmed

- On the **5th of June 2009**: OIE asked the country about the situation of Influenza A H1N1 in pigs;
- Answer received on the **30th of July 2009**;
- Mexico has **15.1 million of pigs**;
- The screening concerned **7.956 pigs'** production units which involved **6.060.896** pigs;
- Results from **35 suspected** farms: **5 positives** to influenza A;
- PCR analysis from these positive results denied the presence of virus influenza A/H1N1;
- Negatives results on **13.300** slaughtered pigs.

Source: Letter received from the Mexican Delegate to the OIE on 30 July 2009

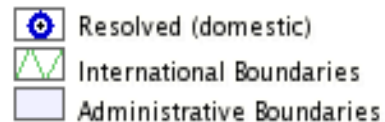
H1N1 Outbreaks in Argentina

- 2 Outbreaks in Buenos Aires
- Date of start of the event: 15/06/2009
- No dead animals
- Last report to the OIE 28/07/2009:
- No new animal infection since 24/06/2009



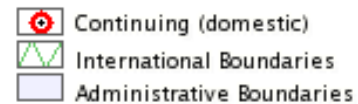
H1N1 Outbreak in Australia

- 1 Outbreak in New South Wales
- Date of start of the event :
24/07/2009
- Transmission from humans to pigs
- Resolved 13/08/2009



H1N1 Outbreaks in Chile

- 2 Outbreaks in Valparaiso
- Date of start of the event: 21/08/2009
- 24337 Turkeys infected
- No deaths



H1N1 in imported pigs identified in Singapore. First reports in Asia

- 3 September 2009: AFVA has detected the pandemic A H1N1 2009 virus in some (12) pigs imported into Singapore from Indonesia's Pulau Bulan.
- 3 September 2009: The OE has requested the Indonesian veterinary Services on the situation of H1N1 in pigs Pulau Bulan and in the rest of the country.

H1N1 Human cases

Confirmed cases (WHO)		Confirme cases (media)	
cases (including deaths)	deaths	cases (including deaths)	deaths
104.487	476	298.411	3.280

Source: GPHIN – 03/09/2009

OIE Statements Related to Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

- A/H1N1 influenza like human illness in Mexico and the USA: OIE statement
- OIE position on safety of international trade of pigs and products of pig origin
- The OIE strongly counsels against the culling of pigs
- Joint FAO/WHO/OIE Statement on influenza A (H1N1) and the safety of pork

While the virus continues to spread among humans worldwide, the role of animals has not yet been demonstrated in the epidemiology or spread of the pandemic H1N1 2009

- high level of awareness in the veterinary and producer community
- the transfer of clinically healthy pigs from the farm to the slaughterhouse can be done using basic bio-security measures
- the culling of pigs will not help to guard against public or animal health risks presented by the virus
- the imposition of ban measures related to the import of pigs and pig products from countries with human or animal cases are pointless and do not comply with international standards published by the OIE
- in the case of countries deciding to cull pigs on the basis of the principle of precaution, culling of animals should always be carried out in accordance with OIE international standards on animal welfare
- pork and pork products, handled in accordance with good hygienic practices jointly recommended by the WHO, FAO, Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE, are not a source of infection from the virus

Remaining Issues Regarding Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Strain for OIE

- It is likely that the circulation of this virus among humans lead to more pig/ or other animals infections and/or illness
- It appears that infection of pigs with this new virus causes disease similar to “classical” swine influenza
 - Can we prevent this new influenza from becoming established in the pig population?
 - Do existing pig SIV vaccines provide cross-protection against this new strain?
- What may be the implications for disease reporting or not reporting?

Thank you for your attention

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http://www.oie.int/eng/info/en_listserv.htm



RRS Feeds are now available too

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