

# EUROPEAN INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE NETWORK



## Weekly electronic bulletin

Week 27: 29 June 2009 - 05 July 2009

10 July 2009

### Influenza A(H1N1)v detections across the European Union continue with high influenza activity in the community in the UK and baseline level activity in the other reporting countries

*The 2008-2009 influenza season is over and was described in the Weekly Electronic Bulletin of week 22/2009. As of week 24/2009, bulletins will present developments regarding the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in the European Union and Norway since week 16/2009.*

**Summary:** In week 27/2009, all countries reporting indicated low levels of influenza activity except for the UK (England) who reported high levels of activity. A total of 301 detections of A(H1N1)v influenza virus was reported. Although a large number of influenza detections were reported, mainly due to A(H1N1)v virus, influenza activity remains at or below baseline levels in Europe. A(H1N1)v was the dominant type reported in Denmark, Ireland, and the UK (England).

**Epidemiological situation - week 27/2009:** The overall intensity of influenza-like illness (ILI) and/or acute respiratory infection (ARI) was low in all countries that reported this indicator except for UK(England) where high intensity was reported. All countries reported sporadic or no activity but the UK(England) notified widespread activity.

**Cumulative epidemiological situation - weeks 16-27/2009** To date, the occurrence of A(H1N1)v influenza virus infection since week 16/2009 has not given rise to increased levels of ILI or ARI, although in a part of England an increase can be observed starting in week 25 and continuing to week 27/2009. There is also an increase in the percentage of positive sentinel samples in Spain and the UK(England).

**Virological situation - week 27/2009:** The total number of respiratory specimens collected by sentinel physicians in week 27/2009 was 471 of which 88 (19 %) were positive for influenza virus: 86 type A (79 subtype (H1N1)v, two subtype (H1)v, one subtype H1 and four A untyped) and two type B. In addition, 2488 non-sentinel source specimens (e.g. specimens collected for diagnostic purposes in hospitals) were reported positive for influenza virus: 2479 type A (163 subtype (H1N1)v, 57 subtype (H1)v, seven subtype H3, one subtype H3N2, and 2251 not subtyped) and nine type B.

**Cumulative virological situation - weeks 16/2009-27/2009:** Of 5440 virus detections (sentinel and non-sentinel) since week 16/2009, 5020 (92%) were type A (498 subtype (H1)v, 1243 subtype (H1N1)v, 124 subtype H3, 85 subtype H3N2, 38 subtype H1, 37 subtype H1N1 and 2995 not subtyped) and 420 (8%) were type B.

Based on the antigenic and/or genetic characterisation of 6616 influenza viruses reported from week 40/2008 to week 27/2009, 4867 (73%) were reported as A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2)-like, 266 (4%) as A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1)-like, 52 (1 %) as B/Florida/4/2006-like (B/Yamagata/16/88 lineage), 1377 (21%) as B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like or B/Brisbane/60/2008-like (B/Victoria/2/87 lineage) and 54 (1%) as A/California/4/2009 (H1N1)v-like.

For the current virus strains recommended by WHO for vaccine preparation [click here](#) All A(H1N1)v viruses tested have been resistant to M2 inhibitors and sensitive to oseltamivir and zanamivir, but for one oseltamivir-resistant specimen isolated in Denmark, for ECDC a threat assessment on this [click here](#).

**Comment:** In week 27/2009 one EU Member State (UK) reported high activity in one of its regions. In total, 301 detections of the A(H1N1)v influenza virus were reported. However, the numbers do not reflect the total number of confirmed cases in the European Union and Norway reported on a daily basis during week 27/2009 to ECDC through the Early Warning Response System [click here](#). However, influenza activity in the community remains low across all countries in the European Union and Norway except UK (England).

As of 09 July 2009, there have been a total of 11020 laboratory confirmed cases and four deaths due to A(H1N1)v influenza virus reported in the EU and EFTA countries. For a detailed epidemiological description of the A(H1N1)v virus detections in the EU/EFTA countries (April-8 June 2009), [click here](#).

Worldwide, over 104000 cases and 470 deaths due to A(H1N1)v influenza virus infections have been reported and on 11 June 2009 the WHO raised the pandemic alert level to phase 6 ([click here](#)). For more information, please go to the dedicated web pages of ECDC ([click here](#)) or WHO ([click here](#)). European countries have been requested to continue to report both clinical and virological data on influenza until further notice.

Background: The Weekly Electronic Bulletin presents and comments on influenza activity in the European Union and Norway. Of these countries, 12 reported both clinical and virological data, one reported virological data only and three reported clinical data only in week 27/2009. The spread of influenza viruses and their epidemiological impact in Europe are being monitored by the network under the aegis of [the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#) in Stockholm (Sweden) in collaboration with the [WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza](#) in London (UK).

The EISN bulletin is prepared using reports from GP consultations and other sources, depending on individual country arrangements. It is important to recognise that different health care systems and types of measurement should also be considered when assessing the impact of influenza.

The bulletin text was written by an editorial team at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC): Flaviu Plata, Phillip Zucs and Bruno Ciancio. The bulletin text was reviewed by the Community Network of Reference Laboratories for Human Influenza in Europe (CNRL) coordination team: Adam Meijer, Rod Daniels, Alan Hay and Maria Zambon. On behalf of the EISN members the bulletin text was reviewed by Joan O'Donnell (Health Protection Surveillance Centre, Ireland) and Katarina Prosenc (National Institute of Public Health, Slovenia).  
Maps and commentary used in this Bulletin do not imply any opinions whatsoever of ECDC or its partners on the legal status of the countries and territories shown or concerning their borders.

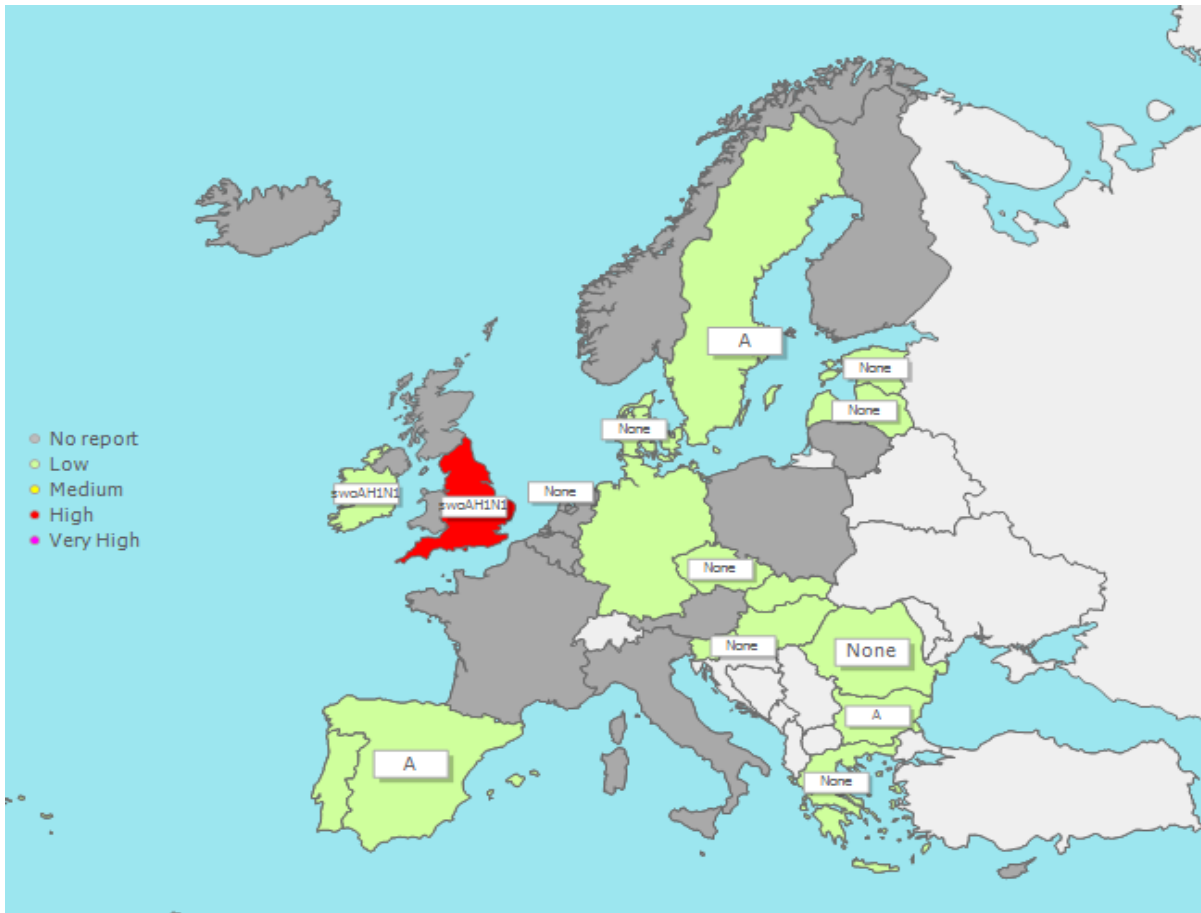
**Comments on Clinical Data provided by countries in week 27, 2009**

No country has provided comments

**Comments on Virological Data provided by countries in week 27, 2009****Network comments**

Latvia                      0

## Influenza Intensity in Week 27, 2009



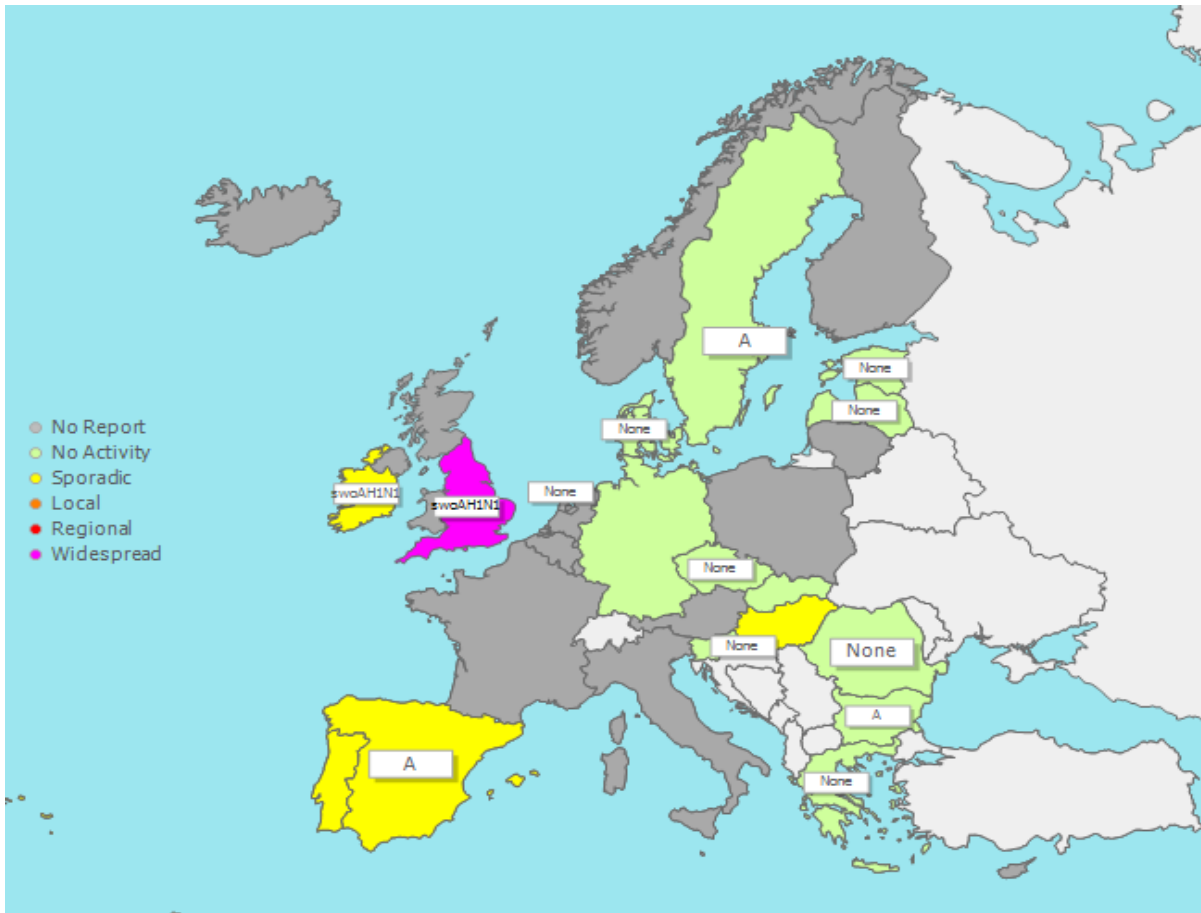
Legend:

A = Dominant virus A, H1N1 = Dominant virus A(H1N1), H3N2 = Dominant virus A(H3N2), H1N2 = Dominant virus A(H1N2), B = Dominant virus B, A & B = Dominant virus A & B

"=" = stable clinical activity, "+" = increasing clinical activity, "-" = decreasing clinical activity

Low = no influenza activity or influenza at baseline levels, Medium = usual levels of influenza activity, High = higher than usual levels of influenza activity, Very high = particularly severe levels of influenza activity

Influenza Geographic Spread in Week 27, 2009



Legend:

A = Dominant virus A, H1N1 = Dominant virus A(H1N1), H3N2 = Dominant virus A(H3N2), H1N2 = Dominant virus A(H1N2), B = Dominant virus B, A & B = Dominant virus A & B

"=" = stable clinical activity, "+" = increasing clinical activity, "-" = decreasing clinical activity

No activity = no evidence of influenza virus activity (clinical activity remains at baseline levels), Sporadic = isolated cases of laboratory confirmed influenza infection, Local outbreak = increased influenza activity in local areas (e.g. a city) within a region, or outbreaks in two or more institutions (e.g. schools) within a region (laboratory confirmed), Regional activity = influenza activity above baseline levels in one or more regions with a population comprising less than 50% of the country's total population (laboratory confirmed), Widespread = influenza activity above baseline levels in one or more regions with a population comprising 50% or more of the country's population (laboratory confirmed)

## Influenza Intensity in Week 27, 2009

	Intensity	Geographic spread	Sentinel swabs	Percentage positive	Dominant Type	ILI per 100.000	ARI per 100.000	Epidemiological overview	Virological overview
Bulgaria	Low	No activity	0	0.0 %	A		381.5	<a href="#">graphs</a>	<a href="#">graphs</a>
Czech Republic	Low	No activity	0	0.0 %	None	9.8	512.0	<a href="#">graphs</a>	<a href="#">graphs</a>
Denmark	Low	No activity	18	0.0 %	AH1v	1.5	0.0	<a href="#">graphs</a>	<a href="#">graphs</a>
Estonia	Low	No activity	2	0.0 %	None	0.6	79.8	<a href="#">graphs</a>	<a href="#">graphs</a>
Germany	Low	No activity		0.0 %			426.5	<a href="#">graphs</a>	<a href="#">graphs</a>
Greece	Low	No activity	2	0.0 %	None	20.4		<a href="#">graphs</a>	<a href="#">graphs</a>
Hungary	Low	Sporadic		0.0 %		12.5		<a href="#">graphs</a>	<a href="#">graphs</a>
Ireland	Low	Sporadic	1	0.0 %	swoAH1N1	1.7		<a href="#">graphs</a>	<a href="#">graphs</a>
Latvia	Low	No activity	1	0.0 %	None	0.0	291.5	<a href="#">graphs</a>	<a href="#">graphs</a>
Netherlands			9	0.0 %	None			-	<a href="#">graphs</a>
Portugal	Low	Sporadic		0.0 %		0.0		-	<a href="#">graphs</a>
Romania	Low	No activity	0	0.0 %	None	3.3	446.7	<a href="#">graphs</a>	<a href="#">graphs</a>
Slovakia	Low	No activity		0.0 %		55.0	705.5	<a href="#">graphs</a>	<a href="#">graphs</a>
Slovenia	Low	No activity	5	40.0 %	None	2.4	496.6	<a href="#">graphs</a>	<a href="#">graphs</a>
Spain	Low	Sporadic	46	34.8 %	A	11.6		<a href="#">graphs</a>	<a href="#">graphs</a>
Sweden	Low	No activity	23	0.0 %	A			-	<a href="#">graphs</a>
UK - England	High	Widespread	376	25.9 %	swoAH1N1			-	<a href="#">graphs</a>
Europe			483						