



JOINT PRESS RELEASE BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH CAMBODIA, KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA AND
THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

**World Health Organization announces shift to Phase 6 Pandemic for Influenza A (H1N1)
Still no cases confirmed in Cambodia**

Ministry of Health, Phnom Penh, Friday 12 June, 11.00AM

Following today's announcement by the WHO Director General, the Ministry of Health would like to inform all members of the public that the human Influenza A (H1N1) virus is now spreading internationally and causing disease in many parts of the world.

At this time, WHO assesses the severity of the Influenza A (H1N1) pandemic to be "moderate". In countries with influenza cases, the majority of people have recovered from the infection without the need for hospitalization or medical care. The number of severe or fatal cases has been similar to levels seen during the annual influenza season. Current patterns of serious cases and fatalities are occurring primarily among young persons, including the previously healthy and those with pre-existing medical conditions or pregnancy.

As of 12 June 2009, no cases of Influenza A virus (H1N1) have been confirmed in Cambodia. With the virus continuing to spread internationally, the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Cambodia continues to strengthen the implementation of the national pandemic response plan and, supported by WHO, has been actively preparing management guidelines for Ministry of Health staff.

The Influenza A (H1N1) virus is a new virus and much information is still unknown. As the situation evolves, the Ministry of Health will continue to keep the public informed of developments via its website www.cdcmoh.gov.kh and regular statements made to the press. The Ministry of Health is working closely with the National Committee for Disaster Management and development partners to ensure that effective coordination is achieved.

To protect themselves and others from contracting Influenza A (H1N1) the Ministry of Health advises all members of the public to continue to practice good personal hygiene especially;

- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue
- Wash hands regularly with soap (especially after coughing, sneezing and before eating)
- Do not spit in public

Anyone who develops a fever above 38 C should stay home and avoid crowded places. They may also contact the Ministry of Health's Influenza Hotline: **012 488 981 or 089 669 567**

There is currently no vaccine available for Influenza A (H1N1) and most cases do not require antiviral medication. Treatment includes drinking lots of liquids, rest and paracetamol. Anyone who develops difficulty breathing should report to their nearest health centre for further advice.

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