



## Confirmation of the first case of Influenza A (H1N1) in Cambodia

Phnom Penh, Wednesday 24 June 2009, 11.00AM

Cambodia's first case of the new influenza A(H1N1) virus was confirmed by the Cambodian National Influenza Centre (NIC) on Tuesday 23 June 2009.

The infected person, a 16-year-old US citizen visiting the country as part of a student group, arrived in Phnom Penh on Friday 19 June. She developed symptoms the following day and sought medical care at a private clinic on Monday 22 June. The clinic was concerned that the patient may have been infected by Influenza A (H1N1) virus based on her travel history and clinical presentation. A sample was collected from the patient and sent to the National Influenza Centre. The positive result was confirmed on Tuesday 23 June using tests specifically designed to detect the new A (H1N1) influenza virus. The patient was kept in isolation while the samples were being tested.

*"With the virus now circulating globally its eventual arrival in Cambodia was expected. We are pleased that the systems we have put in place have worked in identifying and isolating the case"* said HE Dr. Mam Bun Heng, Minister of Health.

Following Cambodia's national guidelines for pandemic influenza management, the patient is currently being isolated at a health care facility. She is in a stable condition and is recovering well without any complications. As per standard precautions, the other members of her group are under voluntary observation for signs of infection.

Ministry of Health officials and the WHO met last night to share available information and implement the national action plan. The Ministry of Health, in partnership with WHO, will continue to monitor the situation very closely and keep the public well informed of any updates as they occur.

### Public Health Advice:

The Ministry of Health and WHO would like to advise all members of the public that the most effective way to prevent the spread of Influenza A (H1N1) virus is to practice good personal hygiene at all times.

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

The symptoms of Influenza A (H1N1) include fever above 38 C and cough, running nose, lethargy, nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea.

Anyone who has these symptoms should stay at home, avoid crowded places and contact the Ministry of Health's Influenza Hotline: **012 488 981 or 089 669 567**. Patients with influenza-like symptoms who have difficulty breathing should report to their nearest health centre for further advice.

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.

### **Background note:**

Influenza A(H1N1) virus- also called pandemic H1N1 2009 virus- started circulating in April 2009. As of 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009, more than 90 countries have reported presence of the virus, affecting 42,160 people and causing death in 231 individuals. *V. KHEAN* ...

For more information, please contact:

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