



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



Press release 29 September 2009

Pandemic H1N1 2009 Influenza Virus
First death from Pandemic H1N1 influenza in Cambodia

The Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Cambodia would like to regretfully inform the general public of the first death from Pandemic H1N1 influenza in Cambodia.

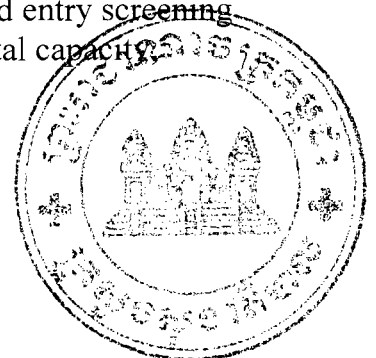
The patient, a 41 year old female from Phnom Penh, developed signs and symptoms of flu on 18th September, sought medical attention on 20 September and was admitted to hospital on 22 September. She was diagnosed as having pandemic H1N1 influenza virus on 24th September and was transferred to Calmette Hospital soon after, as her condition worsened. She died of cardiopulmonary arrest on 27th September. Investigations are ongoing to identify particular risk factors that may have predisposed her to develop severe disease.

As of 25th September there have been 3917 deaths attributed to pandemic H1N1 influenza globally and the disease now exists in 191 countries. In Cambodia, as of 24th September there have been 89 confirmed cases of pandemic H1N1 influenza cases with local transmission occurring in Phnom Penh, Kandal, Takeo, Kampong Speu, Siem Reap and Battambang provinces.

It is anticipated that the number of cases in Cambodia will increase further to the point that testing and reporting of individual cases will no longer be useful. The Ministry of Health will continue to keep the public informed of developments via the MoH website www.cdcmoh.gov.kh.

The MoH advises members of the public to stay at home if they develop flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, body aches) and to call the MoH Hotline for further advice and guidance. In an effort to slow the spread of the disease in Cambodia, individuals who test positive for new influenza A(H1N1) will be requested to undergo treatment and isolation either at home or at a hospital, for 7 days from onset of symptoms.

The MoH continues to monitor the situation closely and is working collaboratively with other ministries, agencies and development partners for effective coordination of activities to ensure public health and safety. Measures include continued entry screening at all international airports and border crossings, enhancement of hospital capacity, ongoing public education and preparations for school opening.



Public Health Advice:

Protect yourself and your family:

The most effective way to prevent the spread of Pandemic H1N1 2009 virus is to practice good basic personal hygiene at all times:

- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and dispose of tissue in a bin;
- Wash hands regularly with soap and water (especially after coughing, sneezing and before eating);
- Do not spit in public

How to recognize influenza and what to do about It :

The symptoms of Pandemic H1N1 2009 influenza are much the same as seasonal influenza and include: high fever above 38 °C, coughing, headache, muscle aches, sore throat, runny nose, lethargy. Infection can transmit from one day before symptoms appear up to 7 days after onset.

Anyone who has above symptoms should stay at home and avoid crowded places and call the Influenza Hotline for further advice and guidance. Only severe cases need hospitalization.

Shortness of breath and difficulty in breathing may occur in very few cases. If these complications develop particularly in 'at risk' groups, medical attention should be sought. The 'at risk' groups include those with chronic underlying conditions such as heart, lung or kidney disease, diabetics and those whose immune systems are suppressed such as cancer sufferers or those living with HIV/AIDS

Treatment is the same as for regular seasonal influenza and includes: drinking lots of liquids, rest and use paracetamol to reduce the temperature and muscle ache.

Most cases do not require antiviral medication. There is currently no vaccine available for Pandemic H1N1 2009 and it is unlikely that a vaccine will become widely available for some time.

For more information please call the Influenza Hotline numbers:
115 (free call); 012 488 981 or 089 669 567

Or contact:

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