

International Notifiable Disease Outbreaks by Country, 2008-2013

In 2009 and 2010, there were over 208 countries that experienced a pandemic outbreak of H1N1. Compared to other outbreaks, H1N1 has affected the largest number of countries.

During February and March 2013, the first identified cases of avian influenza A (H7N9) virus infection in humans, occurred in China (Li et al., 2013).

Up until 10th July 2013, a total of 132 H7N9 avian flu cases had been reported on the Chinese mainland, including 43 that had ended in death (Xinhua, 2013).

Even though there is no evidence of ongoing human-to-human transmission so far (World Health Organisation, 2013), according to Lam et al. (2013), the H7 viruses may pose threats beyond the current outbreak. They proposed that the continuing prevalence of H7 viruses in poultry could increase the risk of the virus acquiring human-to-human transmissibility.

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FIGURE 1: INTERNATIONAL NOTIFIABLE DISEASE OUTBREAKS BY COUNTRY, 2008-2013

Disease	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Avian Influenza (A/H5N1)	Egypt, Indonesia, Viet Nam, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia	Viet Nam, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Cambodia	Egypt, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR)	Egypt, Cambodia, Indonesia, Bangladesh	China, Egypt, Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Hong Kong SAR	Cambodia
Rift Valley Fever	Sudan, Madagascar	-	South Africa	-	Mauritania	-
Yellow Fever	Brazil, Paraguay, Liberia, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Burkina Faso	Sierra Leone, Guinea, Republic of Congo, Liberia, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic	Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal	Uganda, Cote D'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Senegal	Ghana, Cameroon, Sudan, Republic of Congo	Chad, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon
Ebola haemorrhagic fever	Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo	Democratic Republic of Congo, Philippines	-	Uganda	Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo	-
Meningococcal disease	13 countries of the African Meningitis belt	Nigeria, countries of the African Meningitis Belt, Chad	Chad	Chad	African Meningitis Belt	African Meningitis Belt
Dengue haemorrhagic fever	Brazil	Cape Verde	Pakistan	-	Madeira, Portugal	-
Cholera	Viet Nam, Iraq, Guinea Bissau, Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Central Africa, Pakistan, Haiti	Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo	Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone	Mexico
Enterovirus	China	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	Nigeria & West/Central Africa	Nigeria, West Africa, Sudan	Tajikistan, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central Asia, North Caucasus Federal Region of the Russian Federation	Cote d'Ivoire, Chad, Pakistan, China	-	Syrian Arab Republic
Lead Intoxication	Senegal	-	Nigeria (Zamfara State)	Nigeria (Zamfara State)	-	-
Marburg Haemorrhagic Fever	Uganda, Netherlands	-	-	-	Uganda	-
Melamine-contaminated powdered infant formula	China	-	-	-	-	-
New virus from Arenaviridae family	South Africa, Zambia	-	-	-	-	-
Swine Influenza / Influenza (A/H1N1)	-	United States, Mexico, Ukraine	-	-	-	-
Pandemic(H1N1)	-	over 208 countries	over 208 countries	-	-	-
Plague	-	China	Peru	-	-	-
Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF)	-	-	Pakistan	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	Europe, Regions of the Americas, Africa	-	-
E.coli (EHEC) - haemolytic uraemic syndrome	-	-	-	Germany	-	-
West Nile Virus Infection (WNV)	-	-	-	Europe	-	-
Lassa fever	-	-	-	-	Nigeria	-
Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD)	-	-	-	-	Cambodia	-
Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS)	-	-	-	-	United States of America	-
Novel coronavirus infection	-	-	-	-	United Kingdom	-
Influenza A (H7N9)	-	-	-	-	-	China

Source: World Health Organisation (2013).

HIGHLIGHTS:

- In 2009 and 2010, over 208 countries were affected by the H1N1 outbreak.
- In 2013, the first identified cases of H7N9 virus infection in humans occurred in China.
- Even though there is no evidence of human-to-human transmission so far, a recent study has shown that the continuing prevalence of H7 viruses in poultry could increase the risk of the virus acquiring human-to-human transmissibility.

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