



## Epidemiology Unit

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### **Pandemic A/H1N1 2009 Outbreak – Sri Lanka**

There were 642 confirmed cases reported by the end of February 2010 since the introduction of the disease to the country in mid June 2009. A total of 2570 samples had been tested at the MRI by RT PCR during this period. From 2033 samples tested at MRI during 2009, 585 samples had been confirmed for that year. Out of the total caseload, 55 confirmed cases have been reported in January 2010 and only two cases in the month of February. From this data it would be safe to conclude that the present wave of the outbreak has subsided.

Since all suspected H1N1 patients were not investigated to identify the virus during the outbreak period, these numbers may have largely underestimated the true caseload in the country. Also it did not include the limited number of samples from the private sector that were confirmed through the private laboratories.

An overwhelming majority (82%) of this caseload comprised of cases contracted through community transmission. Eighteen percent have contracted it from other affected countries ('imported' or 'none' transmission) or close contacts of these 'imported' cases ('limited local' transmission).

All districts except Jaffna and Kilinochchi had reported confirmed cases during the outbreak period. Nearly one third (30%) of the total confirmed case load was from Colombo district and 10% was from Gampaha district. Another 8% was from Kandy district with 7% from Galle district. Western province reported 43% of the total caseload with 13% each from the Southern Province and the Central Province. Sabaragamuwa district had reported an 8% of the total caseload.

One fourth of confirmed cases were from the 1 – 10 year age group (25%) and another 20% is from the 11 – 20 year age group. Twenty four percent of the case load was from the 21 – 30 year age group. A proportion of 5% has been reported among less than 1 year old children and a 2% was from the over 60 year age group.

Forty eight laboratory confirmed deaths had been reported during the outbreak period. Forty four deaths were reported during 2009 and the other 4 were reported in 2010. Seven of these were maternal deaths. Nineteen more were associated with co-morbidities. Details of co-morbidities of 5 deaths were unknown. Those with risk factors made up for almost 60% of the total.

The deaths had been reported from the following 19 districts; Kandy (5), Galle (4), Ratnapura (5), Gampaha (3), Matale (1), Moneragala (3), Matara (2), Nuwara Eliya (2), Anuradhapura (2), Colombo (3), Kegalle (5), Kurunegala (3), Puttalam (1), Badulla (3), Hambantota (2), Ampara (1), Polonnaruwa (1), Kalmunai (1) and Batticaloa (1). Out of the total number of deaths a majority (63%) were females.

The age break down of these deaths is as below;

Age	<1yrs	- 6%
	1 – 10 yrs	– 17%
	11 – 20yrs	– 13%
	21 – 30yrs	– 25%
	31 – 40yrs	– 21%
	41 – 50yrs	– 10%
	51 – 60yrs	– 4%
	>60 yrs	- 4%

### **Present Situation**

Second and third waves of the H1N1 pandemic are now being reported from several countries including India. Although no cases had been reported from Sri Lanka, the situation is being closely monitored by the authorities. This is done through the ongoing influenza surveillance based in out patient departments of 20 sentinel hospitals and also through investigation of reported clusters of influenza cases.