

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA NEWSLETTER



November 2008

PHEO Conference Summary

Seasonal Influenza Surveillance

In the Media and Scientific Community

H5N1 Update

USACHPPMEUR Resources

2008 PHEO Conference

The USACHPPMEUR Epidemiology Division hosted the 4th annual DoD-GEIS funded USEUCOM PHEO Conference 9-11 September 2008.

TOPICS COVERED

The conference allowed USEUCOM and Host Nation personnel to discuss integrated pandemic preparedness efforts. Topics discussed included influenza surveillance, risk communication, mass fatality management, medical logistics, disease distribution, legal preparedness and community mitigation strategies.

CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE

Based on feedback from last year's conference, a tabletop led by GEIS personnel was held, giving attendees the opportunity to build an "action-able" plan to take back to their installations throughout USEUCOM.

CONFERENCE MATERIALS

For a copy of conference materials, contact Ms. Christina Jackson at DSN 314-486-7086.

USEUCOM Influenza Surveillance

Cases of influenza among USEUCOM's military members and their dependents are tracked using both laboratory results and syndromic surveillance. Lab surveillance uses the Luminex Respiratory Panel which analyzes nasal swab samples to test whether a patient, seen by a health provider, has been infected with influenza or any one of 18 other viruses. Syndromic surveillance is carried out using the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE). ESSENCE is a web-based medical surveillance system developed to alert public health authorities to possible natural outbreaks of infectious disease in "near-real time". While this system is designed to get information to the appropriate authorities relatively quickly, it is based on the unconfirmed diagnoses of health providers at the time of the patient's visit. Combining both of these approaches gives public health authorities both speed and accuracy regarding the surveillance of influenza.

In the Media and Scientific Community

"It is crucial for leaders to recognize that if the public has limited or no access to food, water, sewage systems, fuel and communications, the secondary consequences may cause greater sickness, death and social breakdown than the virus itself." – Nancy Kass Sc.D

RETHINKING ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL The Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics has released an article set to be published in *Biosecurity and Bioterrorism*. The article "lays out a set of ethics rules and principles to help guide and frame a pandemic response strategy that is evidence-based, transparent, fair and recognizes the burdens the public may face. The report also concludes that "alongside healthcare workers and first responders, priority should be given to the people who provide the public with basic essentials for good health and well-being."

THE FOURTH GLOBAL PROGRESS REPORT

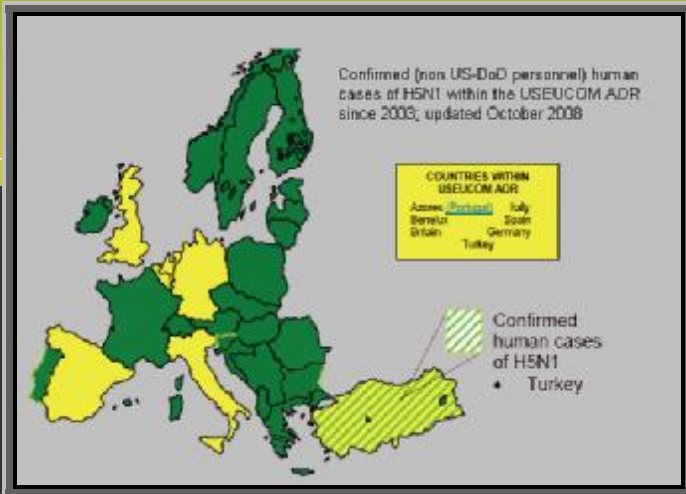
from the United Nations System Influenza Coordinator & the World Bank was issued in October 2008. The report "i) describes international financial assistance provided to date; ii) assesses national capacities to respond to HPAI and preparedness for the next influenza pandemic; iii) analyzes implications of this progress for animal and human health and iv) recommends some key next steps." The report can be retrieved from:

<http://www.un-influenza.org/node/2340>

H5N1 Update

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) UPDATE As of 10 September 2008, there have been 387 confirmed human cases of avian influenza A/ (H5N1) since 2003. Of these cases, there have been 245 deaths, giving a mortality rate of approximately 63%.

In 2008 alone, there have been 36 confirmed human cases and 28 mortalities, giving a mortality rate of approximately 78%.

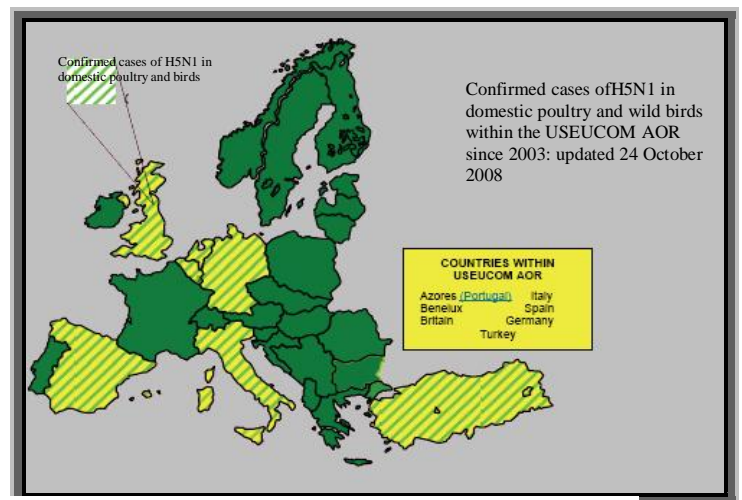


USEUCOM AOR UPDATE

Within the USEUCOM AOR, the Turkish Ministry of Health announced 21 suspected human cases of H5N1 from 2003-2006. Twelve cases have been confirmed by the WHO; of these, four resulted in death.

There have been no human H5N1 cases among USEUCOM personnel to date.

The maps above and to the right highlight some of the areas within USEUCOM with human and avian cases of H5N1.



Maps are adapted from www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2008_09_10/en/index.html

USACHPPMEUR Preparedness Resources

USACHPPMEUR also recently hired an Influenza Epidemiologist, LCDR Michael Cooper, and a Pandemic Influenza Health Educator, Ms. Christina Jackson. LCDR Cooper is available for site visits to enhance epidemiological surveillance, while Ms. Jackson is able to provide a variety of pandemic preparedness activities, including tabletop facilitation. If interested in either of these services, please contact LCDR Cooper at DSN 314-486-7087 or Ms. Jackson at 314-486-7086. Both can also be reached via email: Michael.Cooper38@us.army.mil and Christina.L.Jackson@us.army.mil.

USACHPPMEUR has developed a pandemic influenza tabletop exercise. The goal is to improve pandemic influenza preparedness and response efforts among non-medical and medical personnel, with an emphasis on host nation/interagency coordination and support, communications, legal and ethical considerations, public and civil affairs, and security. This TTX is intended for unit and squadron leaders. Please contact USACHPPMEUR at DSN 314-486-7086 for additional details.



RESOURCES

[USEUCOM Pandemic Influenza Watchboard](#)

[USACHPPM Influenza Prevention](#)

[DoD Pandemic Influenza Watchboard](#)

[MILVAX](#)

[World Organization for Animal Health](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

[European Influenza Surveillance Scheme \(EISS\)](#)

[Navy Public Health Emergency Officer \(PHEO\)](#)

[Pandemicflu.gov](#)

USACHPPMEUR received a grant from the DoD Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System (GEIS). This grant was awarded to USACHPPMEUR to enhance the preparedness efforts of the DoD by providing influenza surveillance, risk communication, and preparedness education.

Beginning in February, 2008, a monthly health education/risk communication newsletter has been distributed to personnel throughout the USEUCOM AOR in support of these efforts. Posters, trifolds, factsheets, and presentations are available for download and ordering (at no charge) at the USEUCOM PI Watchboard and USACHPPM Influenza Toolbox web sites. Please share this newsletter with all personnel affiliated with USEUCOM.