



مَنْظَرُ الصِّحَّةِ الْعَالَمِيَّةِ

قرار

RESOLUTION

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RCSS1/R.1
July 2009

Special Session of the Regional Committee on Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the position paper on pandemic (H1N1) 2009¹;

Recognizing the significance and potential impact of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in all settings;

Recognizing the importance of implementing mitigation measures to reduce mortality, reduce morbidity in specific population groups, protect and sustain the functions of the health care system and sustain the essential community services;

1. **CALLS UPON** Member States to:

- 1.1 Adopt and implement the public health measures recommended for Hajj and Umra by the international consultative workshop held in Jeddah from 27 to 30 June 2009, and request Saudi Arabia to translate the recommendations of the workshop into clear requirements for Hajj and Umra this year;
- 1.2 Strengthen and sustain epidemiological and virological surveillance and response systems to early detect changes in the virus and to monitor disease trends during the pandemic and pursue information sharing;
- 1.3 Strengthen surveillance systems for influenza-like illnesses and severe acute respiratory infections;
- 1.4 Rationalize the use of antiviral medicines in order to minimize opportunities for the development of drug resistance;
- 1.5 Develop a national pandemic vaccination strategy including vaccine deployment, taking into consideration country specificities;
- 1.6 Strengthen the capacity of national regulatory authorities in registration, licensure and post-marketing surveillance;

¹ Document no. EM/RCSS1/1

- 1.7 Consider carefully the types of non-pharmaceutical interventions available and prioritize their use based on the progress and stage of the pandemic;
- 1.8 Develop a risk communication strategy as an integral part of national response plans, and ensure that the strategy includes delivery of regular messages to the general public and health care professionals that are strong, consistent, easily understandable and actionable;
- 1.9 Apply infection control measures in harmony with existing strategies in the health care system;

2. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:

- 2.1 Form a regional technical committee comprising experts from the countries of the Region and the WHO Secretariat to study and update all information regarding the development of the pandemic and viral change, and establish appropriate criteria for measuring the severity of the infection to help countries to take necessary actions, making use of the Egyptian experience in this connection;
- 2.2 Further support development of the Regional Outbreak Alert and Response Network to ensure prompt and appropriate response to the ongoing pandemic (H1N1) 2009;
- 2.3 Provide additional support through organizing technical consultations on topics such as case management and infection control and prevention that can help in reducing the impact of the pandemic, and develop the necessary guidelines;
- 2.4 Foster partnership and resource mobilization and coordinate with other international agencies and WHO collaborating centres in strengthening surveillance for influenza as well as for influenza-like illnesses and severe acute respiratory infections in Member States;
- 2.5 Support Member States in the transfer of technology needed to develop capacity for the production of influenza vaccine as well as other vaccines;
- 2.6 Assist Member States in obtaining adequate amounts of vaccine once it is produced;
- 2.7 Monitor closely the progress of the pandemic and call for an urgent meeting in the event of important developments;
- 2.8 Organize a consultative meeting in Saudi Arabia with heads of medical missions to coordinate precautionary measures for the seasons of Hajj and Umra;
- 2.9 Form a special committee to consider the possibility of co-supply of vaccines against the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus, and develop partnerships in the field of vaccine manufacturing.