

**No. 0720**

**NOVEL FLU VIRUS UPDATE**

**Tuesday 28th April 2009 18.00hrs**

Following another audioconference held with ECDC/ EU Commission, WHO and other member states in the afternoon, the Public Health Regulation Division is issuing the following update.

Latest official reports on Tuesday afternoon show that globally there are 25 countries where cases under investigation have been reported including 11 EU member states. So far a total of 1,911 cases under investigation have been reported with 61 cases coming from EU member states (of these cases from EU member states, 11 have negative test results). There have only been 79 cases globally, of which 3 cases were in the EU, which have been confirmed to be due to the H1N1 virus. All of the confirmed cases reported in the EU have a history of travel to Mexico.

In view of the fact that all confirmed cases had travelled to Mexico and in line with similar action being taken by other member states, the Division recommends that all non-essential travel to Mexico is to be postponed. People who have to visit Mexico are advised to adopt usual non-pharmacological and hygienic measures to limit the risks of infection. These include avoiding crowded places as much as possible, avoiding contact with sick people, covering mouth when coughing and sneezing, properly disposing of tissues and frequent washing of hands.

All persons coming from Mexico are encouraged to contact the Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Unit on Telephone Number 21 324086 for further advice. At all points of entry to Malta, boards will be set up with information for persons coming from Mexico including symptoms of the illness and contact numbers in case they have any queries or develop symptoms.

As to further mitigation efforts, The World Health Organization has given instructions for the development of the vaccine for H1N1 which is expected to take a few months.

In Malta, so far, there have been no suspected cases which have been reported.

The Health Division would once again like to assure the public that the situation is very much under control and urges everyone to continue with their activities in a normal manner.

Further updates will be issued as and when necessary.

**DOI – 28.04.2009**