Preliminary summary on oseltamivir-resistant H1N1 virus: South Africa

Reporting date: 6 October 2008

During the 2008 influenza season in the southern hemisphere, a total of 306 H1N1 viruses have been isolated in South Africa to date. 225 isolates have been tested for oseltamivir resistance by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) and 100% were found to be resistant to oseltamivir by PCR and sequencing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month of sampling</th>
<th>May 08</th>
<th>June 08</th>
<th>July 08</th>
<th>Aug 08</th>
<th>Sept 08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of H1N1 isolates tested</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. (%) of viruses resistant to oseltamivir</td>
<td>4 (100%)</td>
<td>64 (100%)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specimen collection sites:
Influenza surveillance in South Africa is based on sentinel general practitioners networks. Currently there are 170 sentinel sites in all 9 provinces.

Geographical distribution:
Specimens were collected from patients in all nine provinces in South Africa.

Demography:
The specimens tested were collected from both adults and children.

Oseltamivir use:
One patient that is known to have taken oseltamivir prior to sampling. Duration of therapy not known.

Vaccination history:
Three of the 225 H1N1 patients whose isolate was tested had been vaccinated.

Clinical features, special underlying conditions and other findings:
No unusual clinical feature or underlying conditions.

Summary provided by:
Dr Terry Besselaar
National Influenza Centre, National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Sandringham, South Africa.