Update on oseltamivir resistance in influenza A(H1N1)2009 viruses

24 August 2011 -- For this reporting period (10 - 24 August 2011), 4 new cases of oseltamivir resistant influenza A(H1N1)2009 viruses have been published. It brings the cumulative total to 570 since April 2009. Information on the clinical background of reported cases of oseltamivir resistance is known for 77% (n= 440) of the cases, with the remaining cases having insufficient clinical information available or ongoing investigations.

Within the cases where clinical information is known, 132 (30%) have occurred in severely immunocompromised patients and 308 (70%) in non immunocompromised patients. Within the latter, 69% (211 cases) of the cases were associated with drug use, including cases occurring during or after oseltamivir treatment and/or peramivir treatment and associated with post-exposure prophylaxis, and 31% (97 cases) have occurred in patients who had not used antiviral drugs prior to occurrence of the resistant virus, including known or suspected cases of person to person transmission.

The incidence of viruses resistant to antivirals remains very low, with no recent reports of case clusters. Recommendations for the clinical management of influenza A(H1N1)2009 remain as summarized in the Weekly Epidemiology Record, No. 8, 18 February 2011.

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- To our knowledge, this is the first published report of oseltamivir resistant influenza A (H1N1) 2009 viruses from Thailand.

2 The totals reported here are based on confirmed reports from several sources, and include case reports published in medical journals, as well as reports from national ministries, health agencies and laboratories within WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)