

APRIL-MAY
2010

U.T.O.L UPDATE



H1N1 Swine Flu Lingers

A Year After Its Emergence



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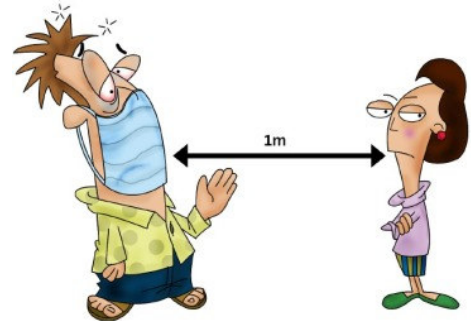
A year ago, global alarm over the emergence of an unpredictable new strain of H1N1 pandemic flu was in full swing. Headlines blared that thousands were becoming sick; face masks and hand sanitizers were selling out as soon as they hit store shelves.

So, where is H1N1 now?

On June 3, Dr. Margaret Chan, head of the World Health Organization, announced that **the virus is still considered pandemic**, meaning widespread, although case numbers have ebbed considerably.

Another expert agreed that **H1N1 flu may seem to be gone right now, but should not be forgotten**. "I think there's a perception that the virus has entirely disappeared because we're not seeing [many] new cases but viruses don't really go away. They go into hiding," said Dr. Len Horowitz, a pulmonary specialist with Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City. Often, he said, flu strains are "migrating somewhere where they re-assort [genetically] and reemerge in a different form."

Since it first appeared, H1N1 has distinguished itself from the "regular" flu in several ways. It has tended to strike harder at children and younger adults than at the elderly, who were the most likely to succumb to previous seasonal flu strains.



One thing is certain -- **the H1N1 virus is easily passed from one person to another, having swept the globe last year at rapid speed**. "Transmission has been excellent," said Dr. Scott Lillibrige, assistant dean of the Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Rural Public Health in Houston and executive director of the National Center for Emergency Medical Preparedness and Response.

Meanwhile, the 2010/2011 flu vaccine will definitely include the H1N1 strain, along with two other strains, Treanor said. **"Pandemic or no pandemic, H1N1 will still exist,"** WHO spokesman Gregory Haertl told AFP. **"If there is no pandemic it means that H1N1 is behaving like a seasonal influenza virus but it is still there.** Therefore vaccination against H1N1 is still important, especially for pregnant women, the young and those weakened by other ailments."

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MEDICAL MISSION: BUTUAN May 18-19, 2010

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Deut 31:6

I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Ps 16:8

but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31

We praise God for all the doctors, nurses and volunteers who made this medical mission possible!



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