



مُنظَّمَةُ الصِّحَّةِ الْعَالَمِيَّةِ

قرار

Resolution

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

**EM/RC56/R.2
October 2009**

Fifty-sixth Session

Agenda item 14

**Follow-up to the Special Session of the Regional Committee on Pandemic (H1N1)
2009 and progress on the response**

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the report on the follow-up to the Special Session of the Regional Committee on pandemic (H1N1) 2009 and progress on the response¹;

Recalling resolution EM/RCSS1/R.1;

Noting the efforts made by the Regional Director to respond to the resolution;

Concerned about the rapid increase in the spread of infection globally and within the Region;

Mindful of the fact that current demand for pandemic (H1N1) 2009 vaccine greatly outstrips supply;

Noting further that the most important goal of pandemic control measures is to reduce serious disease from this infection;

Noting also that current evidence indicates that, up to now, the vaccine appears to be as safe as seasonal influenza vaccine and that further evidence from ongoing clinical trials will be made available as soon as possible;

Recognizing that mass gatherings require a comprehensive operation plan that has been formulated with the involvement of all relevant sectors, including health;

¹ Document no. EM/RC56/14

Noting also the most recent travel information and requirements of the Government of Saudi Arabia with regard to pilgrimage and their assurance of the provision of all necessary measures to protect and treat pilgrims as appropriate, and the need to follow up on their treatment on their return home;

Noting the media campaigns opposed to the use of the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 vaccine and the need to develop and make use of effective communication strategies and ensure the availability of accurate and clear information to the public;

1. **THANKS** the Regional Director for his progress report and his efforts to support countries of the Region to respond to the pandemic;
2. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the Director-General's efforts in providing the Regional Committee with the most recent information available about vaccine availability and safety, as well as her efforts to ensure supply of the vaccine to Member States of the Region who do not have access to it;
3. **CALLS UPON** Member States to:
 - 3.1 Continue their efforts to implement the recommendations of the Special Session of the Regional Committee on pandemic (H1N1) 2009;
 - 3.2 Review and update national plans for pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in line with the regional guidelines developed in response to resolution EM/RCSS1/R.1;
 - 3.3 Establish/strengthen a post-marketing surveillance system to ensure early detection of any potential adverse effects of vaccines used for pandemic (H1N1) 2009;
 - 3.4 Share information and experience in mitigation of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 with the Regional Office and other Member States, using the mechanism provided by the International Health Regulations 2005 (IHR 2005);
 - 3.5 Further strengthen and promote public awareness on pandemic (H1N1) 2009 issues, including non-pharmaceutical interventions, and ensure constant and transparent provision of accurate up-to-date information to the public and media;
 - 3.6 Protect the community against the spread of infection after the return of pilgrims;
4. **REQUESTS** the Director-General to continue her efforts to ensure equitable access to safe pandemic (H1N1) 2009 vaccine at affordable prices;
5. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:
 - 5.1 Foster collaboration and partnership with appropriate stakeholders involved in influenza, and facilitate mobilization of resources needed for mitigation of the impact of pandemic (H1N1) 2009;
 - 5.2 Continue to update Member States and the media with the latest information available regarding the evolution of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 and updated guidelines;

- 5.3 Continue to provide technical support to Member States for mitigation of the impact of pandemic (H1N1) 2009;
- 5.4 Maintain vigilance on the epidemiology of seasonal influenza and of avian influenza due to H5N1, and support establishment and strengthening of national influenza centres.
- 5.5 Launch an extensive media campaign in the Region to counteract campaigns opposed to immunization against pandemic (H1N1) 2009, and update Member States on reports regarding the safety of the vaccine.