

Developments on swine flu worldwide

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By The Associated Press

Key developments on swine flu outbreaks, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, and government officials:

_Deaths: 168 in Mexico, eight confirmed as swine flu and rest suspected. One confirmed in U.S., a 23-month-old boy from Mexico who died in Texas.

_Sickened: 2,955 suspected and 99 confirmed in Mexico. Confirmed elsewhere: at least 93 in U.S.; 19 in Canada; 10 in Spain; five in Britain; four in Germany; 3 in New Zealand; two in Israel; one each in Switzerland and Austria.

_World Health Organization raises pandemic alert to second highest level — phase 5 — meaning it believes a global outbreak of the disease is imminent.

_U.S. cases confirmed by CDC and state officials in 11 states: 51 in New York, 16 in Texas, 14 in California, three in Maine; two each in Kansas and Massachusetts, and one each in Indiana, Ohio, Arizona and Nevada. CDC also said Michigan had two, but state officials said only one was confirmed.

_Mexico suspends all nonessential activity of the federal government and private business until May 5. Public events canceled and masks handed out. All schools closed until May 6. Pro soccer games this weekend — 176 — to be played without fans.

_Texas Gov. Rick Perry issues disaster declaration, and state suspends all high school sports competitions until May 11.

_Texas school closings affect 130,000 children. Some schools also closed in Illinois, New York City, California, South Carolina, Connecticut, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Arizona and Ohio.

_U.S. Food and Drug Administration issues emergency guidance allowing certain antiviral drugs to be used in broader range of population if needed. Public health emergency declared and roughly 12 million doses of Tamiflu from federal stockpile to be delivered to states.

_Ecuador, Cuba and Argentina ban travel to or from Mexico, and Peru bans flights from Mexico; U.S., European Union, other countries discourage nonessential travel there. Travelers arriving from Mexico questioned at airports worldwide. Cruise lines avoid Mexican ports.

_Two leading U.S. makers of respiratory masks are ramping up production to keep heavy demand from pharmacies.

_Egypt begins slaughtering nation's roughly 300,000 pigs as precaution, even though eating pork has nothing to do with getting swine flu.

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