



## Health Protection Agency

Ministry of Health

Male'

Republic of Maldives

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### Public Health Information on Increase in Respiratory infections

Maldives is currently experiencing an increase in respiratory infections and some increase in influenza. Routine influenza testing by HPA has shown H1N1 positive cases. However, this is not similar to the swine flu pandemic.

After the 2009 influenza pandemic, the H1N1 has been circulating as normal seasonal influenza and has been causing seasonal influenza outbreaks every year around the world. As H1N1 was a new strain when it first started circulating in 2009, most people were not immune to it. However, since 2009, as many have been infected and cured, more people have immunity to H1N1 and so it does not spread as fast.

As such, H1N1 infection is now similar to any other influenza and not any more severe or dangerous. However, very young children, the elderly and those with certain pre-existing conditions such as lung diseases can have more severe disease or have complications when infected with any type of influenza.

Therefore the current increase in influenza H1N1 was identified due to routine surveillance and testing. HPA is currently working with clinicians, health facilities and other related authorities to take measures to control the spread of the influenza, as per our usual epidemic control measures.

