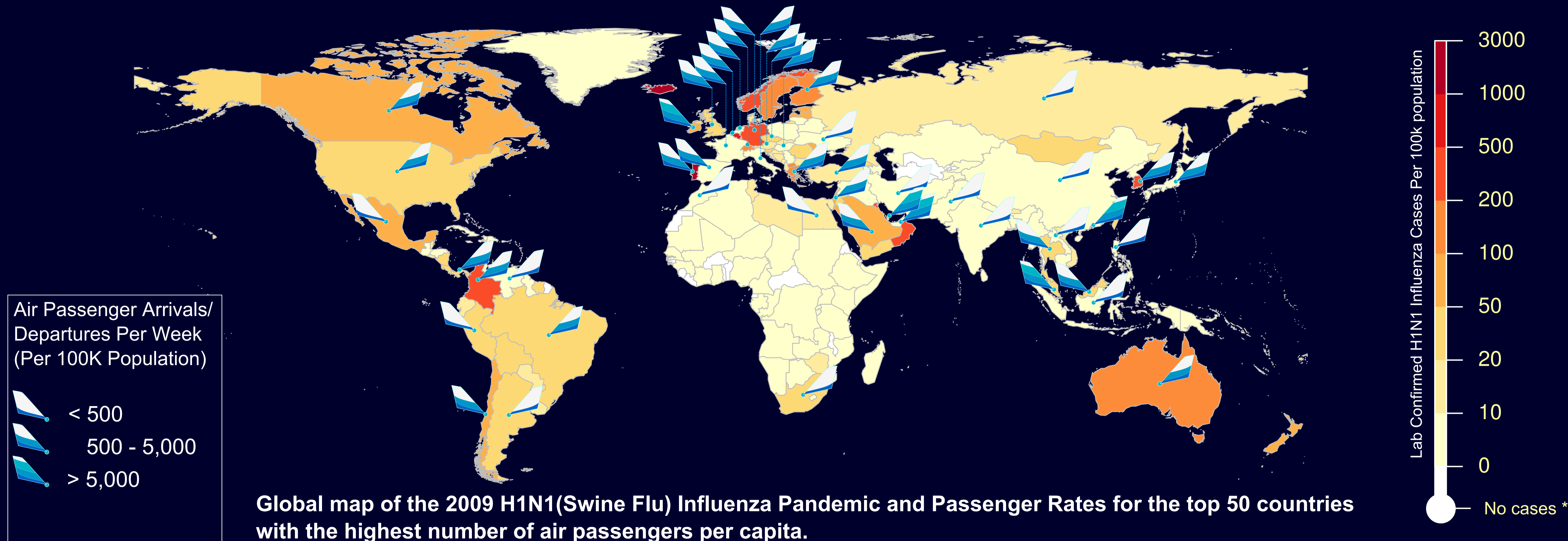
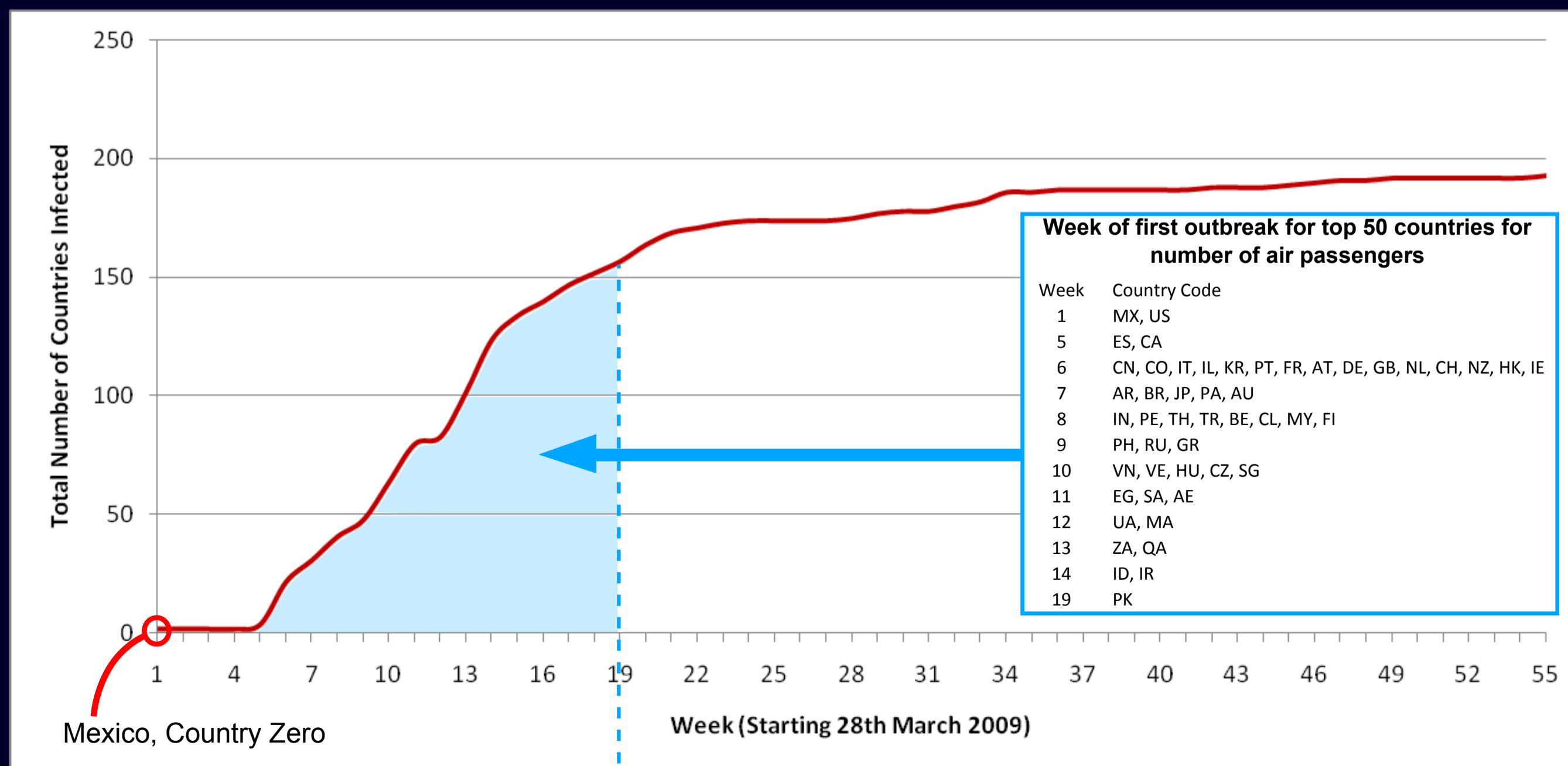


Commercial Air Travel and the Global Spread of Influenza



* No lab confirmed cases or no data available for country

Global Infection Rate - Total Number of Infected Countries per Week



Point of Interest: The top 50 countries for number of air passengers per 100k population all reported first outbreak of Influenza within the first 19 weeks (shaded area above).

Probably the most devastating and widespread influenza pandemic since the 1918 H1N1 (Spanish Flu) outbreak infected a reported one fifth of the worlds population, the 2009 H1N1 (Swine Flu) reached over 190 countries in little over a year and over 150 countries in under 5 months. With modern commercial flight networks spanning the globe, and the enormous number of passengers travelling across these networks every day, Influenza outbreaks like the Swine Flu of 2009 can spread far and fast.

The global infection rate to the left shows how quickly the 2009 Swine Flu spread across large numbers of countries concurrently in the early weeks. Interestingly, the top 50 countries for air passengers per capita from the world map above all reported first outbreaks in the period of this spike.