



**APRIL 24, 2009**

## **HEALTH ADVISORY**

### **Swine Influenza H1N1 in the United States**

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported eight (8) cases of human swine influenza this week. All the cases appear to have been infected with similar swine H1N1 viruses. This is a virus that usually infects only pigs. All of the cases have had onset of illness occurring since late March.

- Six cases of human infection with swine influenza have been confirmed in California.
- Two cases of human infection with swine influenza have been confirmed in Guadalupe County, near San Antonio, Texas.
- The first two human infections with swine influenza were from California and reported by CDC on April 21.
- Three additional California cases were laboratory confirmed by CDC on April 22 and one on April 24.
- The two cases in Texas were laboratory confirmed by CDC on April 23.
- All the cases developed typical influenza illnesses, one required hospitalization and none died.
- This virus strain is resistant to the anamantanes but sensitive to the neuraminidase inhibitors.

In-state testing determined the samples were influenza A positive, but the influenza virus subtype of the samples could not be determined through testing available in the respective states.

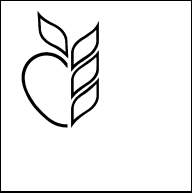
Additionally, the CDC announced that cases of severe respiratory illness in Mexico have tested positive for swine influenza. Early information suggests that this is a similar virus to that found in the U.S.

The North Dakota Department of Health is asking health-care providers to consider swine influenza infection in the differential diagnosis and to submit appropriate samples to the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH), Division of Laboratory Services (DLS) for patients meeting the following clinical and epidemiological criteria.

A patient presenting with a febrile respiratory illness (rhinorrhea, nasal congestion, cough or sore throat) who has at least one of the following epidemiological risks.

Within 7 days of onset of illness has traveled to or been to:

- San Diego County, California, or
- Imperial County, California, or
- Guadalupe County, Texas, or



- Mexico
- Or
- Has had contact with pigs
- Or
- Is a recent, close contact to a confirmed swine flu case
- Or
- Been in contact with a person who had febrile respiratory illness and were in the Counties or Mexico in the 7 days preceding their illness onset

Specimens should include two pharyngeal or nasopharyngeal swabs that will be used for PCR and culture. The DLS is still interested in surveillance testing on rapid positive influenza A specimens to determine influenza subtype. Surveillance specimens are tested free-of-charge.

Questions about specimen collection and shipment can be addressed by calling the NDDoH Division of Laboratory Services at 701.328.6272. Any patients meeting these risk factors should be reported to the North Dakota Department of Health by calling 701.328.2378 or 800.472.2180. Interim recommendations from CDC can be found at [www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/recommendations.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/recommendations.htm).

*Categories of Health Alert messages:*

- *Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.*
- *Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.*
- *Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.*
- *Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.*

*This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, and hospital public information officers.*