



**APRIL 27, 2009**

## **HEALTH ADVISORY**

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

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported forty (40) cases of human swine influenza. 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.

- Seven 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.
- Two cases of human infection with swine influenza have been confirmed in Kansas.
- Twenty-eight (28) cases of human infection with swine influenza have been confirmed in New York City.
- One case of human infection with swine influenza has been confirmed in Ohio.
- All the cases developed typical influenza illnesses, one required hospitalization and none died.
- This virus strain is resistant to the amantadines but sensitive to the neuraminidase inhibitors.

Additionally, the CDC announced that cases of severe respiratory illness in Mexico have tested positive for swine influenza. It is now confirmed that the viruses seen in cases in the United States are the same as those causing illness in Mexico as well as internationally.

The CDC has issued interim guidance about case definitions to be used for investigations of Swine Influenza A (H1N1) cases.

1. Confirmed case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as a person with an acute respiratory illness with laboratory confirmed swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection at CDC by one or more of the following tests:
  1. real-time RT-PCR
  2. viral culture
  3. four-fold rise in swine influenza A (H1N1) virus specific neutralizing antibodies
2. A Probable case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as a person with an acute respiratory illness with an influenza test that is positive for influenza A, but H1 and H3 negative.
3. A Suspected case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as:

1. A person with an acute respiratory illness who was a close contact to a confirmed case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection while the case was ill **OR**
2. A person with an acute respiratory illness with a recent history of contact with an animal with confirmed or suspected swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection **OR**
3. A person with an acute respiratory illness who has traveled to an area where there are confirmed cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) within 7 days of suspect case's illness onset.

Infectious period for confirmed cases = 1 day before onset to 7 days after onset of illness

Day before onset = Day -1

Onset day = Day 0

Days after onset = Days 1-7

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 suspect case definition. DLS also recommends performing some initial, limited testing of patients currently hospitalized with a differential diagnosis of influenza regardless of travel history or contact with confirmed swine influenza.

If you suspect swine influenza, specimens sent to the NDDoH Division of Laboratory services 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. Guidance from CDC regarding antiviral use, infection control, community mitigation measures as well as other information can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance/>.

*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.*