



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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PUBLIC HEALTH

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SWINE INFLUENZA PROVIDER ALERT **For Questions, contact Communicable Disease Unit @ 454-4114**

Recommended Interim Actions

Because of concerns about possible human-to-human transmission, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is **asking providers to do heightened surveillance for swine influenza** to identify additional cases that may be occurring. This situation is evolving.

The Centers for Disease Control have acknowledged an increased number of cases in Mexico. There are no travel restrictions in place at this time.

- The working case definition of influenza like illness (ILI) is:
Fever >37.8°C(100 F) and a cough and/or sore throat.
- In addition to upper respiratory symptoms, patients may present with nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.
- Heightened surveillance is defined as:
 1. Collect specimens from patients who present influenza-like illness (ILI) and are hospitalized for undiagnosed acute respiratory illness or confirmed influenza.
 2. Emergency Room and Urgent Care clinicians, as resources allow, please collect specimens from patients who meet the definition (above) for ILI.
 3. Please query your patients for recent travel history to San Diego, Imperial, or San Antonio, TX, or Mexico or contact with an ill person with recent travel history to San Diego, Imperial, or San Antonio TX, or Mexico.
- The rapid influenza test **will not** distinguish between human and swine influenza.
- Specimen collection: Collect up to 2 nasopharyngeal (preferred) or throat, Dacron swabs from each ILI patient and place the swabs in a standard container with 2-3ml of viral transport media. Screw the cap on tightly. Specimens should be collected within 24-72 hours of symptom onset and no later than 5 days after onset of symptoms.

If the patient is hospitalized with pneumonia, specimens from the lower respiratory tract (e.g. tracheal aspirate, bronchoalveolar lavage) should be obtained, if possible.

- Specimen storage: specimens should be kept refrigerated at 4° C and sent on cold packs within 5 days of the collection date. If samples will be received in the PH Lab 5 or more days from collection, freeze at 70°C or below and ship on dry ice.

- Specimen Processing: all specimens should be sent to the Santa Cruz County Public Health Lab at 1080 Emeline Ave. From there they will be sent on to the CDPH Viral and Rickettsial Disease Lab in Richmond for PCR testing. Contact the SC PH Lab at 454-5447 OR 454-5445 regarding specimen transport.

Infection Control Precautions

- Healthcare workers (HCW) caring for patients with ILI not linked to a case of lab confirmed swine influenza should use droplet precautions (surgical mask for close contact), in addition to standard precautions (i.e. hand hygiene and eye protection if splashing/spraying of fluids/secretions is anticipated).
- HCW's caring for a lab confirmed case of swine influenza or and ill close contact of a lab confirmed case should:
 1. Wear a fit-tested N-95 respirator, disposable gloves, gown and eye protection (face shield or goggles)
 2. Before and after contact with patient, clean hands thoroughly with soap and water or an alcohol based hand gel.
- Suspect swine flu patients (ill close contacts of a lab confirmed case) should don a surgical mask and placed in a negative airflow room, if available, or in a single room with a door that closes.
- The infectious period of a case is defined as 1 day prior to symptom onset to seven days after symptom onset. The incubation period is thought to be 1-7 days (likely 2-5). The duration of illness appears to be 4-8 days.

California Situation Update

- As of April 23, 2009, there have been 6 California residents diagnosed with swine influenza (H1N1) viral infection. All 6 reside in Southern California. There are no known links between the cases, no known common exposures and no known pig exposure. One case, with autoimmune disease was hospitalized for underlying reasons unrelated to respiratory illness, while the other five had mild illness. All have recovered.
- The viruses from the CA cases are closely related and have a unique gene structure not previously reported.
- The viruses of the first 2 CA cases are susceptible to oseltamivir and zanamivir, but resistant to amantidine and rimantidine.
- Seasonal human influenza vaccine usually does not protect against swine flu.
- Swine flu is endemic in pigs, but does not normally infect humans. However, there have been sporadic human infections, most commonly in persons with direct contact with pigs. Currently there is no known illness in pigs in California.
- The current situation in California and Texas suggests that human-to-human transmission is occurring.

For more information about swine influenza, please see:

<http://cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/SwineInfluenza.aspx>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/>

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; unlikely to require immediate action.