



CALIFORNIA SWINE INFLUENZA HEALTH ALERT

Enhanced Statewide Surveillance for Possible Swine Influenza

April 27, 2009

Current Situation

As of today, eleven California residents have been diagnosed with confirmed swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection; there are also currently three probable cases under investigation. All but one of these cases resides in San Diego or Imperial counties. One of the probable cases is a 14 year old boy from Sacramento County who is epi-linked to a classmate with a history of influenza-like illness (ILI) after recent return from Cancun, Mexico. All but two patients have had self-limited ILI; two patients with underlying conditions were hospitalized. All have recovered.

Case Definitions

A probable case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection: a person with an acute respiratory illness with an influenza test that is positive for influenza A, but human H1 and H3 negative (i.e., unsubtypeable).

A 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: real-time RT-PCR or viral culture

The infectious period for a confirmed case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as 1 day prior to the case's illness onset to 7 days after onset.

Influenza Surveillance Recommendations (Revised)

Because of the rapidly evolving situation and in an attempt to focus laboratory resources, revised enhanced surveillance guidance is being issued. At this time, testing should be focused on individuals meeting the following criteria:

- **Hospitalized patients with ILI**

- **Outpatients with ILI in the following categories:**

- o Patient is a contact of a confirmed swine influenza A (H1N1) case
- o Patient is in a high-risk setting for transmission (e.g., school, prison)
- o Patient is part of a cluster of people with ILI (only one patient needs laboratory confirmation)
- o Patient returned from Mexico within 7 days of illness onset or cared for ill household members with this travel history

Influenza sentinel surveillance providers should continue submitting specimens according to protocol to the CDPH Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL).

Specimen Collection Instructions

- Please collect up to 2 respiratory samples from each patient with ILI. Nasopharyngeal swabs and nasal aspirates are preferable; throat swabs are acceptable if an NP swab or nasal aspirate cannot be obtained. The swabs should be placed in a standard container with 2-3 ml of viral transport media
- Specimens should be collected within the first 24-72 hours of onset of symptoms and no later than 5 days after onset of symptoms.
- The specimens should be kept refrigerated at 4°C and sent on cold packs if they can be received by a public health laboratory within five days of the collection date.
- NP swab collection materials should be available at all local reference and hospital-affiliated labs, please contact your lab supplier for necessary supplies.
- For a video of NP swab collection, please see <http://video.cdc.gov/asxgen/nip/isd/swabdemo.wmv>
- All labs and physicians should contact our PH LAB for request for PCR typing, if suspect case criteria are met at 681-5255 ASAP or at 681-5280 after hours.
- All samples must specify on the Public Health Lab requisition form clinical criteria for swine influenza testing.
- **Nasopharyngeal swab collection materials:**
 - Dacron-tipped nasopharyngeal swab with flexible wire handle. Note, cotton or calcium alginate swabs are not acceptable. PCR assays may be inhibited by residues present in these materials
 - Viral transport media
 - Mask and gloves

Infection Control Precautions

Reinforce routine respiratory-droplet hygiene precautions. Mask all symptomatic patients. CDC's "Interim Guidance for Infection Control for Care of Patients with Confirmed or Suspected Swine Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Infection in a Healthcare Setting," can be accessed at: http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidelines_infection_control.htm

Recommendations for antiviral therapy and prophylaxis for swine influenza A (H1N1):

These recommendations are subject to change based on current conditions

This swine influenza A (H1N1) virus is sensitive (susceptible) to the neuraminidase inhibitor antiviral medications zanamivir and oseltamivir. It is resistant to the adamantane antiviral medications amantadine and rimantadine.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) current "Interim Guidance on Antiviral Recommendations for Patients with Confirmed or Suspected Swine Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Infection and Close Contacts," which can be accessed at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/recommendations.htm>

For the most updated CDC recommendations visit www.cdc.gov

Daily local provider epidemiology status reports will be faxed by the end of the day. Providers only may call (805) 681-5280 if consultation is needed.

We request your patients and community call our Public Health call center at 1-888-722-6358 or go on-line at: www.sbcphd.org