

## HAN Message:

NH Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) recommends:

- Review the attached update on the human cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection that have been identified as of April 26, 2009. Investigations are ongoing to determine the source of the infection and whether additional people have been infected with similar swine influenza viruses. There are no reported cases in NH.
- Clinicians review the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Health Alert Advisory attached when considering the possibility of swine influenza virus infections in patients presenting with febrile respiratory illness who have traveled to affected areas.
- Clinicians promptly report patients with febrile respiratory illness and travel history to NH public health professionals who are available 24/7 at 603-271-4496, or toll-free at 800-852-3345, ext. 4496.
- Review of the published clinical guidance and recommendations and take the proper precautions for testing and sample collection. If swine flu is suspected, based on febrile respiratory illness and travel history, clinicians should follow appropriate precautions and use an N95 mask to obtain a respiratory swab for swine influenza testing and place it in a refrigerator (not a freezer). Once collected, the clinician should contact the NH Public Health laboratories Office, 1-800-852-3345 extension 4661, or (603) 271-4661.
- Awareness that baseline influenza activity in NH is currently low.
- Remain alert to additional changes in epidemiology, interim guidance and recommendations that occur as the outbreak progresses.
- Continue to encourage the consistent use of respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette measures to prevent the spread of any type of influenza. These routine preventive actions include frequent hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes and staying home when sick to keep from spreading illness.

### Background

Human Swine Influenza Investigation

April 26, 2009 12:45 ET

Human cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection have been identified in the United States.

Human cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection also have been identified internationally. The current U.S. case count is provided below.

### U.S. Human Cases of Swine Flu Infection

State # of laboratory confirmed cases

California 7 cases

Kansas 2 cases

New York City 8 cases

Ohio 1 case

Texas 2 cases

TOTAL COUNT 20 cases

International Human Cases of Swine Flu Infection See: World Health Organization As of April 26, 2009 9:00 AM ET

Investigations are ongoing to determine the source of the infection and whether additional people have been infected with swine influenza viruses.

CDC is working very closely with officials in states where human cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) have been identified, as well as with health officials in Mexico, Canada and the World Health Organization. This includes deploying staff domestically and internationally to provide guidance and technical support. CDC has activated its Emergency Operations Center to coordinate this investigation.

Laboratory testing has found the swine influenza A (H1N1) virus susceptible to the prescription antiviral drugs oseltamivir and zanamivir and has issued interim guidance for the use of these drugs to treat and prevent infection with swine influenza viruses. CDC also has prepared interim guidance on how to care for people who are sick and interim guidance on the use of face masks in a community setting where spread of

this swine flu virus has been detected. This is a rapidly evolving situation and CDC will provide new information as it becomes available.

There are everyday actions people can take to stay healthy.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

- Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people.
- If you get sick, CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

This is an official

CDC Health Advisory

Distributed via Health Alert Network

April 26, 2009, 11:00 EST (11:00 AM EDT)

CDCHAN-000282-2009-04-26-ALT-N

Risk of Swine Flu Associated with Travel to Affected Areas

Public health officials within the United States and throughout the world are investigating outbreaks of swine influenza (swine flu).

Swine flu is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by a type A influenza virus that regularly causes outbreaks of influenza among pigs. Swine flu viruses do not normally infect humans; however, human infections with swine flu do occur. Public health officials have determined that this strain of swine flu virus spreads from human to human and can cause illness.

The outbreak is ongoing and additional cases are expected. For more information concerning swine flu infection, please see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>. For specific information on travel precautions and an update on the affected areas, please visit: [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel).

The symptoms of swine flu in people are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu in humans and may include:

- Fever (greater than 100°F or 37.8°C)
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Stuffy nose
- Chills
- Headache and body aches
- Fatigue

Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with swine flu. Severe illness (pneumonia and respiratory failure) and deaths have been reported with swine flu infection in people. Like seasonal flu, swine flu may cause a worsening of underlying chronic medical conditions.

People entering the United States who are experiencing symptoms consistent with swine flu and have traveled to an affected area (see <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm> for affected areas), or have been exposed to someone possibly infected with swine flu, during the last 7 days should report their illnesses to their health care provider immediately and inform them of their recent travel.

People traveling from the United States to affected areas should be aware of the risk of illness with swine flu and take precautions.

To prevent the spread of swine flu:

- Avoid contact with ill persons.
- When you cough or sneeze, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your sleeve (if you do not have a tissue). Throw used tissues in a trash can.
- After you cough or sneeze, wash your hands with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand gel.

- If you think you are ill with flu, avoid close contact with others as much as possible. Stay at home or in your hotel room. Seek medical care if you are severely ill (such as having trouble breathing). There are antiviral medications for prevention and treatment of swine flu that a doctor can prescribe. Do not go to work, school, or travel while ill.

Please refer to the CDC website for daily updates on the outbreak at: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

Clinical guidelines and recommendations available at:  
[http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidelines\\_infection\\_control.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidelines_infection_control.htm)

For any questions regarding the contents of this message, please contact NH DHHS Communicable Disease Control and Surveillance Section at 603-271-4496 (after hours 1-800-852-3345 ext.5300).

## DEFINITION OF TERMS AND ALERTING VOCABULARY

### Message Type

Alert: Indicates an original alert

Update: Indicates prior alert has been updated and superseded

Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled

Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

### Status

Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event

Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert

Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded

### Severity

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property

Severe: Significant threat to life or property

Moderate: Possible threat to life or property

Minor: Minimal threat to life or property

Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

### Sensitive

Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content

Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert.

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required.

Originating Agency: A guaranteed unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our emergency notification database.

If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would prefer to be used please contact:

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NH HAN Coordinator Tel: 603-271-4596  
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