



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DISEASE CONTROL & EPIDEMIOLOGY

Investigation and Interim Recommendations: **Swine Influenza (H1N1), 4/26/09** ***Modified from CDC Health Advisory 4/25/09***

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in collaboration with local public health officials in affected states including California, is investigating cases of febrile respiratory illness caused by swine influenza (H1N1) viruses with a unique combination of gene segments never seen previously. As of April 26, 2009, 20 laboratory confirmed cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) infection have been confirmed in the United States [CA (7), KS (2), NYC (8), OH (1), TX (2)]. Cases have included both children and adults; all have recovered. **For the latest information about this rapidly evolving situation, see www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm.**

Mexican public health authorities have reported increased levels of respiratory disease, including reports of severe pneumonia cases and deaths, in recent weeks. Specimens from Mexico have tested positive at the CDC for the same strain of swine influenza A (H1N1) as identified in U.S. cases. However, no clear data are available to assess the link between the increased disease reports in Mexico and the confirmation of swine influenza in a small number of specimens. For information on international cases: www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html.

At this time, CDC recommends the use of oseltamivir or zanamivir for the treatment of human infection with swine influenza A (H1N1) viruses; these viruses are resistant to amantadine and rimantadine. Recommendations may change as more information is known; see www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance. It is not anticipated that the seasonal human influenza vaccine will provide protection against the swine flu H1N1 viruses.

Clinicians should consider swine influenza infection in the differential diagnosis of patients with influenza-like illness [ILI, defined as fever $\geq 37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ (100°F) and a cough and/or sore throat] who:

- 1) are a contact to a confirmed swine influenza A (H1N1) case, OR
- 2) are part of a cluster of people reported with ILI, OR
- 3) traveled to affected areas including Mexico [check www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm for affected states/countries and www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/discond/pages/swineinfluenza.aspx (California Swine Flu News) for specific affected California counties] in the 7 days preceding illness onset, OR
- 4) were in contact with persons with ILI who were in affected areas during the 7 days preceding illness onset, OR
- 5) are hospitalized with ILI or pneumonia.

Clinicians who suspect swine influenza virus infection based on the above criteria should obtain a nasopharyngeal swab (Dacron-tipped) or nasal aspirate from the patient; swabs should be placed in viral transport medium immediately. Specimens should be refrigerated and testing arranged through Orange County Public Health (714-834-8180). The sensitivity of commercially available testing for this novel swine influenza virus is unknown. Assistance with obtaining swabs or transport media, or with specimen collection, is also available on a case-by-case basis through Orange County Public Health. Consult the CDC interim guidance for infection control for appropriate precautions for caring for and collecting specimens from suspect patients, available at www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance. Note: sentinel providers should continue to send specimens on ALL patients with influenza-like illness using their usual protocols for specimen transport to public health. Lower respiratory tract specimens (e.g., tracheal aspirate or bronchealveolar lavage) should also be collected on hospitalized patients.

Persons with febrile respiratory illness should stay home from work or school to avoid spreading infections to others. In addition, respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette ("cover your cough") and frequent hand washing can reduce the spread of respiratory illness. See www.cdc.gov/travel for CDC travel recommendations. Guidance on laboratory safety, infection control, antiviral use, and for the public is available at www.cdc.gov/swineflu/.