



**ALAMEDA COUNTY HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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**HEALTH ALERT UPDATE #2
May 3, 2009
SWINE-ORIGIN INFLUENZA A (H1N1)**

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF CLINICIANS:

At this time, the California Department of Public Health has determined that it is not necessary to attempt to identify all cases of **Swine-Origin H1N1 Influenza A**. The testing priority in counties, like Alameda, **with at least 1 confirmed case**, will be as follows:

- Hospitalized patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) – **(ILI is defined as fever $\geq 37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ (100°F) and a cough and/or sore throat)**
- Direct care healthcare providers with ILI
- Outpatients with ILI in the following categories:
 - (1) First case with ILI in a high-risk setting for transmission (e.g. prison, homeless shelter, SNF, etc.)
 - (2) Patient is part of an outbreak or cluster of people with ILI (although only one patient needs lab confirmation). In settings of epidemiological significance, specimens can be collected from ≥ 2 patients to increase the likelihood of detecting swine-origin influenza virus (S-OIV)
- Influenza sentinel surveillance providers (**designated by contract with the State**) should continue to test as per the usual protocol.
- Collect a nasopharyngeal Dacron swab from each patient with ILI, placing the swab in a standard container with 2-3 ml of viral transport media (VTM). If the patient is hospitalized with pneumonia, specimens from the lower respiratory tract (e.g. tracheal aspirate, bronchoalveolar lavage) should also be obtained. Specimens should be collected within the first 24-72 hours of onset of symptoms.
- Forward specimens to the Alameda County Public Health Lab as soon as possible. Specimens must be accompanied by a completed State laboratory form (see attachment 1). The bottom of the form contains screening questions for epidemiological and clinical information.
- **Report to the Alameda County Communicable Disease Division**, as soon as possible, any patient(s) whose specimens are being submitted. Do this by faxing a copy of the completed State Lab form to (510) 268-2140.
- Ship specimens on cold packs within 5 days of collection to the Alameda County Public Health Laboratory at **499 – 5th Street, 4th Floor, Oakland, California 94607**, Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Please call (510) 268-2700, if you have any questions regarding specimen handling/processing. PCR testing will be performed by the State Viral and Rickettsial Disease Lab (VRDL). With the reduced specimen load on the State Lab, turnaround time is anticipated to be faster.
- Use appropriate infection control precautions. CDC guidance now recommends that healthcare workers in communities where there are one or more confirmed cases of Swine-Origin Influenza Virus within 7 days use a fit-tested disposable N95 respirator or equivalent device, gown, gloves, and eye protection for interactions with **all** patients with acute febrile respiratory illness, rather than determining the level of precautions based on the use of epidemiological links.

SITUATION SUMMARY: As of Saturday, May 2, 2009:

- **Alameda County has 1 confirmed and 1 probable case**
- CDC now recommends that U.S. travelers avoid all nonessential travel to Mexico
- California Department of Public Health has activated a **toll-free H1N1 (Swine-Origin Influenza) hotline** in English and Spanish. Assistance in other languages is also available. The phone number is **1-888-865-0564**.
- CDPH antiviral guidance, which will include recommendations for household contacts, is pending.

Questions regarding the content of this health alert update should be directed to the Communicable Disease Division at (510) 267-3250.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CDC case definitions: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/casedef_swineflu.htm

CDC general information: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/swineflu_you.htm

CDC latest updates: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/investigation.htm>

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

ACPHD updates: <http://www.acphd.gov>

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.

**California Department of Public Health – Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory
Swine Influenza Specimen Submittal Form**

Specimen Collection and Submittal Instructions

Specimens should be collected within the first 24-72 hours of onset of symptoms and no later than 5 days after onset of symptoms. Personnel collecting clinical specimens should wear an N95 respirator, goggles, disposable gown, and disposable gloves.

Respiratory Specimens:

- Each specimen should be labeled with: date of collection, specimen type, and patient name.
- At a minimum, collect a nasopharyngeal swab (nasopharyngeal wash or nasopharyngeal aspirate are also acceptable). Oropharyngeal (throat) swabs are acceptable, but may not have as high yield. If oropharyngeal specimens are collected, they should be accompanied by a specimen from the nasopharynx. Place the swabs in a standard container with 2-3 ml of viral transport media (VTM).
- If the patient is hospitalized with pneumonia, specimens from the lower respiratory tract (e.g., tracheal aspirate, bronchoalveolar lavage) should also be obtained.

Sera:

For cases or contacts of cases with confirmed swine influenza, collect as much blood as possible (recommended volumes 3- 10 cc from children and 10-20 cc from adults) in a serum separator tube (red top or tiger top). If possible, spin to separate sera before packaging.

Specimen Storage and Shipment:

The specimens should be kept refrigerated at 4°C and sent on cold packs if they can be received by the laboratory within five days of the date collected. If samples cannot be received by the laboratory within five days, they should be frozen at -70 °C or below and shipped on dry ice. Specimens should be shipped per usual protocol to either your local public health laboratory or to:

*California Department of Public Health - VRDL Specimen Receiving / Swine Influenza
850 Marina Bay Parkway Richmond, CA 94804 (510) 307-8585*

--Please do not send specimens on a Friday or weekends unless special arrangements have been made with the laboratory--

Patient's last name, first name				Patient's mailing address (including Zip code)		Route to: [] PCR [] ISOL [] FA
Age	DOB:	Sex (circle): M F	Onset Date:	COUNTY:		
Disease suspected or test requested - Check one: [] Influenza [] other respiratory virus						
1 st	Specimen type and/or specimen source		Date Collected	1 st		
2 nd	Specimen type and/or specimen source		Date Collected	2 nd		
Type or print submitter's complete mailing address				Carol Glaser, DVM, MD, Chief Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory 850 Marina Bay Parkway Richmond, CA 94804 Phone (510) 307-8585 Fax (510) 307-8578		
Local Laboratory Results:						
Was this specimen tested by a rapid antigen test? [] Yes [] No If yes, result: [] Pos [] Neg						
Was this specimen typed as Influenza A? [] Yes [] No If yes, was subtype identified? [] Yes [] No						
If this sample could not be subtyped, please alert VRDL and provide the ETA and Tracking #						
Epidemiologic and Clinical Information (Please attach clinic/hospital notes and laboratory data)						
Travel to Mexico in past 30 days? [] Yes [] No			[] Fever to _____°F [] Cough			
Contact with pigs? [] Yes [] No			[] Sore throat [] Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea			
Contact of lab-confirmed swine flu case? [] Yes [] No			[] Altered Mental Status [] Shortness of breath			
If yes, what type of contact? Household [] HCW [] Other close contact []			[] Other, please describe:			
Outbreak setting? [] Yes [] No			Is patient hospitalized? [] Yes [] No			
If yes, type of setting (school, LTCF etc):			Is patient in the ICU? [] Yes [] No			
			Antiviral treatment? [] Yes [] No			
			If yes, list drug and start date:			

Submitting Physician: _____ Phone# (_____) _____

Submitting Facility: _____ Fax# (_____) _____