



## DRILL HEALTH ALERT

### HEALTH ADVISORY

### UNKNOWN VIRUS SOAM1018

October 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2018

#### SITUATION

The WHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have announced rising concern regarding an unknown illness circulating in South America with deaths attributed in small to medium size cities in Peru and Chile. The illness is attributed to a novel virus, now called SoAm1018, with suspected transmission through infectious droplets and contact with an ill individual. Reports suggest the illness has disproportionately affected children under the age of 14 and resulted death for 60% of the suspected cases. The CDC issued a Health Advisory on 10/2/18 to advise clinicians to identify, isolate, and immediately report suspected cases to their local health department. **Early recognition and appropriate infection control precautions are critical for disease control.**

#### ACTIONS REQUESTED OF CLINICIANS

#### **THIS IS AN EXERCISE**

1. **CONSIDER SoAm1018** in patients with:
  - a. **Fever** >38.6°C (>101.5°F) **and symptoms** such as cough, shortness of breath, body ache, fatigue, headache, or altered mental status; **AND**
  - b. **Risk factors within the past 14 days before onset** of symptoms, such as:
    - i. Residence in—or travel to South America **OR**
    - ii. Close contact with travelers from South America or anyone with known risk factors exhibiting similar symptoms
2. **ISOLATE and implement standard, contact, and droplet precautions immediately** for suspected cases. Add airborne precautions for aerosol-generating procedures.
3. **REPORT** suspect or rule-out cases **IMMEDIATELY BY PHONE** to Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) at **(510) 268-7279** during business hours **for this SWMH EXERCISE.**
4. **TEST** suspected cases. Influenza testing should be done for all suspect cases.
  - Collect Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab and perform Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assays for detection of influenza virus
  - Clinicians are requested to collect specimens from 3 categories for further testing at CDC:
    - 1) Lower respiratory tract specimens have the highest bronchoalveolar lavage fluid, tracheal aspirate, pleural fluid, or sputum.
    - 2) Upper respiratory tract specimens: NP/OP swabs using synthetic fiber swabs with plastic shafts. Send respiratory samples in viral transport media.
    - 3) Serum: >1 full tube (5-10 ml blood for adults). Collect at least 4 mL of serum, plasma, or whole blood and refrigerate.
  - Testing must be approved and coordinated through Alameda County Public Health Department

ACPHD will continue to provide updates and guidance as needed. Health Advisory is available at <http://www.acphd.org/health-alerts.aspx>