



State of New Jersey

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Swine Flu Update – April 28, 2009

As part of an ongoing investigation into an outbreak of swine influenza A (H1N1) in the United States and Mexico, CDC today announced confirmation of an additional 20 human cases of infection with swine flu in the U.S, bringing the total number of cases to 40 so far. Five samples have been received by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services for testing. At this time, cases of swine influenza have been confirmed in California, Kansas, New York City, Ohio and Texas. Based on the rapid spread of the virus thus far, public health officials believe that more cases will be identified over the next several weeks. Case counts are updated daily and available at http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm.

For Emergency Medical Responders, please be diligent in your use of personal protective equipment (masks, gloves, face shields) when caring for patients with any potential communicable disease. Hand washing is a must. Patient transport vehicles should be cleaned and all contact surfaces, equipment, linens should be disinfected after use by any patient suspected of having a communicable disease.

Patients with Swine flu can present with the following signs and symptoms:

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

Clinicians should consider swine influenza infection in the differential diagnosis of patients with acute febrile respiratory illness who have either been in contact with persons with confirmed swine flu, or who were in one of the five U.S. states that have reported swine flu cases or in Mexico during the 7 days preceding their illness onset.

The current CDC definitions related to Swine Flu are as follows:

Definitions of Acute Respiratory Illness - recent onset of at least two of the following:

- Rhinorrhea or nasal congestion
Sore throat
Cough
Fever or feverishness
Influenza-like illness: fever >37.8°C (100°F) plus cough or sore throat

Case Definitions for Infection with Swine Influenza A (H1N1) Virus

- A Suspected case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as:
1. A person with an acute respiratory illness who was a close contact to a confirmed case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection while the case was ill OR
2. A person with an acute respiratory illness with a recent history of contact with an animal with confirmed or suspected swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection OR
3. A person with an acute respiratory illness who has traveled to an area where there are confirmed cases of swine influenza A (H1N1)

- A **Probable** case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as a person with an acute respiratory illness with an influenza test that is positive for influenza A, but H1 and H3 negative.
- 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 three tests.

Infectious period for confirmed cases = 1 day before onset to 7 days after onset of illness.

Human-to-human transmission of swine flu is thought to occur in the same way as seasonal flu occurs in people, which is mainly person-to-person transmission through coughing or sneezing of people infected with the influenza virus. People may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose. Increased EMS activity has been reported in the affected areas

Patients who meet these criteria should be tested for influenza A, and specimens' positive for influenza A should be sent to public health laboratories for further characterization.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and guidance should be considered interim and will be updated frequently.

Newly Available Guidance:

CDC has issued a number of guidance documents in the past 24 hours which are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/recommendations>, including:

- [Interim Guidance for Infection Control for Care of Patients with Confirmed or Suspected Swine Influenza A \(H1N1\) Virus Infection in a Healthcare Setting](#)
- [Interim Guidance on Antiviral Recommendations for Patients with Confirmed or Suspected Swine Influenza A \(H1N1\) Virus Infection and Close Contacts](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Swine influenza A \(H1N1\): Taking Care of a Sick Person in Your Home](#)
- [Interim Recommendations for Facemask and Respirator Use in Certain Community Settings Where Swine Influenza A \(H1N1\) Virus Transmission Has Been Detected](#)
- [Swine Influenza A \(H1N1\) Virus Biosafety Guidelines for Laboratory Workers](#)
- [Interim Guidance on Case Definitions to be Used For Investigations of Swine Influenza A \(H1N1\) Cases](#)

For more information about swine flu: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu>

Additional information is also available by calling 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636).