

This is an official CDC Health Update

Distributed via Health Alert Network
April 27, 2009, 22:10 EST (10:10 PM EST)
CDCHAN-00284-09-04-27-UPD-N

Interim CDC Guidance for Nonpharmaceutical Community Mitigation in Response to Human Infections with Swine Influenza (H1N1) Virus

Background

As part of the ongoing investigation into the outbreak of swine influenza A (H1N1) in the United States and Mexico, CDC today announced confirmation of an additional 19 human cases of infection with swine flu in the U.S., bringing the total number of cases to 40 so far. 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/>.

On April 26, 2009, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, announced that the Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency in the United States. This will allow funds to be released to support the public health response. CDC's goals during this public health emergency are to reduce transmission and illness severity, and to provide information to assist health care providers, public health officials, and the public in addressing the challenges posed by this newly-identified influenza virus. Laboratory testing has found that the swine influenza A (H1N1) virus is susceptible to the prescription antiviral drugs oseltamivir and zanamivir. CDC is releasing one-quarter of its antiviral drugs, personal protective equipment, and respiratory protection devices to help states respond to the outbreak.

Community mitigation actions are also recommended to prevent illness. Steps including home isolation of cases, school dismissals, and other social distancing interventions may be implemented by communities and families as part of a comprehensive program of infection control. Community mitigation strategies may be different for each state or community depending on the numbers of cases and spread of disease. As a result, CDC is issuing mitigation guidance that includes a range of interventions so that public health authorities can identify the most appropriate means to protect their counties, communities, and citizens. CDC is recommending home isolation of ill persons. Persons who develop influenza-like-illness (ILI) (fever with either cough or sore throat) should be strongly encouraged to self-isolate in their home for 7 days after the onset of illness or at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved, whichever is longer.

Persons who experience ILI and wish to seek medical care should contact their health care providers to report illness (by telephone or other remote means) before seeking care at a clinic, physician's office, or hospital. Persons who have difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, or are believed to be severely ill, should seek immediate medical attention. Household contacts of persons with symptoms consistent with swine influenza should: remain home at the earliest sign of illness; minimize contact in the community to the extent possible; designate a single household family member as the ill person's caregiver to minimize interactions with asymptomatic persons.

Communities should consider school dismissals and childcare facility closures. Dismissal of students should be strongly considered in schools with a confirmed or a suspected case epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case. Decisions regarding broader school dismissal within these communities should be left to local authorities, taking into account the extent of ILI in the community. If the school dismisses students or a childcare facility closes, they should also cancel all school or childcare-related gatherings and encourage parents and students to avoid congregating outside of the school. The duration of closings for school and childcare facilities should be for a time period to be determined based on ongoing epidemiological findings in their geographic area. Schools and childcare facilities should consult with their

local or state health departments for guidance on reopening. If no additional confirmed or suspected cases are identified among students (or school-based personnel) for a period of 7 days, schools may consider reopening.

Schools and childcare facilities in unaffected areas should begin to prepare for the possibility of school dismissal or childcare facility closure. This includes asking teachers, parents, and officials in charge of critical school-associated programs (such as meal services) to make contingency plans.

CDC recommends that other social distancing interventions be considered. Large gatherings linked to settings or institutions with laboratory-confirmed cases should be cancelled, for example a school event linked to a school with cases; other large gatherings in the community may not need to be cancelled at this time. Additional social distancing measures are currently not recommended. Persons with underlying medical conditions who are at high risk for complications of influenza may wish to consider avoiding large gatherings.

A more detailed list of Community Mitigation Guidelines can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/mitigation.htm>

This is a rapidly evolving situation and CDC will provide updated guidance and new information as it becomes available. As public health officials in the United States learn more about this emerging virus, updated guidance will be issued in conjunction with our state, local, tribal, and territorial partners.

Additional public health recommendations can be found at the following CDC Web sites:

- Interim Recommendations for Facemask and Respirator Use in Certain Community Settings Where Swine Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Transmission Has Been Detected
- MMWR: Prevention and Control of Influenza: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2008
MMWR July 17, 2008 / 57(Early Release);1-60
- 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

For additional information about swine flu see www.cdc.gov/swineflu. For information about the current swine flu investigation, see www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm. You can access the same information by calling 1-800-CDC-INFO.

DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Reporting of outbreaks/clusters of cases is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2009 List of Reportable Conditions available at: http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

Regional Public Health Offices – 2009

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

Region 1

Anderson, Oconee

220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 260-4358
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda

1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Region 2

Greenville, Pickens

PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union

PO Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-2227, x- 210
Fax: (864) 596-3443
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Region 3

Chester, Lancaster, York

PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: (803) 286-9948
Fax: (803) 286-5418
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

Region 3 (continued)

Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland

2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-554-9915

Region 4

Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter

PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 775-9941
Nights/Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion

145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

Region 5

Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg

PO Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 533-7199
Fax: (803) 533-7134
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 643-8386
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or
1-800-614-1519

Region 6

Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg

1931 Industrial Park Road
Conway, SC 29526-5482
Phone: (843) 915-8804
Fax: (843) 365-0085
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

Region 7

Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 953-0060
Fax: (843) 953-0051
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Region 8

Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper

219 S. Lemacks Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: (843) 525-7603, x-108
Fax: (843) 549-6845
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

DHEC Bureau of Disease Control Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC 29211
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902



www.scdhec.gov

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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.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.