

This is an official

# DHEC Health Alert

Distributed via Health Alert Network  
24 April 2009

## Swine Flu Investigation and Testing Recommendations

### **Background of investigation**

- A total of 8 cases of swine influenza infection in humans have been confirmed so far in 2 U.S. states.
  - Six cases of human infection with swine influenza have been detected in the state of California and two cases have been confirmed in Guadalupe County, near San Antonio, Texas.
  - Only one of the patients identified was reported to have been hospitalized and all of the patients have fully recovered.
  - At this time, it is unknown how these people were infected with these viruses in either California or Texas. They had **no** swine contact.
  - There appears to be human-to-human spread of these viruses.
  - The viruses are susceptible (sensitive) to the influenza antiviral medications, oseltamivir and zanamivir.
  - The viruses in the first two patients are resistant (not sensitive) to amantadine and rimantadine.
  - Mexico has reported widespread influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) and 27 deaths.
  - CDC has tested 14 specimens received from Mexico. All of the viruses isolated appear to be the same virus that is circulating in the US.

### **Recommendations**

#### Clinicians

- Clinicians should consider the possibility of swine influenza virus infections in patients presenting with febrile respiratory illness who:
  1. Have recent travel (within 7 days of onset of symptoms) to:
    - San Diego County, California
    - Imperial County, California
    - Guadalupe County, Texas or
    - Mexico
  2. Have been in contact with ill persons from these areas in the 7 days prior to their illness onset or
  3. Hospitalized patients with severe lower respiratory infections with no other known cause.
- If swine flu is suspected, clinicians should obtain a respiratory swab for swine influenza testing and place it in a refrigerator (not a freezer). Once collected, the clinician should contact their regional DHEC office (at the number located at the end of this message) to arrange for pick up and transport to our state lab.

- All ILINet providers are encouraged to continue reporting influenza like illnesses.

### **Laboratories**

- Laboratories should send all unsubtypable influenza A specimens as soon as possible to the Viral Surveillance and Diagnostic Branch of the CDC's Influenza Division for further diagnostic testing.

### **Individuals**

- Persons with a respiratory illness with fever should stay home from work or school to avoid spreading infections, including influenza and other respiratory illnesses.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and water.

### **References:**

- **CDC Swine Influenza**  
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine>
- **Swine Influenza April 21, 2009 MMWR**  
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm58d0421a1.htm>
- **Interim Guidance on Infection Control and Antiviral Recommendations**  
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/recommendations.htm>

### **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](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](http://www.scdhec.gov)

### Categories of Health Alert messages:

**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.