

To: Healthcare Providers  
From: Monroe County Department of Public Health

HEALTH ADVISORY: SWINE INFLUENZA A (H1N1) INFECTION

Following is an update on the status of the Swine influenza outbreak investigation and guidance regarding testing of potential swine flu cases.

As of 4/27/09 Swine influenza has been diagnosed in California, Texas, Kansas, New York City, Ohio, Mexico and Canada. **We do not have confirmed cases in Monroe County.**

We would like you to be on **alert** regarding potential cases by **asking** patients who present with respiratory or flu like illness **about their recent travel to the affected areas**. For up to date information on affected areas click on <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>

The CDC case definitions for investigation of cases are as follows:

1. A **Confirmed case** of swine influenza (H1N1) virus infection is defined as a person with an acute respiratory illness with laboratory confirmed swine influenza A (H1N1) confirmed **by the CDC**
  2. A **Probable case:** is defined as a person with acute respiratory illness with an influenza test positive for influenza A, but H1 or H3 negative.
  3. A **Suspect case** is defined as:
    - a. A person with acute respiratory illness who has a **close contact to a confirmed case** while the case was ill. **OR**
    - b. A person with an acute respiratory illness with a recent history of contact **with an animal with confirmed or suspected swine influenza A** virus infection. **OR**
    - c. A person with acute respiratory illness who has **traveled** to an area where there were confirmed or probable cases of swine influenza (H1N1).
- Patients with **Suspected** case definition **and Clusters of respiratory illness** (2 or more cases) should be reported to **Monroe County Disease Surveillance Unit** (phone number:753 5164, after-hours 753-5905). The staff, utilizing state guidance, will decide if a specimen obtained will need to be submitted to NY State Lab (Wadsworth Center) to be tested for swine influenza based on epidemiologic criteria.
  - To test for influenza, a nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen is obtained using a Dacron or Rayon swab but **not** a calcium alginate or wooden-shafted swabs. The swab is inserted in a **viral transport media**. Swabs and viral media are usually obtained from microbiology labs. The transport media/swab has to be refrigerated but not frozen and sent to the clinical lab. **The clinical lab needs to be informed that this**

**specimen is from a suspect case of swine influenza.** The lab will perform a rapid antigen test but **not a culture** and will forward the specimen to the NYS Wadsworth Center Lab. Of note, the rapid antigen is often negative in swine influenza A (H1N1) cases.

- For infection control precautions: **Full PPE** is recommended (gowns, gloves, goggles, N- 95 mask) and negative pressure isolation. If N-95 mask is not available a surgical mask can be used. In the office setting, ask the patient at the time of appointment if they have a respiratory illness so precautions can be taken when the patient arrives. Patient should be directly admitted to an exam room.
- For up to date guidance regarding infection control, obtaining samples and treatment, please see attached advisory from NYSDOH and log on CDC and NYSDOH websites.

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

[http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/swine\\_flu/](http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/swine_flu/)

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