

April 29, 2009 Update # 6

Swine Flu H1N1 (SIV) Infections - Update # 6 April 29, 2009

Thurston County Public Health Actions:

Thurston County Public Health Incident Command was activated on Monday 4/27/09. We will remain activated daily as the public health emergency situation continues. I apologize for not being immediately available by phone and email. To reach Dr. Diana Yu during work hours, please contact Peggy Grenier at 360-867-2549. After work hours, you can reach me for a public health emergency by calling 911.

We participate in daily calls and briefings and may not be available to answer phones at the following times:

- 0800 – 0930 ICS briefing
- 1300 – 1400 Conference calls with Department of Health Communicable Disease Epidemiologists on surveillance issues
- 1600 – 1700 Conference calls between health officials from all 35 local health jurisdictions, tribes and DOH

Communications from the Health Department

- It is urgent that you pay close attention to the guidance you receive each day as it may change.
- This is our primary way of providing information to the health care community.
- We are focusing on prevention and avoiding exposure
- The information on the Health Department website will be the most up to date and may be updated more than once a day.
- At the end of each work day, a CD Update is sent out by Dr. Yu to all health care providers via fax. It is usually sent to one fax number per office and we expect your office personnel to distribute as needed. Physicians who have requested email versions of the updates receive them also in the evenings.
- If you do not currently get your updates via email and wish to have it or have an email address change, please contact greniep@co.thurston.wa.us and send her your name, Practice location/Clinic Name, office phone number, fax number and email address you wish used.

Health Department Swine Flu Info Line 360-709-3080 is updated a few times a day.

Info for the public and health care providers about swine flu is available on our website www.co.thurston.wa.us/health

Current Status Report:

World Health Organization has elevated the Swine Flu situation to **PANDEMIC PHASE 5** – novel virus with sustained human to human transmission.

- Please see CDC swine flu infection control & treatment recommendations at: www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/recommendations.htm
- There are now 91 confirmed cases in the US with one death reported. Death was in a 2 yo Mexico citizen brought into Texas for health care.
- We do not have any confirmed cases in Washington State.
- There are tests pending at the State Lab. There are hundreds of cases pending investigation. By the end of the week, the state lab will be able to do the verification for swine flu at the state lab instead of sending it to CDC.
- The severity of the swine flu cases continue to be mild to moderate. Most of the confirmed cases are in individuals under the age of 18. There are now cases in persons with no known connection with travel to Mexico.

Use of antivirals:

- We have requested and will be receiving a portion of the Federal strategic national stockpile in the next week. There will be guidance available for how we recommend antiviral stockpile will be used and distributed.
- Doctors continue to prescribe antiviral medications but there is extremely limited availability of antiviral medications in our local pharmacies.
- Priority for use of antiviral medication is for persons with symptoms of influenza. Please follow CDC guidelines on treatment for pregnant women and children exposed to influenza.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION SECTION
THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
412 LILLY RD NE
OLYMPIA, WA, 98506-5132
DISEASE REPORTING: (360)786-5470 INFORMATION: (360) 867-2533
Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH, Health Officer



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- After the first few cases of swine flu have been identified (confirmed) in Washington State, it is very likely that we will discontinue surveillance via laboratory testing. It is not necessary to test all patients you suspect of having swine flu. Consider testing if you feel that the results of the test will alter your clinical management. Thank you.

Community mitigation measures:

- Social distancing – staying away from people who are ill is strongly recommended
- School closures – will be a coordinated recommendation by health officials in western and eastern Washington when it is needed. These measures will be implemented by order of local Health Officer.
- Work or school exclusion – Strictly enforce keeping anyone who are ill from attending school, day care or work.
- Persons returning from travel to a swine flu affected area or may have been exposed to someone with influenza like illness should monitor their health status daily for 7 days after last exposure. If exposed person is a direct patient care provider, he/she should use a mask while caring for others within the 7 day incubation period.
- Masks (preferably N 95) should be used when you are encountering a patient with respiratory symptoms.
- Patients with respiratory symptoms should use a mask or other barrier to decrease exposure to others.
- Washing hands and /or using hand sanitizer can prevent transmission.

Report all suspect cases to 24 hour recorded line at 360-786-5470.

Thank you for all your help in caring for our community.

REVISED: 11/13/09-esn