

4/25/2009

Human Swine Flu Virus (SIV) Infections

Action Requested:

- Consider the possibility of swine flu in persons with influenza-like illness and recent travel to affected areas in Texas (near San Antonio), California (San Diego County & Imperial County) and Mexico or who have been in contact with ill persons from these areas in the 7 days before illness onset.
- If swine flu is suspected, obtain a respiratory swab for swine flu testing and place it in a refrigerator (not freezer). Use airborne infection control precautions for specimen collection.
- Take appropriate infection control precautions including airborne precautions for *hospitalized* patients (see link to CDC recommendations, below).
- All healthcare facilities should review respiratory hygiene measures in outpatient areas.
- Report suspected cases of swine flu to Public Health immediately at 360-786-5470 to facilitate:
 - A) laboratory confirmation of the diagnosis, and
 - B) prompt investigation and of cases and identification of other persons at risk for illness.
- As always, persons with a respiratory illness with fever should stay home from work or school to avoid spreading influenza and other respiratory illnesses, to others in their communities.

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

1. 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 the following tests:
 - a. real-time RT-PCR
 - b. viral culture
 - c. four-fold rise in swine influenza A (H1N1) virus specific neutralizing antibodies
2. 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.
3. A Suspected case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as:
 - a. 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**
 - b. 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**
 - c. A person with an acute respiratory illness who has traveled to an area where there are confirmed cases of swine influenza A (H1N1)

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Background: Eight cases of human infection with a newly recognized, novel swine influenza A (H1N1) virus (SIV) have been confirmed by CDC among residents of San Diego County and Imperial County, California (6) and Guadalupe County, near San Antonio Texas (2). The cases have no known contact with swine or links to one another (except one father-daughter pair) suggesting that human to human spread is occurring. The extent of spread in the US is not known at this time. The cases tested positive for influenza A, but could not be subtyped locally and were sent to CDC for identification. All patients in the US had uncomplicated illness and have recovered. The viruses appear to be sensitive to Tamiflu and Relenza but not to the older antivirals. Influenza vaccine does not provide reliable protection against swine flu virus.

There is widespread respiratory illness and influenza like illness in Mexico, with over 60 deaths reported. Some of the specimens from Mexico are confirmed to be identical to the H1N1 virus seen in the US cases. Please review your pandemic influenza response plans.

SIV can cause uncomplicated influenza-like illness (fever, cough or sore throat), mild respiratory illness (nasal congestion, rhinorrhea) without fever and occasional severe disease. Other symptoms reported with SIV infection include vomiting, diarrhea, myalgia, headache, chills, fatigue, and dyspnea. Persons with SIV infection should be considered potentially contagious from one day before to 7 days following illness onset or until symptoms have resolved. Children, especially younger children, might potentially be contagious for longer periods. The duration of infectiousness might vary by SIV strain. Infection control measures include airborne precautions for hospitalized patients.

- Please see CDC swine flu information at: www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/index.htm
- Please see CDC swine flu infection control & treatment recommendations at: www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/recommendations.htm