

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION, Health Services Department

2625 E. St. Louis • LAS VEGAS, NV 89104 • (702)799-7443 • FAX (702) 799-8671



CLARK COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Diana Taylor, Director

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Dr. Walt Ruliffes, Superintendent

May 5, 2009

Dear Students, Families and Staff:

The safety of our students and staff continues to be our most important consideration as more cases of swine flu are reported and the Southern Nevada Health District confirms our first local cases.

We also understand the report of a school-aged child having a confirmed case of swine flu may be alarming to parents. The child is enrolled in the school district; however, we have also been advised the child had a fairly mild occurrence and is recovering well. No new cases have been detected among the classmates since the student became ill more than seven days ago. School nurses continue to monitor student health office visits for signs and symptoms of influenza.

We are continuing to work closely with the health district to monitor the situation and make decisions that are in the best interest of the well-being of our students and staff. We have been further assured by local health officials that schools remaining open at this time will not put our students and staff at increased risk. In conjunction with the state school superintendent, local health officers, the local school superintendent and private facility operators, the Nevada State Health Division (NSHD) released guidelines and criteria for determining potential closure of public and private schools and child care facilities. School closure is not automatic and closure is not proven to control an influenza outbreak. The complete NSHD document may be viewed at <http://health.nv.gov>.

It is important to understand that while this is a new strain of flu, it is behaving much the same way seasonal flu occurs each year and is causing the same type of symptoms. At this time, we continue to recommend everyone practice the following good health habits to limit or avoid the spread of swine flu, seasonal flu and other illnesses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleansers are also effective.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, elbow, or sleeve. Throw the tissue in the trash after use.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- If you are sick, stay home.

If you or your child shows mild, flu-like symptoms monitor them closely and contact your health care provider if necessary. You can also contact your school nurse for information. Visit www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org.

We will continue to update students, parents and staff if there is any additional information or if the current status and our recommendations change.

Sincerely,

Diana Taylor
Director/Chief Nurse
Health Services

Submitted at City Council

Date 5-06-09 Item 55

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5 de mayo del 2009

Estimados Estudiantes, Familias y Personal:

Dr. Walt Ruffles, Superintendent

La seguridad de nuestros estudiantes y el personal continúa siendo nuestra consideración más importante, conforme se van recibiendo más casos de influenza porcina y el Distrito Escolar del Condado de Clark confirma nuestro primer caso local.

También entendemos que la noticia de un caso confirmado de influenza porcina en un niño en edad escolar puede alarmar a los padres. El niño está inscrito en el distrito escolar; sin embargo, también se nos ha notificado que fue un caso leve y el niño se está recuperando bien. No se han detectado nuevos casos entre los compañeros de clase desde que el estudiante se enfermó hace más de siete días. Las enfermeras de la escuela continúan monitorizando las visitas de los estudiantes a la oficina de salud en caso de que pudieran detectar síntomas de influenza.

Continuamos trabajando muy de cerca con el distrito de salud para monitorizar la situación y tomar decisiones en el mejor interés del bienestar de nuestros estudiantes y personal. Los oficiales de salud local nos han asegurado más detalladamente que las escuelas que permanecen abiertas en estos momentos no expondrán a nuestros estudiantes y el personal a riesgos superiores. En conjunto con el superintendente escolar del estado, los oficiales de salud local, el superintendente escolar local y los operadores de instalaciones privadas, la División de Salud del Estado de Nevada (NSHD) publicó unas guías y criterios para determinar el cierre potencial de escuelas públicas, privadas e instalaciones de cuidados del niño. El cierre de las escuelas no es automático, y no se ha comprobado que el cierre podría controlar un brote de influenza. El documento completo de NSHD se puede ver en <http://health.nv.gov>.

Es importante entender que mientras ésta es una cepa nueva de la gripe, se está manifestando casi de la misma manera que ocurre con la gripe estacional cada año, y está causando el mismo tipo de síntomas. En estos momentos, continuamos recomendando que cada uno practique los siguientes buenos hábitos de salud para limitar o prevenir que se propague la influenza porcina, la gripe estacional y otras enfermedades:

- Lávese las manos frecuentemente con jabón y agua, especialmente después de toser o estornudar. Los productos de limpieza a base de alcohol también son eficaces.
- Estornude o tosa en un pañuelo, codo o manga. Tire el pañuelo en el bote de basura después de usarlo.
- Evite tocarse los ojos, nariz o boca. Los gérmenes se dispersan de esa manera.
- Si está enfermo, permanezca en casa.

Si usted o su hijo tienen síntomas leves parecidos a los de la influenza, monitoréenlos muy de cerca y comuníquense con su proveedor de cuidados de salud si es necesario. Usted también puede comunicarse con la enfermera de su escuela para más información. Visite www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org.

Continuaremos informando a los estudiantes, padres y personal si hubiera alguna información adicional o si cambia el estado actual y nuestras recomendaciones.

Atentamente,

Diana Taylor
Directora/Enfermera Encargada
Servicios de Salud



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 5, 2009

Health District reports two confirmed H1N1 flu (swine flu) cases

LAS VEGAS – The Southern Nevada Health District announced today that two cases of H1N1 influenza (swine flu) have been confirmed in Clark County residents. The patients are an 11-year-old boy who has since recovered and a 39-year-old woman who is hospitalized. Swine flu was confirmed by laboratory testing conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The health district currently has five samples pending at the CDC.

“Swine flu cases are occurring throughout the country and while the identification of cases in Clark County is not surprising and is not cause for alarm, it underscores the importance of the public taking the necessary steps to protect their health and prevent the spread of disease,” said Dr. Lawrence Sands, chief health officer of the Southern Nevada Health District.

The health district is investigating the cases in order to better understand the course of illness and possible sources of exposure. Neither patient traveled within seven days prior to onset or had contact with persons who were ill. The health district’s influenza surveillance program is ongoing and the agency continues to work with community partners and health care providers to monitor the current situation and take appropriate measures.

“Unfortunately, one of the identified patients is hospitalized and we will continue to stay in close contact with their health care providers to ensure they have access to current treatment recommendations and resources as appropriate,” said Dr. Sands.

Several cases of more severe illness and one death have been reported in the United States but for the most part cases have been fairly mild. The health district is stressing that a recommendation to close public venues or schools is not warranted at this time. Future recommendations will be based on assessments of the progression and severity of illness in the community. The current strain of swine flu is thought to be circulating through communities the same way seasonal flu spreads. Individuals who are ill should avoid traveling or attending public events to minimize the spread of influenza or any other infectious illness.

-more-

MEDIA CONTACTS

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Health District confirms two H1N1 cases -- add one

Current recommendations to the public encourage good health habits to minimize the spread of influenza:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you get sick with influenza, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- Plan ahead. Have enough food and supplies on hand to ensure you can rest comfortably at home if you do become ill but don't require professional medical care.

Individuals who become ill with influenza-like symptoms, including fever, body aches, runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea may want to contact their health care provider. Only a health care provider can determine whether influenza testing or treatment is needed.

Swine flu is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza viruses. Like seasonal flu, swine flu in humans can vary in severity from mild to severe. Between 2005 until January 2009, 12 human cases of swine flu were detected in the U.S. with no deaths occurring. As with seasonal flu, swine flu infection can be serious in some people. While swine flu viruses can infect humans, the current strain circulating in our community is made of genes from four different types of flu viruses, including those found in swine, birds and humans. The name "swine flu" actually refers to the origin of some of the pieces of the virus and is not related to how this particular disease is spread or the source of infection in the community. The current strain of the virus appears only to be spreading from person to person and swine have not been found to be infected. Also, there is no risk of being infected with any type of swine flu from consuming pork products.

Updated information is available on the Southern Nevada Health District website, www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention site, www.cdc.gov. In addition, the Nevada Helpline is available in English and Spanish, (1-866) 767-5038 or (702) 759-INFO (4636).

FactSheet

P a r a S u I n f o r m a c i ó n

H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu)

What is H1N1 flu (swine flu)?

Swine influenza (swine flu) is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza viruses that causes regular outbreaks in pigs. People do not normally get swine flu, but human infections can and do happen. Swine flu viruses have been reported to spread from person-to-person, but in the past, this transmission was limited and not sustained beyond three people.

Are there human infections with swine flu in the U.S.?

In late March and early April 2009, cases of human infection with swine influenza A (H1N1) viruses were first reported in Southern California and near San Antonio, Texas. Other U.S. states have reported cases of swine flu infection in humans and cases have been reported internationally as well. An updated case count of confirmed swine flu infections in the United States is kept at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm>. CDC and local and state health agencies are working together to investigate this situation.

Is this swine flu virus contagious?

CDC has determined that this swine influenza A (H1N1) virus is contagious and is spreading from human to human. However, at this time, it not known how easily the virus spreads between people.

What are the signs and symptoms of swine flu in people?

The symptoms of swine flu in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with swine flu. In the past, severe illness (pneumonia and respiratory

failure) and deaths have been reported with swine flu infection in people. Like seasonal flu, swine flu may cause a worsening of underlying chronic medical conditions.

How does swine flu spread?

Spread of this swine influenza A (H1N1) virus is thought to be happening in the same way that seasonal flu spreads. Flu viruses are spread mainly from person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

How can someone with the flu infect someone else?

Infected people may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 7 or more days after becoming sick. That means that you may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick.

What should I do to keep from getting the flu?

First and most important: wash your hands. Try to stay in good general health. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food. Try not touch surfaces that may be contaminated with the flu virus. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Are there medicines to treat swine flu?

Yes. CDC recommends the use of oseltamivir or zanamivir for the treatment and/or prevention of infection with these swine influenza viruses. Antiviral drugs are prescription medicines (pills, liquid or an inhaler) that fight against the flu by keeping flu viruses from reproducing in your body.

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If you get sick, antiviral drugs can make your illness milder and make you feel better faster. They may also prevent serious flu complications. For treatment, antiviral drugs work best if started soon after getting sick (within 2 days of symptoms).

How long can an infected person spread swine flu to others?

People with swine influenza virus infection should be considered potentially contagious as long as they are symptomatic and possible for up to 7 days following illness onset. Children, especially younger children, might potentially be contagious for longer periods.

What surfaces are most likely to be sources of contamination?

Germs can be spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth. Droplets from a cough or sneeze of an infected person move through the air. Germs can be spread when a person touches respiratory droplets from another person on a surface like a desk and then touches their own eyes, mouth or nose before washing their hands.

How long can viruses live outside the body?

We know that some viruses and bacteria can live 2 hours or longer on surfaces like cafeteria tables, doorknobs and desks. Frequent handwashing will help you reduce the chance of getting contamination from these common surfaces.

What can I do to protect myself from getting sick?

There is no vaccine available right now to protect against swine flu. There are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses like influenza. Take these everyday steps to protect your health:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you get sick with influenza, CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

What is the best way to keep from spreading the virus through coughing or sneezing?

If you are sick, limit your contact with other people as much as possible. Do not go to work or school if ill. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick. Put your used tissue in the waste basket. Cover your cough or sneeze if you do not have a tissue. Then, clean your hands, and do so every time you cough or sneeze.

What is the best technique for washing my hands to avoid getting the flu?

Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. Wash with soap and water or clean with alcohol-based hand cleaner. We recommend that when you wash your hands—with soap and warm water—that you wash for 15 to 20 seconds. When soap and water are not available, alcohol-based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used. You can find them in most supermarkets and drugstores. If using gel, rub your hands until the gel is dry. The gel doesn't need water to work; the alcohol in it kills the germs on your hands.

What should I do if I get sick?

If you live in areas where swine influenza cases have been identified and become ill with influenza-like symptoms, including fever, body aches, runny nose, sore throat, nausea, or vomiting or diarrhea, you may want to contact your health care provider, particularly if you are worried about your symptoms. Your health care provider will determine whether influenza testing or treatment is needed.

If you are sick, you should stay home and avoid contact with other people as much as possible to keep from spreading your illness to others.

If you become ill and experience any of the following warning signs, seek emergency medical care.

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In children, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Bluish skin color
- Not drinking enough fluids
- Not waking up or not interacting
- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough
- Fever with a rash

In adults, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- Sudden dizziness
- Confusion
- Severe or persistent vomiting

How serious is swine flu infection?

Like seasonal flu, swine flu in humans can vary in severity from mild to severe. Between 2005 until January 2009, 12 human cases of swine flu were detected in the U.S. with no deaths occurring.

However, swine flu infection can be serious. In September 1988, a previously healthy 32-year-old pregnant woman in Wisconsin was hospitalized for pneumonia after being infected with swine flu and died 8 days later. A swine flu outbreak in Fort Dix, New Jersey occurred in 1976 that caused more than 200 cases with serious illness in several people and one death.

Can I get swine influenza from eating or preparing pork?

No. Swine influenza viruses are not spread by food. You cannot get swine influenza from eating pork or pork products. Eating properly handled and cooked pork products is safe.

Where can I get more information?

Go to the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov or the Southern Nevada Health District's website at www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org.



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Richard Whitley, M.S.
Administrator

Mary Guinan, M.D., PhD
State Health Officer



Contact Name: Martha Framsted, PIO
Phone Number: 775.684.4014
Release Date: May 4, 2009
Page 1 of 2

NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION

NEWS RELEASE

Nevada State Health Division Releases Interim Guidelines on School and Childcare Facility Closure

Carson City –Today, the Nevada State Health Division released Nevada guidance on school and childcare facility closure in response to human infections with 2009 influenza A (H1N1) virus. The guidance has been developed by the Joint Health and Education Authorities Influenza Oversight Committee. The committee consists of the State Health Officer, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, local health officers and local school superintendent and private school/childcare facility operators.

State Health Officer, Dr. Mary Guinan said, “We developed the guidance based upon what is currently happening in our state, using the interim guidance that we have received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As the situation evolves, the guidance may change.”

The one confirmed case of H1N1 influenza in Nevada was detected in a child who attended a childcare facility. Inevitably, additional cases of H1N1 influenza will likely be confirmed in a Nevada school or another childcare facility. When this happens, a decision must be made about facility closure, both at the school/childcare facility of the infected child and possibly other schools/childcare facilities in the area. A confirmed or probable case in a student will not automatically merit a recommendation to close schools. Closing a school or childcare facility is a step not to be taken lightly and all implications of this action must be considered before a decision is made. This is especially true because potential benefits from the strategy of school closure to control an influenza outbreak are unproven. Furthermore, based on evidence in recent reports, it appears the H1N1 virus is similar to seasonal influenza viruses for which school closures are not routinely recommended.

Upon notification of a confirmed or probable case the Joint Health and Education Authorities Influenza Oversight Committee will make the decision on school closure or other remediation efforts.

(MORE)



Richard Whitley, Administrator

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Evaluation Criteria

The Committee will consider the following criteria, including but not limited to:

- Severity of illness based on national surveillance and CDC recommendations
- Timing of the illness onset and when the student was in school
- Infectivity of the H1N1 virus based on national surveillance
- Extent of transmission including number, timing and location of cases
- Transportation issues related to exposure of children on school buses
- Social or economic issues
- Risks of recongregation if schools were closed
- Availability and feasibility of other community mitigation measures

Non-School Closure Mitigation Measures

In place of school closure, local school districts will identify and implement other appropriate mitigation measures in consultation with state and local health authorities, including but not limited to:

- Increased disease surveillance by the school nurse or other responsible person, ensuring that ill children do not attend school
- Increased hand washing, providing hand sanitizers (if possible), and other interventions normally used during seasonal influenza
- Increased communication with children, parents and school staff about disease prevention, including reminders to have children and school staff stay home if they are ill
- Siblings, other family members and close contacts who present to school or report signs or symptoms compatible with influenza-like illness will not be allowed to attend school until they recover from their illness or they return with a signed release from a health care provider

Length of School Closure

Current CDC guidelines that suggest that schools be closed for a period of up to 14 days are under review and likely to be changed. If a school is closed, the Committee will establish the length of the school closure based on the latest CDC guidelines and the specific circumstances of each case.

The entire guidance document will be posted on the Health Division's website: <http://health.nv.gov>

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For more information about the Nevada State Health Division, go to: <http://health.nv.gov>.

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FactSheet

P a r a S u I n f o r m a c i ó n

H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu) School Recommendations

The outbreak of disease in people caused by a new swine influenza virus continues to grow in the United States and internationally.

An investigation and response effort surrounding the outbreak of swine flu is ongoing. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) is working with local, state and international health officials on investigations into these cases.

At this time, the recommendations for swine influenza disease prevention and control are essentially the same as for annual influenza season, and include:

- Frequent hand washing for both staff and students
- Covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when you are sneezing or coughing
- Having students stay home when they are sick, sending students home if they become ill, and making parents aware of these policies in order to avoid confusion if the student must stay home

- Having staff members stay home when they are sick, sending staff members home if they become ill, and ensuring that staff members are aware of school policies
- Increased disinfection of commonly-touched surfaces or items or frequently used items
- Reviewing and updating emergency plans, especially those related to influenza or infectious disease

Updates will be posted on the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu> and on the Southern Nevada Health District website at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org.



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FactSheet

P a r a S u I n f o r m a c i ó n

H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu) Child Care Recommendations

The outbreak of disease in people caused by a new swine influenza virus (H1N1) continues to grow in the United States and internationally.

An investigation and response effort surrounding the outbreak of swine flu is ongoing. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) is working with local, state and international health officials on investigations into these cases.

At this time, the recommendations for swine influenza disease prevention and control are essentially the same as for annual influenza season, and include:

- Frequent hand washing for both staff and children
- Covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when you are sneezing or coughing
- Having children stay home when they are sick, sending children home if they become ill, and making parents aware of these policies in order to avoid confusion if the child must stay home
- Having staff members stay home when they are sick, sending staff members home if they become ill, and ensuring that staff members are aware of company policies
- Increased disinfection of commonly-touched surfaces or items or frequently used items
- Reviewing and updating emergency plans, especially those related to influenza or infectious diseases

Updates will be posted on the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> and on the Southern Nevada Health District website at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org.



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FactSheet

Para Su Información

H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu) Small Business Recommendations

The outbreak of disease in people caused by a new swine influenza virus continues to grow in the United States and internationally.

An investigation and response effort surrounding the outbreak of swine flu is ongoing. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) is working with local, state and international health officials on investigations into these cases.

At this time, the recommendations for swine influenza disease prevention and control are essentially the same as for annual influenza season, and include:

- Frequent hand washing
- Covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when you are sneezing or coughing
- Having employees stay home when they are sick, sending employees home if they become ill, and ensuring that employees are aware of company policies

- Frequent disinfection of commonly-touched surfaces or items or frequently used items
- Reviewing and updating emergency plans, especially those related to influenza or infectious diseases

Updates will be posted on the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> and on the Southern Nevada Health District website at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org.



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FactSheet

P a r a S u I n f o r m a c i ó n

H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu) Hotel Recommendations

The outbreak of disease in people caused by a new swine influenza virus continues to grow in the United States and internationally.

An investigation and response effort surrounding the outbreak of swine flu is ongoing. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) is working with local, state and international health officials on investigations into these cases.

At this time, the recommendations for swine influenza disease prevention and control are essentially the same as for annual influenza season, and include:

- Frequent hand washing
- Covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when you are sneezing or coughing
- Having employees stay home when they are sick, sending employees home if they become ill, and ensuring that employees are aware of company policies
- Increased frequency of disinfection of commonly-touched surfaces or items
- Reviewing and updating emergency plans, especially those related to influenza or infectious diseases

If an ill guest is identified, use the normal process to obtain medical care for that guest. Local medical providers have information about the testing process and will be able to provide the appropriate diagnosis and treatment of the guest. If available, a mask can be given to the guest to prevent the exposure of other guests, hotel staff, or emergency medical services providers while the patient is seeking care.

There are no cleaning recommendations for the rooms of ill guests other than those that would normally be used for a guest ill with a respiratory infection.

Updates will be posted on the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> and on the Southern Nevada Health District website at www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org.



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05-05-09

FactSheet

P a r a S u I n f o r m a c i ó n

H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu)

An Informational Guide for Emergency Medical Services

Updated April 30, 2009 (*Updates will be featured in blue type.*)

In late March and early April 2009, cases of human infection with swine influenza A (H1N1) viruses were first reported in Southern California and near San Antonio, Texas. Other U.S. states have reported cases of swine flu infection in humans, and the first confirmed case in Washoe County, Nev., was reported on April 29, 2009. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has determined that this swine influenza A (H1N1) virus is contagious and is spreading from human-to-human.

The following information is provided as an interim guideline for EMS personnel.

What is swine flu?

Swine influenza (swine flu) is a respiratory disease in pigs caused by type A influenza that regularly causes outbreaks of influenza among pigs. Swine flu viruses cause high incidence of illness and low death rates among pigs. Swine influenza viruses may circulate in swine throughout the year, but most outbreaks among swine herds occur during the late fall and winter months similar to human flu season. The typical swine flu virus, an influenza type A H1N1 virus, was first isolated from a pig in 1930.

Human infections with swine influenza A viruses occur sporadically in the United States and Canada. Most commonly, human cases of swine influenza happen in people with direct exposure to pigs. Human infection with animal influenza viruses does not usually result in human-to-human transmission. The CDC has received reports of approximately one human swine influenza virus infection every one to two years in the U.S. Between December 2005 and

January 2009, 12 cases of human infection with swine influenza have been reported.

Symptoms

The symptoms of swine flu in people are expected to be similar to the symptoms of regular human seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite and coughing. Some people with swine flu also have reported runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

Infectious Period

People with swine influenza virus infection should be considered potentially contagious for up to 7 days following illness onset. Anyone displaying symptoms of swine flu as described above should be considered potentially contagious until symptoms have resolved. Further information on the infectious period of this particular flu will be shared as it becomes available.

Impact on EMS

It is recommended that PSAP's query callers that enter MPD cards number 6 (breathing problems), 18 (headache) and 26 (sick person) regarding the presence of symptoms of acute febrile respiratory illness. Callers should be asked if the patient has had nasal congestion, cough, fever or other flu-like symptoms. A positive response should be relayed to the responding personnel.

EMS personnel should suspect swine flu in any patient that demonstrates the symptoms listed above AND has a history of recent (within two weeks)

(continued)

travel to Mexico, OR a history of exposure to a suspected swine flu patient or symptomatic individual with a history of recent travel to the affected area, OR if notified by dispatch of a potential swine flu patient.

If swine flu is suspected, EMS personnel should:

- Don appropriate personal protective equipment to include disposable gloves, gowns, goggles or face-shields (corrective eyeglasses alone are not appropriate protection), and a fit-tested N-95 respirator by all personnel in the patient care compartment. The driver should wear a simple surgical mask if the driver's compartment is open to the patient care compartment.
 - o Personal protective equipment should be removed upon completion of all patient care activities and disposed of in a biohazard bag.
 - o Hands must be washed or disinfected with a waterless hand sanitizer immediately after removal of gloves.
- The patient may wear a paper surgical mask to reduce droplet production, if tolerated. This does not negate the need for personnel to wear personal respirators.
 - o Disposable patient care items should be collected and disposed of as regulated medical waste.
 - o Durable patient care equipment should be placed in biohazard bags and labeled for cleaning and disinfection.
- Transport the patient using the minimum number of EMS personnel necessary to provide the required level of care.
- Receiving facilities must be notified prior to arrival to facilitate preparation of appropriate infection control procedures.
- Before returning the ambulance to service, patient care compartments (including stretchers, railings, medical equipment control panels, flooring, walls and work surfaces likely to be directly contaminated during care) must be cleaned using an EPA-registered hospital disinfectant in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

- Prophylactic use of antiviral medications is neither recommended nor indicated.

Follow-up of EMS Personnel

After transportation, EMS personnel should provide the following information to their infection control officer, medical director, or other individual designated by their agency:

- Names, contact information, specific patient contact activities
- Date and duration of transport

EMS agencies should designate an individual(s) to closely monitor personnel who have transported a suspected swine flu patient for evidence of a fever or respiratory illness. EMS personnel should be assessed (directly or by telephone) at least daily for 10 days after transport.

- Personnel may continue to work during the 10-day period if they have no symptoms of fever or respiratory illness.
- Personnel who become symptomatic within the 10-day period should be directed to seek medical evaluation and be reported to the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD).

Additional Information

If you want to learn more about swine flu, additional information is available from the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>, the World Health Organization at www.who.int, and the SNHD website at www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org.

Primary source: Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) for Management of Patients with Confirmed or Suspected Swine-Origin Influenza A (H1N1) Infection

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FactSheet

P a r a S u I n f o r m a c i ó n

H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu)

An Informational Guide for Law Enforcement

In late March and early April 2009, cases of human infection with swine influenza A (H1N1) viruses were first reported in Southern California and near San Antonio, Texas. Other U.S. states have reported cases of swine flu infection in humans, and the first confirmed case in Washoe County, Nev., was reported on April 29, 2009. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has determined that this swine influenza A (H1N1) virus is contagious and is spreading from human-to-human.

The following information is provided as an interim guideline for law enforcement personnel.

What is H1N1 flu (swine flu)?

Swine influenza (swine flu) is a respiratory disease in pigs caused by type A influenza that regularly causes outbreaks of influenza among pigs. Swine flu viruses cause high incidence of illness and low death rates among pigs. Swine influenza viruses may circulate in swine throughout the year, but most outbreaks among swine herds occur during the late fall and winter months similar to human flu season. The typical swine flu virus, an influenza type A H1N1 virus, was first isolated from a pig in 1930.

Human infections with swine influenza A viruses occur sporadically in the United States and Canada. Most commonly, human cases of swine influenza happen in people with direct exposure to pigs. Human infection with animal influenza viruses does not usually result in human-to-human transmission. The CDC has received reports of approximately one human swine influenza virus infection every one to two years in the U.S. Between December 2005 and January 2009, 12 cases of human infection with swine influenza have been reported.

Symptoms

The symptoms of swine flu in people are expected to be similar to the symptoms of regular human seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite and coughing. Some people with swine flu also have reported runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

Infectious Period

People with swine influenza virus infection should be considered potentially contagious for up to 7 days following illness onset. Anyone displaying symptoms of swine flu as described above should be considered potentially contagious until symptoms have resolved. Further information on the infectious period of this particular flu will be shared as it becomes available.

Impact on Law Enforcement

The CDC has issued interim recommendations for EMS and medical first responder personnel including firefighter and law enforcement first responders. The Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) has issued updated guidelines for EMS personnel. It is important to remember that these guidelines are for *medical* first responders and are not applicable to general law enforcement activities. The CDC guidelines are located at:
http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance_ems.htm

The EMS Dispatch centers will begin screening callers for signs and symptoms of swine flu. **The following guidelines for law enforcement personnel are recommended if dispatched to a**

(continued)

medical call where medical personnel suspect a possible case of swine flu:

- Officers should limit unnecessary contact with the patient.
- Officers should wear a paper surgical mask if within 3 feet of the patient.
- Officers should immediately wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand cleaner prior to returning to service.

Reminder

Personnel should continue to use good personal hygiene practices:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you get sick with a flu-like illness, stay home from work and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

In adults, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- Sudden dizziness
- Confusion
- Severe or persistent vomiting

Additional Information

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