

Indiana Health Alert Network

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Indiana Health Alert Network Advisory Message

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Increased Influenza Surveillance and Testing in Response to Novel Swine Influenza Cases in CA and TX

Background:

Eight cases of novel A (H1N1) swine influenza strain have been recently reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from two states; California (CA) reported six cases from the San Diego area and Texas (TX) two cases. Most of the cases are not epidemiologically-linked to each other, and no common exposure or risk factor has been identified among these cases. The cases do not report swine exposure, and infection appears to be transmitted person-to-person. There has been one reported hospitalization and no deaths. This strain is resistant to amantadine and rimantadine antiviral medication but is susceptible to oseltamivir and zanamivir. The seasonal flu vaccine is not believed to protect against this novel strain.

In addition, approximately 800 cases of similar infection have been identified in Central Mexico, including Mexico City, resulting in 57 deaths, within the past three weeks. Seven of these cases have tested positive for the same swine flu influenza strain as the eight U.S. cases. Not much is known at this time about the spectrum of illness or the geographical extent of this disease in Mexico.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is actively assisting with investigation of cases in the U.S. and has dispatched a team to Mexico to assist with investigation. At this time, the CDC recommends that standard containment measures for influenza be continued. At this time, the pandemic threat level has not changed (WHO level 3).

Actions requested of Health Care Providers in Indiana:

Clinicians are highly encouraged to collect nasopharyngeal swab specimens presenting with influenza-like illness (ILI) to the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Laboratory for testing. Health care providers may obtain specimen collection kits by contacting Katie Masterson, ISDH Laboratories, at 317.921.5843. Specimen testing is critical to identify cases of this novel virus.

- Consider influenza-like illness if patient presents with:
 - 1) Fever greater than or equal to 37.8°C (100°F)
 - 2) and a cough and/or sore throat without other apparent cause
 - Ask about recent travel to Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, or Mexico within seven days of illness onset.
 - If a patient meets both above criteria:
 - 1) Collect a nasopharyngeal swab specimen and submit to the ISDH Laboratory for testing
 - 2) Contact the ISDH Surveillance and Investigation Division IMMEDIATELY at 317.233.7740 (8:15-4:45 EDT) or 317.233.1325 after hours.
- For More Information:
- For questions on testing for swine influenza, contact ISDH Laboratories at 317.921.5843.
 - For general information on swine influenza, contact the ISDH at 317.233.7740 or:
 - o CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu/swine or 1-800-CDC-INFO
 - o World Health Organization (WHO): www.who.org