

Human Cases of Swine Influenza in California, Kansas, New York City, Ohio, Texas, and Mexico 1  
Key Points  
April 26, 2009

For use in answering questions: Not for posting

- Today, CDC confirmed additional human cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection in the United States, bringing the total number of U.S. confirmed cases to 21.
- This includes cases in California, Texas, Kansas, New York City and Ohio.
- CDC testing has confirmed the first two human cases of swine influenza A in Kansas.
  - Further testing of the viruses is ongoing to confirm they are the same strain of swine influenza as the other U.S. cases
  - The first case occurred in a 54-year-old man who had recently traveled to Mexico. The second case occurred in his 49-year-old wife who did not travel to Mexico.
- CDC testing has confirmed the first human case of swine influenza A (H1N1) in Ohio.
  - The first case occurred in a 9-year-old boy who had recently traveled to Mexico.
- CDC testing has confirmed 9 human cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) in New York City. Testing of additional specimens is underway.
  - The New York Department of Public Health has sent out a health alert to all doctors in New York City. The alert describes testing and antiviral treatment options for human infections with swine influenza A (H1N1) virus.
- Testing is being done on additional specimens in Texas.
  - In response to these infections, Texas has cancelled classes at this high-school.
  - Texas is also taking additional steps to cancel large public gatherings in the area.
- At this time, all the known cases in the United States have recovered and 1 has been hospitalized.
- CDC continues to work with health officials in Mexico.
- CDC has provided trained personnel to assist in the ongoing investigations in Mexico, Texas and Southern California.
- There currently is not enough information to fully assess the health implications of this new swine flu virus in people.

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- Human-to-human spread of swine flu viruses has been documented in the past; however, it has not previously been documented beyond third generation transmission.
- It seems likely that we are seeing transmission that is ongoing beyond three contacts, but that has not been determined for certain at this time.
- There is not enough information to indicate the extent of spread of this virus in humans and the illness spectrum associated with human illness with this virus. However, U.S., state and local health officials have enhanced surveillance to identify new cases should they occur.
- The United States government is working with the World Health Organization and our other international partners to assure early detection and warning and to respond as rapidly as possible to this threat in order to lessen its potential health and socioeconomic impact.
- CDC is committed to sharing any new information with international partners and with the public as it becomes available.

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### **CDC and Public Health Actions**

- CDC is working very closely with states where human infections have been detected as well as with health officials in Mexico, Canada and the World Health Organization.
- CDC has sent people to California, Texas and Mexico to assist international, state and local health officials in identifying people who were potentially infected, contacting people who lived with or were in contact with the confirmed cases and supporting laboratory work.
- TRAVEL
  - At this time, there are no CDC recommendations for U.S. travelers to restrict travel plans to Texas, California, New York City, Ohio, Kansas or Mexico.
  - However, today CDC issued outbreak notices to travelers to Mexico and the United States. These notices are available on the CDC Swine Flu web page at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm>
  - If you are traveling to Mexico, you should be sure you get a seasonal flu vaccination. It is not expected to protect against swine flu, but it will protect you against seasonal flu. Flu season runs through May in the northern hemisphere, and is just beginning in tropical and southern hemisphere countries.
  - As always, persons with febrile respiratory illness should stay home from work or school to avoid spreading infections, including influenza and other respiratory illnesses, to others in their communities. In addition, frequent hand washing can lessen the spread of respiratory illness. Interim guidance on infection control, treatment, and chemoprophylaxis for swine influenza is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu>.
    - CDC requests that state public health laboratories send all influenza A specimens that cannot be subtyped to the CDC, Influenza Division, Virus Surveillance and Diagnostics Branch Laboratory.
- As a precautionary step, the CDC is working to develop a vaccine seed strain specific to these recent swine influenza viruses in humans. This is also something we often initiate when we encounter a new influenza virus that has the potential to cause significant human illness.

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**Advice for Residents of Kansas, New York City, Ohio, San Diego and Imperial County, California, and Guadalupe County, Texas.**

- People who live in areas where swine influenza cases have been identified and who become ill with influenza-like symptoms, including fever, body aches, runny nose, or sore throat, and sometime also with symptoms of nausea, or vomiting or diarrhea, may want to contact their health care provider, particularly if they are worried about their symptoms.
- Their health care provider will determine whether influenza testing or treatment is needed.
- Ill people who experience any of the following warning signs should seek emergency medical care.

**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
- CDC has created a webpage with information and updates. Visit [www.cdc.gov/flu/swine](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO

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### **Background**

- These are swine influenza A (H1N1) viruses which are very different from seasonal human influenza A (H1N1) viruses.
- Preliminary studies of the swine influenza viruses that have been tested are similar to each other. Additional testing is being done on the viruses.
- The viruses contain genetic pieces from four different virus sources: North American swine influenza viruses, North American avian influenza viruses, human influenza viruses and swine influenza viruses found in Asia and Europe.
- This particular genetic combination of swine influenza virus segments has not been recognized before in the United States or anywhere else worldwide.
- The swine influenza viruses are resistant (not sensitive) to amantadine and rimantadine two of the antiviral medications approved to prevent and treat influenza in the U.S.
- The viruses are susceptible (sensitive) to the influenza antiviral medications, oseltamivir and zanamivir.

### **Other Key Points**

- Swine influenza viruses are not transmitted by food. You cannot get swine influenza from eating pork products.
- This is a rapidly evolving situation and guidance should be considered interim and updated as necessary. CDC will provide new information as it becomes available.