

NJLINCS Health Alert Network Public Health Alert

Distributed by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services

Subject: Guidance regarding case identification of suspect swine influenza cases

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On April 17, 2009, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) determined that two children in California were infected with swine influenza A (H1N1) (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm58d0421.pdf>). Three more cases from California and two additional cases in Texas have been identified. There were no contacts between patients and no known contact with pigs, suggesting that community transmission of the virus may be occurring. Illness in affected patients has been mild, with fever and respiratory symptoms being the primary symptoms. No hospitalizations or deaths have been noted. All cases were recognized when specimens that were positive for influenza A were unable to be subtyped in the state where they occurred.

NJDHSS has noted no increase in influenza-like illness activity in NJ, and there have been no reported cases of influenza A that could not be subtyped. NJDHSS is issuing the following surveillance guidelines with respect case identification (see attached). The situation is changing rapidly and guidance is likely to change quickly as well. NJDHSS will update the public health care community as quickly as possible. Additional information regarding the outbreak and guidance related to swine flu can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/index.htm>

Cases meeting the attached surveillance criteria should be reported IMMEDIATELY to the local health department (LHD) where the patient resides. If LHD personnel are unavailable, healthcare providers should report the case to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Communicable Disease Service (CDS) at 609-588-7500, Monday through Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. On weekends, evenings and holidays, CDS can be reached at (609) 392-2020.

As always, we appreciate your cooperation and will update you with further information when it becomes available.

This information has been distributed to: DHSS Senior Staff; DHSS Staff; LINCS Coordinator Backups; LINCS Coordinators; LINCS Epidemiologists; LINCS Health Educators; LINCS Health Officer Assistants; LINCS Health Officers; LINCS Public Health Nurses; LOCAL Health Officers; LOCAL Public Health

Further distribution of this message should be directed to: Community Health Centers (FQHCs); Health Care Providers; Hospital CEOs; Hospital Emerg Preparedness Coords; Hospital ER Medical Directors; Hospital Infection Control Practitioners; Hospital Medical Directors; Hospital Nursing Directors; Hospital Security Directors; Hospitals / Other; Labs / Non-Sentinel; Labs / Sentinel; and other partners in your region, as appropriate.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please do not use reply feature of your email system. If you have questions about the content of this email or any of its attachments, please call your County/City LINCIS agency for assistance. LINCIS agencies are instructed to contact the individual listed in message above or on the attachment for questions concerning content.