

Health Update:**Update 3:
Swine Influenza****April 29, 2009**

This document will be updated as new information becomes available. The current version can always be viewed at <http://www.dhss.mo.gov>

The Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) is now using 4 types of documents to provide important information to medical and public health professionals, and to other interested persons:

Health Alerts convey information of the highest level of importance which warrants immediate action or attention from Missouri health providers, emergency responders, public health agencies, and/or the public.

Health Advisories provide important information for a specific incident or situation, including that impacting neighboring states; may not require immediate action.

Health Guidances contain comprehensive information pertaining to a particular disease or condition, and include recommendations, guidelines, etc. endorsed by DHSS.

Health Updates provide new or updated information on an incident or situation; can also provide information to update a previously sent Health Alert, Health Advisory, or Health Guidance; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Health Update
April 29, 2009****FROM: MARGARET T. DONNELLY
DIRECTOR****SUBJECT: Update 3: Swine Influenza****IMPORTANT
SWINE INFLUENZA
INFORMATION – MUST
BE SHARED WITH ALL
MEDICAL STAFF**

This document provides updated information on swine influenza, including information on the availability of guidance documents for medical professionals on the management of different groups of persons with the disease.

Current information on swine influenza from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) is available at: http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT_Response/SwineFlu09.html.

At the present time, 90 human cases of laboratory-confirmed swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection have been identified in the United States.

Arizona	1 case	Michigan	1 cases
California	14 cases	Nevada	1 case
Indiana	1 case	New York	51 cases
Kansas	2 cases	Ohio	1 case
Massachusetts	2 cases	Texas	16 cases

One fatality has been reported in a 22-month-old boy from Mexico City who died earlier this week in a hospital in the Houston, Texas area. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, the boy, who had several underlying health problems, had traveled with his family to visit relatives in Texas. The boy developed a fever on April 8, followed by other influenza-like symptoms. He was admitted to a Brownsville, Texas hospital a few days later, and the next day was transferred to a Houston-area hospital where he died.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the more recent illnesses and the reported death suggest that a pattern of more severe illness associated with the swine influenza virus may be emerging in the U.S. Most people will not have immunity to this new virus and, as it continues to spread, more cases, more hospitalizations, and more deaths are expected in the coming days and weeks.

Young children and pregnant women are two groups of people who are at high risk of serious complications from seasonal influenza. CDC has issued new interim guidance for clinicians on how to care for children and pregnant women who may be infected with swine influenza virus.

Guidance for Clinicians on Prevention and Treatment in Young Children
<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/childrentreatment.htm>

Pregnant Women: Considerations for Clinicians
http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/clinician_pregnant.htm

A more general guidance document from CDC on identifying and caring for patients with swine influenza was recently released. This document is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/identifyingpatients.htm>.

In addition, CDC has issued a number of other guidance documents for medical providers related to swine influenza, including recommendations on infection control and the use of antiviral medications. These documents, which will be updated and expanded as the situation evolves, are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance/>.

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DHSS is conducting enhanced surveillance for swine influenza in humans. As part of this effort, the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory (MSPHL) is performing polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing for swine influenza virus on specimens from patients **who meet certain epidemiologic criteria**. See Health Update #2: Swine Influenza at http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT_Response/HAdS/HU2SwineFlu4-28-09.pdf for details, including submission criteria and acceptable specimens.

In order to enhance surveillance, clinicians in **hospital intensive care units and emergency departments should submit specimens from any of their patients meeting the epidemiologic criteria described in Health Update #2 to MSPHL**. Other medical providers, including those in ambulatory or hospital settings, are encouraged to send specimens from suspect cases who meet the epidemiological criteria to MSPHL.

Before any specimen is sent to MSPHL for testing, DHSS staff must first be consulted for sample submission by calling 800-392-0272.

For DHSS-approved sentinel surveillance providers, consultation with DHSS prior to sending specimens is not required.

All medical providers should immediately report any observed clusters or outbreaks of febrile influenza-like-illness to the local public health agency (LPHA), or to DHSS at 800-392-0272 (24 hours a day - 7 days a week). All LPHAs are encouraged to perform enhanced, expedited investigations of any such clusters or outbreaks reported in their jurisdictions.

Questions should be directed to the LPHA, or to DHSS's Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention at 573/751-6113, or 866-628-9891.