

**Health Update:****Update 5:  
Swine Influenza****May 8, 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  
May 8, 2009****FROM: MARGARET T. DONNELLY  
DIRECTOR****SUBJECT: Update 5: Swine Influenza****IMPORTANT  
SWINE INFLUENZA  
INFORMATION – MUST  
BE SHARED WITH ALL  
MEDICAL STAFF**

At the present time, 10 confirmed and 4 probable cases of swine influenza (H1N1) infection have been reported in Missouri. This number is expected to increase as additional clinical specimens are tested. (The most recently updated case count can be seen by going to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services [DHSS] Swine Flu website at [http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT\\_Response/H1N1Flu.html](http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT_Response/H1N1Flu.html).)

Public health officials are continuing to investigate this disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “many patients who have had novel influenza (H1N1) virus infection, but who are not in a high-risk group have had a self-limited respiratory illness similar to typical seasonal influenza.” CDC also indicates that treatment efforts should be directed primarily at persons who are hospitalized or at higher risk for influenza complications. Additional information, including recently updated (May 6) treatment recommendations, is available in a CDC guidance document at: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm>.

CDC has issued a number of other guidance documents on swine influenza (H1N1) for medical providers and public health officials. All of these document, which are being continually updated, are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/>.

**Important Change in DHSS Criteria for Accepting Specimens  
for Testing at the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory (MSPHL)**

DHSS has been conducting surveillance for swine influenza (H1N1) cases. As part of this effort, MSPHL has been performing polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing on specimens from patients with suspected swine influenza (H1N1) virus infection who have met specific criteria described in past Health Updates. Because the epidemiology and characteristics of swine influenza (H1N1) have now become better understood (and appear to generally be similar to those of seasonal influenza), there is no longer the need for the more intense case finding that has been in place for the past two weeks. For this reason, and in order to make the best use of available laboratory resources, **DHSS has changed the criteria that it will use in making decisions on which specimens to accept for testing at MSPHL.** **At the present time, the following are the only specimens that will be tested:**

- Persons with an acute febrile respiratory illness who are, or will immediately be, hospitalized.** (*Acute febrile respiratory illness* is defined as a measured temperature  $\geq 100^{\circ}$  F and recent onset of at least one of the following: rhinorrhea or nasal congestion, sore throat, or cough.)
- Persons who are part of an outbreak investigation being conducted by DHSS and/or local public health agency (LPHA) staff.**

**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.

Office of the Director  
912 Wildwood  
P.O. Box 570  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
Telephone: (800) 392-0272  
Fax: (573) 751-6041  
Web site: <http://www.dhss.mo.gov>

**SPECIAL SUNDAY LABORATORY COURIER PICK-UP**  
**May 10, 2009**

In order to facilitate timely laboratory testing of approved specimens from persons suspected of being infected with swine influenza virus, MSPHL is implementing a Sunday courier pick-up at eight geographically-located hospitals across the state for May 10, 2009, for overnight delivery. This service is intended to provide a drop site for DHSS-approved (see preceding section) clinical specimens that are to be sent to MSPHL for analysis. **Only properly packaged specimens will be accepted.** The hospital site will not be responsible for packaging the specimens and therefore reserves the right to refuse a specimen for delivery. All specimens must arrive at the designated hospital location prior to 12:00 p.m. on May 10, 2009, for this service to be utilized. The eight hospitals that have agreed to partner with MSPHL to provide this service are listed below.

FACILITY	COUNTY	DESIGNATED LOCATION
N.E. Regional Medical Center 315 South Osteopathy Drive Kirksville	Adair County	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Lab
Columbia Regional Hospital 404 Keene Street Columbia	Boone County	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 1177
Phelps Co. Reg. Med. Center 1000 West 10 <sup>th</sup> Street Rolla	Phelps County	Front Office Lab
Children's Hospital 1 Children's Place St. Louis	St. Louis County	Room 2 North 25
St. John's Reg. Med. Center 2727 McClelland Blvd Joplin	Jasper County	Lab, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor
St. Francis Medical Center 211 St. Francis Drive Cape Girardeau	Cape Girardeau County	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Lab
St. John's Reg. Med. Center 1235 East Cherokee Springfield	Greene County	Lab, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
St. Luke's Hospital KC 4401 Wornall Road Kansas City	Jackson County	Reference Laboratory

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).

More information for Missouri medical providers is available on the DHSS Swine Influenza website, at: [http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT\\_Response/MedProfs.html](http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT_Response/MedProfs.html).

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.