



**PROVIDER AND LABORATORY GUIDANCE FOR DETECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN CASES OF NOVEL H1N1 (SWINE) INFLUENZA**

**TO: West Virginia Local Health Departments, Health Care Providers, Health Care Facilities, Laboratories, Health Professional Organizations and Other Health Partners**

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**DATE: June 8, 2009**

**LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HEALTH FACILITIES, LABORATORIES AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

**OTHER RECIPIENTS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, STAFF, ETC.

This is an update to the previous health alert dated May 18, 2009. The situation surrounding novel H1N1 influenza virus is changing in West Virginia. Always check and make sure you have the most up to date information.

**BACKGROUND**

As of 06:00 GMT, June 8 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that 73 countries have officially reported 25,288 cases including 139 deaths of novel H1N1 influenza infection. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting 13,217 cases and 27 deaths in 50 US states and the District of Columbia, on June 5, 2009. To date, West Virginia has 18 isolates that have tested positive for novel H1N1 influenza virus at the West Virginia Office of Laboratory Services (OLS). Out of those 18 isolates, 14 were from West Virginia residents and 4 were from out-of-state residents. Please see [www.wvidep.org](http://www.wvidep.org) and click on "H1N1(Swine) flu" for more detailed West Virginia data.

Since the novel H1N1 influenza virus has now been detected in the state, it is no longer necessary to screen for travel to a location with evidence of novel H1N1 influenza virus transmission. Therefore, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources is issuing revised guidelines for H1N1 screening. **Your assistance is requested. This health alert provides revised criteria and tools for screening individuals to test for H1N1 (Swine) influenza infection.**

## PROVIDER GUIDELINES

### 1. **Screening for H1N1 (Swine) influenza**

#### A. Screening criteria:

- 1) Screen persons with influenza-like illness (fever  $\geq$  100 °F and cough or sore throat without other identified cause). Prioritize screening of persons who have/are:
  - a. Contact with a person who tested positive for novel H1N1 influenza; OR
  - b. Hospitalized or deceased; OR
  - c. At high risk for complications from influenza; OR
  - d. Part of an outbreak of influenza-like illness (e.g. a school or nursing home outbreak)
- 2) Sentinel providers should submit specimens from a sample of patients presenting with influenza-like illness for surveillance purposes.

#### B. How to screen appropriately: Obtain nasopharyngeal swabs from suspect cases and hospitalized persons with influenza-like illness and submit to the WV Office of Laboratory Services. Guidelines for specimen submission can be found at:

[http://www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/shared/docs/Micro/SubmittingSwineFluSamples\\_toOLS.pdf](http://www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/shared/docs/Micro/SubmittingSwineFluSamples_toOLS.pdf)

For questions on screening, contact your local health department or Infectious Disease Epidemiology (1-800-423-1271) or Office of Laboratory Services (304-558-3530).

#### C. Do not test the worried well or mildly ill persons who are otherwise healthy. Laboratory resources are limited and diagnosis is unlikely to change clinical management. Do NOT prescribe antiviral treatment to mildly ill persons who are otherwise healthy or the worried well. Overuse of antiviral agents will lead to unnecessary resistance and side effects. Suggestions for counseling the worried well are found on the WVDHHR website at:

<http://www.wvdep.org/Portals/31/PDFs/IDEP/influenza/Swine%20Flu/Suggestions%20for%20Counseling%20the%20Worried%20Well.pdf>. Patient information on managing H1N1 infection can be found on the WVDHHR website at:

<http://www.wvdep.org/Portals/31/PDFs/IDEP/influenza/Swine%20Flu/DHHR%20-%20Managing%20H1N1%20Swine%20Flu%20Illness%202.pdf>

### 2. **Follow these isolation precautions for suspected H1N1 (Swine) influenza patients:**

- A. Inform infection control **before** a case is referred to the emergency room or admitted to the hospital.
- B. Follow current H1N1(Swine) influenza A infection control guidelines at:  
[http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidelines\\_infection\\_control.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidelines_infection_control.htm)

### 3. **Report laboratory confirmed or probable cases of H1N1 (Swine) influenza to the local health department immediately.**

### 4. **Patients who are severely ill or hospitalized or at high risk for complications of influenza should be offered antiviral medication.** Close contacts of patients with novel A H1N1 (Swine) influenza can be *considered* for antiviral prophylaxis if they are at high risk for complications or if they are health care workers or other first responders with a recognized unprotected exposure to an H1N1 patient. Providers should familiarize themselves with more detailed antiviral treatment guidelines posted at: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm>

### 5. **Collaborate with public health investigators to investigate clusters and unusual cases of H1N1 influenza cases.**

6. **Continue to report aggregate cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) to the local health department in accordance with guidelines from your local health department.** Influenza-like illness is defined as:
  - A. Fever 100°F (36°C) *and*
  - B. Cough or sore throat without another identified cause.
7. **Report deaths suspected to be related to H1N1 (Swine) influenza infection to the local health department immediately.** Immediately fax a preliminary copy of the death certificate to West Virginia Vital Registration at (304)-558-1051.

### **LABORATORY RESPONSIBILITIES**

Refer probable H1N1 (Swine) influenza A to the Office of Laboratory Services (OLS) for confirmation. Probable H1N1 (Swine) influenza is defined as influenza A that cannot be subtyped as seasonal AH1 or AH3. The West Virginia Office of Laboratory Services is located at:

West Virginia Office of Laboratory Services  
167 Eleventh Avenue  
South Charleston, WV 25303  
Ph. 304-558-3530, Fax. 304-558-2006

Laboratories that are unable to subtype influenza A isolates (including 2008-2009 seasonal isolates) should refer influenza A isolates to the Office of Laboratory Services. Contact OLS for shipping containers and other supplies.

Instructions for laboratories are found at:

[http://www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/shared/docs/Micro/SubmittingSwineFluSamples\\_toOLS.pdf](http://www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/shared/docs/Micro/SubmittingSwineFluSamples_toOLS.pdf).

All laboratory results positive for influenza by PCR, immunofluorescence or culture must be reported in aggregate by type and subtype weekly for the week ending on Saturday (MMWR week) by close of business on Monday of each week. Report total tests done and total positive for influenza A (by subtype) and total positive for influenza B.

### **LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS**

Report weekly all confirmed and probable cases of H1N1 novel (Swine) influenza by close of business on Tuesday using the line list form for probable and confirmed cases of novel H1N1(Swine) influenza on the Infectious Disease Epidemiology website.

<http://www.wvidep.org/Portals/31/PDFs/IDEP/influenza/Swine%20Flu/Line%20List%20Form%20for%20Prabable%20and%20Confirmed%20Cases%20of%20H1N1%20Novel%20Influenza.xls>.

Fax the completed form to Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at (304)-558-8736.

**Immediately report outbreaks, clusters, and unusual cases of H1N1(Swine) influenza** to Infectious Disease Epidemiology (800)-423-1271

### **WHAT YOU AND OTHERS CAN DO TO STAY HEALTHY:**

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you get sick with influenza, CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <http://www.wvdhhr.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/en/>

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to Local Health Departments, Health Care Providers and Facilities, Health Professional Organizations and Other Health Partners. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information to the targeted audiences noted.

**Categories of Health Alert messages:**

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance, warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.