



CHAIRMAN'S MEMORANDUM

NO. 04-2009 April 28, 2009

TO: SHERIFFS, COMMISSIONERS of CORRECTION, JAIL ADMINISTRATORS, FACILITY MEDICAL DIRECTORS, FACILITY DIRECTORS OF NURSING, COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

RE: HEALTH ADVISORY: SWINE INFLUENZA A (H1N1) INFECTION

The New York State Health Department (NYSDOH) is sending an advisory to provide updated information regarding the ongoing investigation of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infections being conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The guidance in this advisory only applies to providers seeing patients outside of New York City.

This interim information is based on currently (9:00 p.m. 4/26/09) available information and is subject to change as additional information becomes available:

- Swine influenza A (H1N1) has been diagnosed in patients in New York City, California, Ohio, Texas, Kansas and Mexico. Nationwide as of April 26, 2009, 20 U.S. cases have been confirmed.
- Cases were first identified when specimens were determined to be positive for influenza A but could not be sub-typed with standard methods. Subsequent sub-typing at CDC determined that patients were infected with swine influenza A (H1N1).
- The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDOHMH) has reported a cluster of respiratory illness in a private school in New York City. Thus far (April 28, 2009), eight (8) students are now confirmed as cases of swine influenza A (H1N1). Nose and throat swab specimens are pending confirmatory testing by CDC on additional student cases.
- **THUS FAR, CASES IDENTIFIED IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE NOT BEEN ANY MORE SEVERE THAN TYPICAL SEASONAL INFLUENZA. U.S. CASES HAVE RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO ORDINARY SUPPORTIVE CARE AND TREATMENT FOR INFLUENZA.**
- Nevertheless, for all patients, including inmates at county jail reception, who present with acute respiratory illness, NYSDOH requests that health care providers obtain recent travel histories to affected areas and test patients meeting the case definition for suspect

New York State Commission of Correction
9 Wolf Road, 4th Floor
Albany, New York 12205
(518) 485-2346

Thomas A. Beilein, Chairman

Phyllis Harrison-Ross, Commissioner
Daniel L. Stewart, Commissioner

swine influenza A (H1N1) (see web links below) in accordance with local health department (LHD) procedures.

- NYSDOH requests that health providers report any outbreaks of influenza-like illness to their LHD immediately.

Definitions of Respiratory Illness:

1. Acute respiratory illness:

Recent onset of at least two of the following:

1. rhinorrhea or nasal congestion
2. sore throat
3. cough
4. fever or feverishness

2. Influenza-like illness: fever >100°F plus cough or sore throat.

ANY UNUSUAL CLUSTERS OF FEBRILE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT (LDH) IMMEDIATELY.

ALL LHD-CONFIRMED CASES OF SWINE INFLUENZA A (H1N1) SHALL BE REPORTABLE TO THE COMMISSION (03-CONTAGIOUS ILLNESS) PURSUANT TO CORRECTION LAW § 44(4) WITHIN 24 HOURS OF CONFIRMATION, WHETHER OR NOT THE 20% POPULATION THRESHOLD IS REACHED PURSUANT TO 9NYCRR PART 7022.

CDC has provided the following interim guidance for providers on the CDC web site for this investigation:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/investigation.htm>

CDC advises that routine cleaning and disinfection strategies used during influenza seasons can be applied to the environmental management of swine influenza A (H1N1). More information, including infection control guidelines for interview and assessment of healthy individuals with links to suspected or confirmed cases of swine influenza, and for interview and assessment of a *suspect, probable, or confirmed swine influenza patient* can be found at:

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/gl_enviroinfection.html.

If there are any questions please contact the Commission's Forensic Medical Unit @ (518) 485-2346.



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