



**Tarrant County  
PUBLIC HEALTH**

*Safeguarding our  
community's health*

**Lou K. Brewer, RN, MPH**  
*Director*

**Sandra K. Parker, MD**  
*Health Authority  
Medical Director*

April 26, 2009

To: Tarrant County Health Care Providers

Re: Human Swine Influenza A (H1N1) Infection

Human cases of human swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection have now been confirmed in California, Kansas, New York, Ohio and Guadalupe County, Texas. There are also numerous confirmed cases in Mexico.

This strain of human swine influenza A (H1N1) is unique because it is a combination of swine, avian and human influenza viruses. Human-to-human transmission of this virus is occurring, but the ease at which this happens is unknown. The incubation for this strain is currently unknown. Persons should be contagious as long as they are symptomatic and possibly for 7 days following illness onset. This virus is sensitive to the anti-virals, oseltamavir and zanamivir, but is resistant to amantadine and rimantadine. Investigations of the cases are in progress with contact investigations extending to Texas.

Identification of these cases of human swine influenza A (H1N1) highlights the importance of specimen submission not only during peak influenza season, but throughout the year, and especially in times of unusual occurrences such as this. As a part of enhanced outbreak surveillance and investigation, Tarrant County Public Health reminds surveillance participants to continue submitting influenza rapid screen positive specimens, as well as respiratory specimens from patients presenting with influenza-like illness (ILI) characterized by fever ( $\geq 100^{\circ}$  F) plus cough OR sore throat, for additional laboratory testing. Additional laboratory testing allows for characterization of influenza contributing to the detection of novel influenza strains, as well as treatment recommendations and vaccine development. Please forward all respiratory specimens or isolates which have tested positive for influenza A to the North Texas Regional Laboratory as soon as possible. To obtain specimen collection kits and/or to coordinate delivery of specimens, please contact Diana Cervantes, Epidemiologist at (817) 321 5376.

Clinicians should consider swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection in the differential



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diagnosis of patients with acute febrile respiratory disease (recent onset of at least two of the following: rhinorrhea or nasal congestion, sore throat, cough, with or without fever or feverishness) and who live in an affected area (San Diego and Imperial Counties, California, Guadalupe County, Texas, New York, Ohio and Kansas) or traveled to these counties or 2) who traveled recently to Mexico or were in contact with persons who had febrile respiratory illness and were in the two U.S. counties or Mexico in the 7 days preceding their illness onset.

Patients should wear a surgical mask and be isolated from other persons, if possible. Routine cleaning and disinfection strategies used during influenza seasons can be applied to the environmental management of swine influenza. More information can be found at [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/gl\\_environinfection.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/gl_environinfection.html).

Standard, Droplet and Contact precautions should be used for all patient care activities, and maintained for 7 days after illness onset or until symptoms have resolved. Maintain adherence to hand hygiene by washing with soap and water or using hand sanitizer immediately after removing gloves and other equipment and after any contact with respiratory secretions.

Personnel providing care to or collecting clinical specimens from suspected or confirmed cases should wear disposable non-sterile gloves, gowns, and eye protection (e.g., goggles) to prevent conjunctival exposure.

Additional information on CDC interim guidance in infection control, treatment, and chemoprophylaxis for swine influenza is available at:

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

Additional Information regarding swine influenza is available at:

[www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/index.htm).

Please do not hesitate to contact TCPH for any additional questions or concerns at (817)994-3708. The DSHS health care provider hotline is (877)623-6274.

Thank you for your continued support in safeguarding our community.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anita Kurian", with a horizontal line underneath.

Anita Kurian, DrPH, MBBS  
Epidemiology Division Manager & Chief Epidemiologist  
Tarrant County Public Health