



Rhode Island Department of Health

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Providence, RI 02908-5094

www.health.ri.gov

Interim Health Advisory

Date: May 3, 2009
To: All Healthcare Providers
From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH
Re: Information on Surveillance of Swine Influenza in RI (H1N1 Virus)

Please check web resources for most up to date guidelines at
<http://www.health.ri.gov/pandemicflu/swineflu/swineflu.php> or <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/>

Providers are required to report any patient that meets the following criteria. Report cases to HEALTH at 222-2577 for individual case management (between 4:30 p.m. and 8:30 a.m., call 272-5952).

- Patients with influenza like illness (ILI) who have traveled within 7 days to a community either within the United States or internationally where there are one or more confirmed swine influenza A (H1N1) cases.

OR

- Patients admitted to the hospital with an ILI.

In order to monitor ILI surveillance at Johnson and Wales, HEALTH is asking for providers of any patients with ILI who attend Johnson and Wales to call the above number to report the number of cases. ILI is defined as fever, cough and/or sore throat in the absence of a KNOWN cause other than influenza. Though there is concern for swine influenza, there are currently also many respiratory viral illnesses circulating, including Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), Adenovirus and Parainfluenza 1, 2 and 3.

For all other calls regarding swine influenza, please call the Swine Influenza Info Line at 222-8022.

Surveillance:

As of May 3rd, there are six (6) probable cases, one (1) confirmed positive case, and one (1) confirmed negative case of swine influenza as follows:

1. Female, North Kingstown, traveled to Mexico, recovered, attends N. Kingstown high school. CDC test results confirmed negative for swine flu. Classes at high school will resume Monday, 5/4/09.
2. 30-50 yo Female, Smithfield, traveled to Mexico, recovering, pending results from CDC
3. 20-40 yo Male, Westerly, travel history to NYC, patient recovered. CDC test results confirmed positive for swine flu. Patient not a student; close contacts not ill.
4. 20-30 yo Female, Providence, traveled to NYC, Johnson & Wales University student #1, pending results from CDC
5. 20-30 yo Male, Providence, Johnson & Wales University student #2, unknown contact with Johnson & Wales student #1, reported by MA DPH, pending results from CDC
6. 20-30 yo, female, Cumberland, traveled to Massachusetts, pending results from CDC
7. 55-60 yo, female, Coventry, no travel history, pending results from CDC
8. 20-30 yo male Johnson & Wales University student #3 (classmate of J & W student #1), pending results from CDC

Johnson & Wales Closure Status: Classes and activities are suspended for Monday, May 4, 2009.

Providers, please advise patients:

1. If you or your child are ill (acute respiratory illness, especially including fever and respiratory symptoms beyond the individual's usual seasonal allergy symptoms if applicable), use measures to cover coughs in a public setting.
 - a. Methods of covering coughs can include a surgical mask or a scarf (or similar cloth that would decrease the spread of droplets with coughing).
 - b. Patients should avoid public settings, especially crowded areas as much as possible if they are ill.
2. If you or your child are ill (acute respiratory illness), do not visit others (i.e. do not go to work, visit others at the hospital, or mass gatherings).
3. If you are not ill, you can continue or return to work
4. The number of cases we are currently seeing are consistent with seasonal influenza numbers. Normal seasonal influenza recommendations should be used at this time.
5. If you have mild influenza like illness, do not visit the doctor.

Providers

1. Please remember to mask patients who arrive at your office with question of influenza-like illness.
2. Providers and healthcare staff with close, face-to-face patient encounters should wear a surgical mask or N-95 respirator mask, if available.

Insurance Update

Providers caring for RIte Care, Blue Cross Blue Shield or United Health Care patients should be aware that these health plans have been authorized to remove the prior authorization requirement for oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza) antiviral medications. These patients can now fill these prescriptions without further authorization

Interim Health Advisories

Interim health advisories have been issued today (May 3, 2009) on the following topics:

- H1N1 Influenza and Patients with Cardiovascular Disease (Heart Disease and Stroke)
- H1N1 Influenza and Breastfeeding Guidance

Resources

- CDC Swine Influenza Site: <http://www.cdc.gov/influenza/swine>.
- Rhode Island Department of Health Swine Influenza Site: <http://www.health.ri.gov/pandemicinfluenza/swineinfluenza/swineinfluenza.php>
- WHO Swine Influenza Site: <http://www.who.int/en/>