

## **ORANGE COUNTY HEALTH CARE AGENCY**

### **Influenza A (H1N1) FLU UPDATE #6**

**Date: 5-01-2009**  
**Time: 1500 Hours**

#### **Outbreak Status:**

A novel strain of swine influenza A (H1N1) was detected last week in Mexico, and has spread in the United States. As of 4-30-09, the CDC reports that there have been 141 Human cases of this new virus confirmed in Arizona (4) California (13), Colorado (2), Delaware (4), Illinois (3), Indiana (3), Kansas (2), Kentucky (1), Massachusetts (2), Michigan (2), Minnesota (1), Nevada (1), Nevada (1), New Jersey (5), New York (50), Ohio (1), South Carolina (16), and Texas (28), Virginia (2). There is one (1) confirmed death in Texas. There are hundreds of cases in Mexico and cases in Canada, Israel, New Zealand, Spain, United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. The viruses from the cases are reported to be related to one another and contain a unique combination of gene segments never seen before.

There is currently no available vaccine; the seasonal flu vaccine has not shown to protect against this strain.

#### **Public Health Response:**

The World Health Organization (WHO), the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the Orange County Health Care Agency (HCA) have increased epidemiological surveillance to identify new cases and learn more about the virus and how it spreads. In response to the intensifying outbreak, the World Health Organization raised the worldwide pandemic alert level to Phase 5. A Phase 5 alert is characterized by larger clusters but human to human spread still localized, suggesting that the virus is becoming increasing better adapted to humans, but may not be yet fully transmissible.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) declared a nationwide public health emergency on April 26, 2009, allowing the CDC to more easily pre-position supplies. The governor of California has issued a proclamation of emergency. The CDC released 25% of the Strategic National Stockpile's (SNS) cache of antivirals to the states that have confirmed cases. California has received the state allocation. Orange County has received 25% of the county allocation. The Health Care Agency (HCA) is currently reviewing the Pandemic Influenza Response Plan and putting in place measures to respond to the incident.

HCA has a Health Referral Line (1-800-564-8448; TDD 1-800-801-7100) that is providing information to the public on swine flu. The hotline is currently being answered during business hours. The HCA Health Emergency Operations Center (HEOC) is activated to a level 1 staffing pattern during normal business hours to coordinate internal HCA operations.

The HEOC is in contact with OCSO-Emergency Management Bureau. HCA will be sending updates to the OA partners at least daily for the time being.

Two probable cases were identified in Orange County residents who traveled to Mexico. An investigation into contacts is ongoing; close contacts have remained well.

#### **Travel Restrictions:**

The CDC has issued a travel warning recommending that people avoid non-essential travel to Mexico.

#### **Event Restrictions:**

There are no restrictions on events with large groups of people in Orange County, California, or the United States.

#### **Antivirals:**

The virus is susceptible to the antivirals oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) and zanamivir (Relenza®) but is resistant to amantadine and rimantadine..

**Mitigating Flu Risk:**

Normal influenza precautions are recommended at this time. To mitigate the risk of being infected, or infecting others, take the following steps:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after it is used and wash your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers containing 60% or more alcohol are also effective.
- Minimize close contact with sick people.
- If you or a member of your family gets sick with influenza, stay home from work or school, limit contact with others unless you need to visit your physician.

**Links:**

- <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm>
- <http://ochealthinfo.com/epi/swine/index.htm>
- <http://www.healthdisasteroc.org/flu/>