

SWINE FLU UPDATE

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Remember the Influenza Pandemic of 1918



Influenza Pandemic: Example of Impact

State of California Population: Estimated 38 Million*

- California State University
 - 450,000 Students
 - 46,000 Employees
- CDC Flu Aid estimates for planning for Fresno County:
 - Infected people: 150,000 to 350,000
 - Out-patient visits: up to 190,000
 - Hospitalizations: up to 4,000
 - Pandemic influenza deaths: 1,000
 - *as of 1/1/2008 State of CA website



Items to Consider

- **Restrict travel plans for employees going to Mexico.** The State Department has issued Travel Warning status for Mexico. Only **essential** travel to Mexico is advised.
- **Stay Home if you are sick .** Encourage a culture which promotes staying home if an employee has flu-like symptoms. In many campus cultures, employees come to work when they are feeling sick. In this situation that behavior should be discouraged.
- **Communicate with your employees.** Inform your employees about campus preparedness efforts. Remind employees about family preparedness. For example, who would watch the children if schools were closed tomorrow?
- **Remind your employees about hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette.** Influenza spreads through the air by droplets. It is important to remind employees that hand washing and covering their cough/sneeze can go a long way to limit the spread of flu. There are good materials available on this that we can share with you.

Not preparing now would be a serious mistake should things worsen quickly.



The 2009 Swine Flu Key Findings (as of April 27, 2009)

- The current swine influenza outbreak exhibits unusual characteristics of concern: This is Type A H1N1 virus genetically similar to the 1918 Influenza
 - The outbreak is affecting adults and spreading through human-to-human transmissions, which is atypical as influenza typically targets young children and elderly individuals, and human contraction of swine influenza is normally associated with close contact with pigs; and
- Although the outbreaks in Mexico and the United States have been genetically linked, the United States has experienced no fatalities related to the outbreak, whereas 16 deaths in Mexico have been confirmed as resulting from the swine influenza, and the Government of Mexico is investigating additional cases.
- Domestic and international resources have been mobilized to address the outbreak; however, additional testing will be required to answer key questions such as transmission mode and infection rate.
- Based upon the current severity, the outbreak is unlikely to cause critical infrastructure disruptions in the United States; however, the outbreak will result in increased pressures on hospitals and clinics as symptomatic individuals, and the worried well, seek medical attention. Should the outbreak intensify, additional disruptions would likely occur, including the possible disruption in services due to high absenteeism.



QUICK FACTS

- Strain: Influenza A (H1N1)
- Infectious Period: 1 to 3 days before onset to 3 to 9 days after onset of illness
- Symptoms:
 - Fever, Lethargy
 - Loss of appetite , Runny nose
 - Coughing, Sore throat
 - Nausea, Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- Areas Affected:
 - Mexico – 7 confirmed cases
 - California – 6 confirmed cases
 - Texas – 2 confirmed cases
 - New York – 8 cases confirmed , awaiting CDC confirmation
 - Kansas – 2 cases confirmed
 - Indiana – 1 case, awaiting CDC confirmation



FIVE ACTION STEPS TO BEGIN NOW

- Review your current crisis communications plan
- Identify essential communications personnel
- Identify alternative methods for communicating, both internally and externally. Put them in place.
- Test Your Communication Systems.
- RE-TEST YOUR COMMUNICATION SYSTEM!
Practice, Practice, Practice.



World Health Organization (WHO) Pandemic Alert Scale (Level as of release)

- Phase 1: No new influenza virus subtypes detected in humans
- Phase 2: No new human influenza virus subtypes detected in humans
- Phase 3: Human infection(s) with a new subtype
- Phase 4: Small cluster(s) with limited human-to-human transmission
- Phase 5: Large cluster(s) but human-to-human spread still localized, suggesting the virus is becoming increasingly better adapted to humans (substantial pandemic risk)
- Phase 6: Pandemic: Increased and sustained transmission in general population.



Useful Websites

- World Health Organization www.who.org
- Centers for Disease Control www.cdc.gov
- US Dept Health & Human Services www.HHS.gov
- Centers for Public Health Awareness www.asph.org
- State of CA Office of Emergency Services www.oes.ca.gov
- State of CA Dept of Health Services www.cdph.ca.gov

