



**Contact:**

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## **H1N1 Influenza Virus - Hawaii** (formerly referred to as Swine Flu)

April 27, 2009

Human cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection have been identified in the United States. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) has identified cases in California and Texas, Kansas, Ohio, and New York. Preliminary investigations indicate that in all cases there was no contact with swine. The swine influenza subtype isolated from these cases is unique and not previously recognized in either pigs or people.

There have been no reports of this virus in swine according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- Currently, there are no known outbreaks of swine influenza in pigs in Hawaii.
- Two swine influenza viruses, for which there are vaccines available, have been circulating in Hawaii swine populations for years.
- Owners of sick pigs are encouraged to call their veterinarian or the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA).
  - Owners of sick pigs with questions should call the Livestock Disease Control Branch office nearest them (Hawaii – Hilo 974-6503, Kamuela 887-6055; Maui – 873-3559, Oahu – 483-7119; Molokai – 658-0073; Kauai – 974-6503). General phone (24 hours/7 days) 837-8092. General email: [ldcimp.comp@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:ldcimp.comp@hawaiiantel.net)
- HDOA recommends proper hygiene and health management practices when working with animals such as:
  - Washing hands before and after working with animals.
  - Recommending workers shower and change into farm-specific clothes and shoes before entering swine facilities.
  - Establishing, implementing and enforcing strict sick leave policies for workers presenting influenza-like symptoms.
  - Recommending that workers with flu-like symptoms be seen by a medical provider immediately.
  - Restricting the entry of people into your facility to only workers and essential service personnel.
  - Preventing international visitors from entering your facilities.
  - Ensuring adequate ventilation in facilities to minimize re-circulation of air inside animal housing facilities.
  - Keeping new animals separate from your herd for two weeks and observe for signs of disease.
  - Vaccinating pigs against the influenza virus. Vaccination of pigs can reduce the levels of virus shed by infected animals.
  - Contacting your swine veterinarian if swine exhibit flu-like or respiratory illness, especially if the onset or presentation of the illness is unusual.

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- More specific swine biosecurity recommendations may be found on the National Pork Board website <http://www.pork.org> or HDOA website <http://hawaii.gov/hdoa>
- Key background information on swine influenza in pigs:
  - Swine Influenza Virus infections are a common cause of respiratory illness in pigs.
  - Influenza vaccines for pigs can help, but are not 100% effective. One reason is that several different strains of flu can infect pigs and vaccines may not protect against all strains.
  - Infected pigs usually show signs of disease about 3 days post exposure and then are sick and infectious for about a week.
  - Pigs may show a variety of signs of disease, including coughing, runny nose and/or eyes, sneezing, depression, lack of appetite, depression, difficulty breathing and fever. The fever can cause them to abort a pregnancy.
  - Spread of the virus from pig to pig can be rapid and occurs via direct contact, getting carried on something that was not cleaned, and via respiratory excretions that become airborne for a short distance.
  - Swine influenza viruses are not transmitted by food so a person cannot get swine influenza from eating pork or pork products. Proper handling and cooking pork to an internal temperature of 160°F kills all viruses and other foodborne pathogens.
- For more detailed information related to swine influenza in pigs:
  - <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/index.htm>
  - [http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal\\_Health/Swine\\_Health.html#Flu](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Swine_Health.html#Flu)
  - <http://www.pork.org>