



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

April 30, 2009

MEDICAL ADVISORY: Testing for Suspected Swine-Origin Influenza Virus Infection

Dear Hawaii Healthcare Provider,

Although cases of swine-origin influenza A (H1N1) (S-OIV) infections have now been reported in multiple states in the mainland United States (<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>), **no confirmed cases of S-OIV infection have yet been identified in Hawai'i**. We ask, however, for your assistance in identifying suspect cases and refer you to the following diagnostic algorithm.

A **nasopharyngeal swab for influenza RT-PCR testing**¹ at respective clinical commercial laboratories should be obtained from patients in the following categories:

- 1) Patients presenting with an *acute febrile respiratory illness*²
AND
who, in the 7 days before illness onset,
 - a) have been in contact with persons with confirmed swine influenza, OR
 - b) traveled to the mainland United States or internationally to a community (<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>) with one or more confirmed S-OIV cases, OR
 - c) were in contact with persons who developed febrile respiratory illness following travel to the mainland United States or internationally to a community with one or more confirmed S-OIV cases
- 2) All patients admitted to hospital with an acute febrile respiratory illness

Healthcare providers should consider, as much as possible, cohorting well visit appointments separate from ill visit appointments. Providers should try to arrange for patients with respiratory illness to avoid exposing others in the waiting room. Patients meeting the above criteria should be provided a surgical mask to limit spread of respiratory droplets. Providers in close contact with patients with suspected swine-origin influenza should follow contact and droplet

¹ Influenza rapid (antigen) tests are **not** able to distinguish swine influenza and, if performed in these patients, should also be accompanied by RT-PCR testing.

² *Acute febrile respiratory illness* is defined as **fever (temperature $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ [37.8°C]) AND recent onset of at least one of the following: rhinorrhea or nasal congestion, cough, sore throat.**

precautions and wear a N95 respirator, eye protection, gown, and gloves per CDC guidelines. (http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidelines_infection_control.htm)

Providers should be aware that illnesses caused by seasonal influenza continue to be reported in Hawaii i (http://hawaii.gov/health/family-child-health/contagious-disease/influenza/Flu_Glance.htm), and remember to consider the possibility of seasonal influenza when treating patients and interpreting influenza test results.

If you have questions on swine-origin influenza, please refer to the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/> or contact DOH at the numbers below:

O‘ahu (Disease Investigation Branch) (808) 586-4586
Maui District Health Office (808) 984-8213
Kaua‘i District Health Office..... (808) 241-3563
Big Island District Health Office (Hilo) (808) 933-0912
Big Island District Health Office (Kona)..... (808) 322-4877

After hours on O‘ahu (808) 566-5049
After hours on neighbor islands..... 1(800) 360-2575 (toll free)

We appreciate the medical community’s collaboration in safeguarding the health of the residents and visitors of Hawaii.

Sincerely,



Sarah Y. Park, MD, FAAP
State Epidemiologist