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Public Health Alert

Surveillance for Swine Influenza

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Although no cases have been reported at this time in Riverside County, we are continuing with enhanced surveillance and request medical providers to collect specimens on patients who meet the following case definition: Fever $>37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ (100°F) and a cough and/or sore throat.

Please remember to report suspect cases to Disease Control Branch at 951 358-5107 during business hours and pager 1 -888 430-5195 after hours.

Guidance on Specimen Collection

Please collect up to 2 nasopharyngeal swabs (Dacron, Nylon, or Rayon) from each patient with ILI, placing the swabs in a standard container with 2-3 ml of viral transport media. If the patient is hospitalized with pneumonia, specimens from the lower respiratory tract (e.g., tracheal aspirate, bronchoalveolar lavage) should also be obtained. Specimens should be collected within the first 24-72 hours of onset of symptoms and no later than 5 days after onset of symptoms. (CDC just indicated that throat swabs are not beneficial)

Please contact Janna Troy, Public Health Laboratory Manager at 951 358-5070, for questions on specimen collection.

Updated Guidance on Infection Control Precautions

Healthcare workers providing care for patients with influenza-like illness who are not known contacts of a laboratory-confirmed swine flu case should use droplet precautions (i.e., wear a surgical or procedure mask for close contact), in addition to standard precautions. Standard precautions include hand hygiene and the use of eye protection if splashing or spraying of blood or body fluids (including respiratory secretions) is anticipated.*

- Healthcare workers providing care for a laboratory-confirmed swine flu case or an ill close contact of a laboratory-confirmed swine flu case should:
 - 1) Wear a fit-tested N95 respirator, disposable gloves, gown, and eye protection (face shield or goggles).
 - 2) Before and after contact with the patient, clean hands thoroughly with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand gel.
- Suspect swine flu patients (ill close contact of a laboratory-confirmed swine flu case) should be asked to don a surgical mask and should be roomed promptly in an airborne infection isolation room, if available, or in a single room with a door that closes.
- Public health staff interviewing or collecting specimens* from an infectious case (the infectious period is defined as 1 day prior to symptom onset to seven days after symptom onset) or ill contacts of cases should follow the same infection control precautions recommended above for healthcare workers.

*Splashing or spraying of body fluids may be anticipated when collecting a nasopharyngeal

Please note that recommendations may change as new information is available.