



Health Advisory

January 23, 2012

Novel H3N2 Influenza Virus: Increased Surveillance

Department of Health Services
Public Health Division
(510) 981-5300

Janet Berreman, MD, MPH
Health Officer

Please distribute to all providers in your practice

Current Situation

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is requesting increased surveillance and testing for influenza in children less than 18 years of age.

Background: Since August 2011, a novel swine-origin triple reassortant H3N2 influenza virus (S-OtrH3N2) has been reported in 5 states with a total of 12 cases. To date, the virus has not been reported in California. Eleven of the 12 cases occurred in children. Increased surveillance will help identify how widely the virus has spread, and gather information regarding transmission.

Actions to be taken

- 1. Collect and submit specimens from children <18 years of age with influenza-like-illness (ILI). Submit naso-pharyngeal swab specimens to the Alameda County Public Health laboratory.** This surveillance testing is offered at no charge to your patients. Specimens will be tested in batches with results reported out weekly. Please do not wait for test results when making clinical or treatment decisions for a specific patient. Contact the Berkeley Public Health Division for assistance in submitting specimens.
- 2. Report fatal cases of laboratory-confirmed seasonal influenza in persons 0-64 years of age.** Save specimens from hospitalized critically ill and fatal cases of influenza, and notify Berkeley Public Health for assistance in arranging further testing.
- 3. Report outbreaks of influenza in residents of large group or institutional settings** (e.g. long-term care or assisted living facilities).
- 4. Continue influenza vaccination efforts for all persons 6 months of age and older, especially health care workers, high risk populations, and caregivers of high risk populations.** Record influenza and all vaccinations in CAIR, the California Immunization Registry. Contact Berkeley Public Health if you need information about using CAIR.
- 5. To make reports or for further information, contact Berkeley Public Health (510-981-5300).**

Resources and Reference Materials

REPORTING:

- City of Berkeley Public Health Division
<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=13896>
- California Department of Public Health Severe Influenza Case History Form
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/pubsforms/forms/Pages/CD-Report-Forms.aspx>

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- Influenza Reporting Guidance for 2011-2012
http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/dcdc/Documents/CDPH_Health_Alert_InfluenzaReporting_2011-12_RevisedLetterHead.pdf

LAB TESTING

- Alameda County Public Health Lab: <http://www.acphd.org/public-health-lab.aspx>

REFERENCES

- City of Berkeley Public Health Division: <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/publichealth>
- CDPH: [http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Influenza\(Flu\).aspx#_blank](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Influenza(Flu).aspx#_blank)
- CDPH: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/dcdc/Pages/CaliforniaSentinelProviderProgram.aspx>
- CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/influenza-variant-viruses-h3n2v.htm>

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