



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DISEASE CONTROL & EPIDEMIOLOGY



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Enhanced Surveillance for Novel Swine-Origin Influenza H3N2

Dear Orange County Influenza Sentinel Provider,

Orange County Public Health is working with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to enhance surveillance for novel influenza. Please increase your submission of specimens from cases with influenza-like illness (ILI), particularly in children <18 years of age.

Circulation of a novel swine-origin triple reassortant H3N2 influenza (S-OtrH3N2) virus infecting humans has been reported in 5 states, including Pennsylvania, Indiana, Maine, Iowa and most recently West Virginia. Since July 2011, a total of 11 cases have been identified. Almost all cases have occurred in children, with a median age of 3 years (range 11 months-58 years). Three had underlying chronic medical illnesses and were hospitalized; all have recovered. Of the 11 cases, six had either direct or indirect exposure to swine, while investigation of another five cases has suggested transmission by person-to-person contact. To date, these viruses appear to be resistant to amantadine and rimantadine and susceptible to the neuraminidase inhibitor drugs [oseltamivir (Tamiflu ®) and zanamivir (Relenza ®)].

All 11 cases were identified by routine influenza surveillance, including by sentinel providers. Orange County needs your assistance in monitoring for the circulation of this virus locally, and if identified, characterizing which populations are affected and who might be at greatest risk for severe disease.

Orange County Sentinel Providers should:

- Increase submission of specimens on patients, especially children, meeting the ILI definition (fever of 100°F or higher accompanied by a cough, sore throat, or both) for testing for influenza;
- Refer to your usual sentinel provider instructions for specimen collection and transport (attached);
- Continue to report ILI weekly;
- Report to Public Health immediately with any outbreaks or clusters of ILI or any deaths in patients with ILI.

For more information about this enhanced surveillance, call Public Health Epidemiology at 714-834-8180.

For more information about the novel swine-origin H3N2, see www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Michele Cheung, MD MPH
Deputy Medical Director, Epidemiology