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COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

DAVID L. RILEY
INTERIM DIRECTOR

ERIC G. HANDLER, MD, MPH, FAAP
DEPUTY AGENCY DIRECTOR/
HEALTH OFFICER

MAILING ADDRESS:
405 W. 5th STREET, 7th FLOOR
SANTA ANA, CA 92701

TELEPHONE: (714) 834-3155
FAX: (714) 834-5506
E-MAIL: ehandler@ochca.com

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

April 24, 2009

TO: Supervisor Patricia Bates, Fifth District, Chair
Supervisor Janet Nguyen, First District, Vice-Chair
Supervisor John M. W, Moorlach, Second District
Supervisor Bill Campbell, Third District
Supervisor Chris Norby, Fourth District

SUBJECT: Swine Influenza Investigation Update

As you may have heard a total of eight human cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) has been identified in California and Texas; four in San Diego County, two in Imperial County, and two in San Antonio, Texas. Infections thus far in the U.S. have been mild and additional infections are expected. There have not been any cases reported in Orange County.

This is a virus that has never been reported before in the United States or elsewhere, and human-to-human transmission is suspected. The seasonal influenza vaccine for humans does not usually provide cross-protection for swine H1N1 viruses. The H1N1 viruses have been reported to be susceptible to some antiviral medication.

Outbreaks of influenza-like illness including severe respiratory illness and deaths have also been reported from Central Mexico. The CDC has provided information that some specimens from Mexico have tested positive for the same swine influenza A (H1N1) virus strain identified in the California and Texas cases; it is not known if the Mexican specimens are from patients who are very ill.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) are recommending enhanced surveillance to identify additional cases and evaluate the extent of human-to-human transmission.

HCA is taking the following precautionary measures:

- Enhanced surveillance with hospitals, emergency departments (ED), intensive care units (ICU) and outpatient sentinel providers has been implemented per CDC/CDPH recommendations
- An alert to hospitals outlining the enhanced surveillance and infection control precautions was distributed on 4/24/09 to EDs, ICUs, infectious disease physicians, infection control professionals, and sentinel providers. *Eye on Influenza* newsletter focusing on swine influenza was distributed to community partners, school nurse coordinators, college student health, and interested health care providers on 4/24/09

Members, Board of Supervisors

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- The HCA web page is being updated regularly with links to appropriate websites, including the CDPH and CDC
- The HCA Public Information Office is responding to local media inquiries.

This situation is evolving and information is being updated daily by CDPH and CDC. We will provide additional information if the information changes significantly or if there is any additional impact on Orange County.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at 714-834-3155.



Eric G. Handler, MD, MPH, FAAP
Public Health Officer

DLR: dwt

cc: Thomas G. Mauk, County Executive Officer
Stephen Dunivent, Deputy CEO
David L. Riley, Interim Director