

Influenza A (H1N1) Swine Origin Influenza Virus (SOIV) Update Date: May 5, 2009 **For Physicians in Emergency, Acute and Urgent Care Settings**

From the office of the Medical Officer of Health

Context:

The outbreak of H1N1 influenza A (SOIV) in Mexico has spread further, with 21 countries reporting 1490 confirmed cases and 30 deaths as of May 5. In Calgary, there have been 13 confirmed cases. The majority of cases globally have been mild and associated with travel to Mexico or exposure to an ill person who traveled there. This virus is similar to seasonal influenza illness in spectrum of disease, with severe disease and deaths still possible, though transmission seems less efficient. A provincial combined Emergency Coordinating Centre (ECC) has been established in Edmonton (AHW and AHS) and Calgary has activated its own Emergency Operations Centre – this enables more efficient communication and collaboration. A provincial Scientific Advisory Group, which includes medical specialists, has been established to provide expert clinical and public health advice to both AHW and AHS on this situation. Influenza Assessment Centres are being planned in the Calgary area – details later.

Phase Level:

Pandemic Phase 5

Change

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Screening Criteria:

Change

Consider screening only if **ILI occurs within 7 days** of return from travel or within 7 days of contact with someone with travel as noted below, **AND**, patient has been symptomatic for ≤ 5 days.

For patients with:

ILI – acute onset of respiratory illness with **fever and cough** and one or more of: sore throat, arthralgia, myalgia or prostration which could be due to influenza virus, **AND**,

Travel – returned from or resident of currently affected area* including Mexico, or exposure to an ill person with this travel history

AND

- Mild ILI symptoms - **no laboratory testing** is generally required, OR
- **Mild ILI and at high risk** for influenza complications - NP swab only, OR
- **Severe ILI symptoms** (admitted to hospital) - NP swab plus additional tests as appropriate

Reporting Requirements:

Change

- **Mild ILI** - report to Public Health only those cases that have been swabbed according to the screening criteria above,
- **Severe ILI symptoms requiring admission** - report to the Medical Officer of Health on Call at (403) 264-5615 for further investigation and management.
- **ONLY** Positive results (confirmed and probable cases) will be followed up by Public Health.

Laboratory Tests:

Change

Mild ILI – NP swab or aspirate only. Order “**Influenza Testing**” on ProvLab requisition (mark as “**EI 236**”). Send in M5 Universal Transport medium (pink).

Severe ILI – Contact the MOH On Call at (403) 264-5615 for guidance on testing (mark as “**EI 238**”) which could include sputum, urine, blood, BAL and stool.

- **Sputum:** Gram Stain; Aerobic Culture; AFB (if indicated); fungal culture (if indicated)
- **Urine:** Legionella antigen (if indicated) on CLS requisition
- **Blood:** Mycoplasma IgM (collect 2 in SST tubes) and serum sample for future studies (archival) on ProvLab requisition. Blood culture on CLS requisition
- **BAL (if clinically indicated):** Respiratory Virus Panel; Gram stain/aerobic culture on CLS requisition; AFB, Legionella, fungal cultures (if indicated); CMV and HSV (if indicated)
- **Stool** (if diarrhea): enteric pathogens and O&P

Influenza A (H1N1) Swine Origin Influenza Virus (SOIV) Update For Physicians in Emergency, Acute and Urgent Care Settings

Date: May 5, 2009

From the office of the Medical Officer of Health

The following information is **required** on the laboratory requisition:

- patient name, DOB, address, gender and AB PHN
- ordering physician with clinic address and phone number
- symptoms and onset date
- date sample collected
- sample type (throat swab)
- travel history (country, travel dates)

Infection Control Recommendations:

Change

Routine Practices and Additional Precautions

For patients with fever and respiratory symptoms (cough, sore throat, coryza, or myalgia), require them to:

- Clean hands with 60-90% alcohol-based hand gel (or soap and water if immediately available)
- Practice respiratory hygiene (cover cough, use tissues, clean hands)
- Wear surgical/procedure mask
- Be isolated immediately in negative pressure room or a single room

HCWs in direct contact with patient should:

- Wear gloves and gown (if risk of splash from respiratory secretions)
- Perform hand hygiene before and after leaving patient room
- Wear respiratory protection when within 2 metres of patient (mask/respirator and goggles or face shield):
 - surgical mask if patient compliant with respiratory hygiene practices or has weak or no cough
 - N95 respirator if patient coughing and unable to comply with respiratory hygiene practices, **OR** if conducting aerosol-generating medical procedure (such as BIPAP, CPAP, intubation, suctioning, **NP aspiration or swab**, bronchoscopy, etc).

See Interim Guidance: IPC measures for Health Care Workers in Acute Care Facilities at

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/alert-alerte/swine-porcine/hp-index-eng.php>

Patient Care:

- If patient does not require referral to acute care or admission, advise them to:
 - Stay home until symptoms resolve; practice hand hygiene, cover coughs and sneezes, and limit contact with individuals at home
 - Practice symptomatic care (see AHW www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-self-care.html)
- If patient becomes severely ill after discharge, advise them to go to Emergency Department and advise triage of symptoms and travel history immediately upon arrival.
- If patient is severely ill on assessment, notify receiving Emergency Department ahead of time.
- Antiviral medications – for prophylaxis or treatment of mild cases are not recommended currently. Oseltamivir treatment should be consistent with use for seasonal influenza.

Additional References:

- Alberta Health Services – Calgary and area. Public Health (MOH) webpage – postings for health care professionals: <http://www.calgaryhealthregion.ca/moh/professionals.htm>
- Alberta Health & Wellness: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/swine-flu.html>
- Public Health Agency of Canada Information for Health Care Professionals: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/alert-alerte/swine-porcine/hp-index-eng.php>
- Public Health Agency of Canada Travel Advisories: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/tmp-pmv/pub-eng.php>
- * World Health Organization Swine Influenza Information and affected areas: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>