



Michigan Department of Community Health, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933

## NEW CASES OF VARIANT H3N2

### *The Role of Influenza Sentinel Sites*

Three states reported new cases of variant influenza A H3N2 (H3N2v) this week - 9 human cases in Ohio and 1 in Indiana were cited in connection with county fairs; one human case in Hawaii was confirmed and had possible exposure to swine. According to a [Hawaii State Department of Health news release](#), "The resident sought medical attention after experiencing symptoms consistent with the regular flu, including fever, cough, and body aches. Because the patient's primary care doctor is a participant in DOH's influenza-like illness sentinel network (ILINet), a respiratory specimen was sent to the State Laboratories Division for testing." Hawaii credits their robust surveillance network and State Laboratory for detecting the variant virus.

Nearly 90 sites in Michigan participate in the ILINet program which is collaborative effort between, providers, state and local health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We are encouraging Michigan providers, including ILINet sites, to submit respiratory specimens on any patients they see with ILI. In addition, we are always looks for new sites to enroll in the program. Medical providers of any specialty (e.g., family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, infectious disease) in nearly any setting (e.g., private practice, public health clinic, urgent care center, emergency room, university student health center) can be sentinels. Contact Cristi Carlton at 517-335-9104 or [CarltonC2@michigan.gov](mailto:CarltonC2@michigan.gov) for more information or to enroll.

CIDRAP News Article: [Ohio, Indiana report 10 more cases of variant H3N2](#)

CDC information: [CDC Reports Cases 14-17 of H3N2v Infection; Shares Advice for Safe Fair-Going](#)

## INFLUENZA NEWS ARTICLES

- [Flu That Leapt From Birds to Seals Is Studied for Human Threat](#)
- [Novel H3N8 strain found in dead seals may pose human threat](#)
- [Influenza Virus Replication: Catching the Cap-Snatcher](#)
- [Zimbabwe: One Person Dies As Zimbabwe Is Hit By Influenza](#)

## 2012-13 INFLUENZA SEASON

The three companies that make a majority of influenza vaccine in the United States started shipping their first doses for the 2012-13 season over the last few weeks. Related News Articles:

- [Flu vaccine makers begin shipments for US market](#)
- [GlaxoSmithKline shipping U.S. flu vaccine with new strain coverage recommended for 2012-2013](#)
- [FLUMIST® \(Influenza Vaccine Live, Intranasal\) begins shipping for 2012-13 influenza season](#)

## AVIAN AND PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

### *H5N1 Studies*

- [Fauci urges continuing pause on risky H5N1 studies](#)
- [Experts urge holding off on hazardous H5N1 studies](#)

### *Pandemic Planning*

According to a [new report](#) from the US Government Accountability Office (GAO), federal agencies have made progress in their influenza pandemic planning efforts over the last 3 years. The report states that "Twenty-three of 24 federal agencies reported they had completed influenza pandemic plans that address the operational approach they would use to protect their employees in the event of an influenza pandemic. In 2009, 20 agencies reported completing such plans."

## FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: [www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu)

CDC: [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

HHS: [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

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