



Michigan Emergency Veterinary Network

*Frontline Guardians of
Michigan's Animal Health*

Michigan Department of Agriculture
College of Veterinary Medicine, MSU
Michigan Veterinary Medical Association
Michigan Department of Community Health
Michigan State University Extension
U. S. Department of Agriculture

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Dear Michigan Licensed Veterinarian:

This letter is to update you on the Influenza A (H1N1) outbreak and its impact on Michigan. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified cases of human influenza from a novel form of H1N1 influenza virus previously identified as "Swine flu." There are two confirmed human cases in Michigan and no animal cases of Influenza A (H1N1) in North America to date.

Though this virus has been referred to as "Swine flu" in the media, information available at this time does not indicate that the influenza outbreak occurring in the United States and Mexico was preceded by an outbreak of influenza in swine. Preliminary indications are that there has been no swine contact in the human cases reported so far.

It's important to note, this is not a food safety issue, pork and pork products are safe to eat as there is no evidence that people can contract the illness from eating cooked pork. Pork products should be properly handled and cooked to an internal temperature of 160°F, which will kill all viruses.

While this outbreak is only affecting humans at this point, there is concern about the potential for animal involvement. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) and the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) have increased surveillance for outbreaks of swine influenza, with focus on the following swine populations:

- (1) Swine linked to human cases;
- (2) Case compatible submissions (sick pigs) from commercial swine and small farms;
- (3) Sick pigs at fairs, expositions, and on exhibit on petting farms that have a higher level of exposure to people;
- (4) Sick pigs from auctions and markets.

Samples should be sent to the Michigan State University's (MSU) Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH) or other National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) network laboratories, and can include nasal swabs or tissues collected by post mortem examination.

MDA is recommending both avian and swine facilities increase their biosecurity efforts as enhanced efforts further protect animals from being exposed to sick people and sick animals. For important, up-to-date information, please monitor one of the following Web sites:

- www.cdc.gov/swineflu (this web site is updated by 11:00 a.m. every day)

- www.michigan.gov/flu (this web site is continually updated)
- www.usda.gov/newsroom
- www.avma.org
- www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/

MDA is working in close cooperation with the Michigan Department of Community Health, CDC, and USDA in monitoring and responding as the situation continues to change. Over the last several years, MDA veterinary staff members and Michigan Veterinary Corps have practiced exercises to respond to an outbreak of avian influenza if one should occur, and are prepared for a similar response to influenza in other species. MDA has supplies and equipment ready to move to any area of the state should a response be required.

To better prepare yourselves, your family, and your business for a potential spread of Influenza A (H1N1), please review general emergency preparedness in your *Veterinary Network* notebook and review materials you have received from MDA previously.

If you have any questions regarding the Influenza A (H1N1) influenza outbreak:

- For questions regarding human health, please contact your local health department or your personal physician.
- For questions regarding animal health, please contact the MDA at (517) 373-1077.

Respectfully,



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SLH:AJB/mab