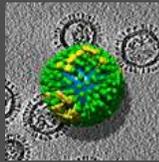


FLUBYTES



April 24, 2009

Michigan Department of Community Health, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48913
For additional flu information visit: www.michigan.gov/flu

Latest Flu News

Human Swine Influenza Investigation

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting eight confirmed human infections with an identical swine influenza A (H1N1) virus. The cases occurred in six children and two adults. Four cases are from San Diego County, California, two cases are from Imperial County, California and two cases are from San Antonio, Texas. Cases had illness onsets of March 28 to April 14, 2009. None of the cases had exposure to pigs. All cases have recovered after exhibiting typical influenza-like illnesses with fever and upper respiratory symptoms. Human-to-human transmission is considered likely at this point in the investigation. No cases have been identified in Michigan at this time. CDC is recommending that clinicians should consider the possibility of swine influenza virus infections in patients presenting with febrile respiratory illness who: 1) Live in San Diego County or Imperial County, California or San Antonio, Texas or; 2) Have traveled to San Diego and/or Imperial County, California or San Antonio, Texas or; 3) Have been in contact with ill persons from these areas in the 7 days prior to their illness onset. Please check the websites listed below for frequent updates to this ongoing investigation.

MDCH is asking clinicians evaluating patients with febrile respiratory illnesses to ask patients about exposure to pigs, and if exposure is noted, to obtain a respiratory swab for swine influenza testing. In addition, all hospitalized patients with febrile respiratory illness and no alternative diagnosis should strongly be considered for standard influenza testing at their normal laboratory facility. Once collected, the clinician should contact MDCH at 517-335-8165 or their local health department immediately to report the suspect case and to facilitate transport and timely diagnosis at the MDCH Bureau of Laboratories. Infection control information is located on the websites below.

For more information about this ongoing investigation, please visit the CDC swine influenza website at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/investigation.htm>. General background information about swine influenza can be found online at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/>. Please distribute this information as needed

Flu Surveillance Update

During the week ending April 18, 2009, the proportion of visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) decreased throughout Michigan. MDCH lab-confirmed 2 influenza cases, bringing the season total to 284. For additional surveillance information access the [MI Flu Focus](#) and the most current edition is included in this email.

CDC PUBLISHES AN INFLUENZA UPDATE IN THE APRIL 17 ISSUE OF MMWR

The report summarizes U.S. influenza activity from September 28, 2008, the start of the 2008-09 influenza season, through April 4, 2009, and reports on the 2009-10 influenza vaccine strain selection. Click [here](#) for more information.

Avian Influenza

EXPERTS IDENTIFY COMPOUND THAT MAY FIGHT BIRD FLU

Scientists in Hong Kong and the United States have identified a synthetic compound which appears to be able to stop the replication of influenza viruses, including the H5N1 bird flu virus. The search for such new "inhibitors" has grown more urgent in recent years as drugs, like oseltamivir, have become largely ineffective against certain flu strains, like the H1N1 seasonal flu virus. Experts now question how well and how long the drug would stand up against the H5N1, should it unleash a pandemic. Their finding was published in the latest issue of the Journal of Medicinal Chemistry. Click [here](#) for the article abstract.

Flu Resources

Michigan's influenza web page: www.michigan.gov/flu

Flu Fighter Action Kit for Health Care Personnel
www.michigan.gov/flufighterkit

CDC influenza web page: www.cdc.gov/flu

MDCH would like to extend an invite for any interested health care professional to become involved in the Flu Advisory Board (FAB). To join FAB, contact Liz Harton, CDC Public Health Advisor at hartone@michigan.gov.

FluBytes is distributed to MDCH flu partners for informational and communication purposes. Please feel free to distribute widely. An archived list of past FluBytes issues can be found [here](#). In April FluBytes will be distributed bi-weekly.