



July 2018

Michigan Local Health Departments: Action Steps when a Person Tests Positive or Presumptive Positive for a Swine-Variant Influenza Virus

Note: MDHHS has developed resources to assist in the event of a swine variant influenza outbreak or exposure at an agricultural fair/swine exhibit. These resources can be found at both the CD Info website (www.michigan.gov/cdinfo under Influenza) and the Emerging Diseases website (www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases under Agricultural Exhibits & Events).

Public Health Notifications

- Immediately call the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Communicable Disease Division at 517-335-8165 and ask to speak directly with an Epidemiologist about swine influenza. If after hours/weekend, contact the MDHHS On-Call staff at 517-335-9030.
- If associated with a local fair or swine exhibition in Michigan, notify the local health department where the event is/was located.

Case Investigation and Reporting Forms

- Promptly enter information on confirmed, probable or suspect variant influenza cases into MDSS using the “Novel Influenza” form.
- If recent contact with swine or recent attendance at event with animals present, gather information about date(s) of contact and details/location of event.
- Complete CDC Novel Influenza Case Report Form as provided by MDHHS.

Contact Tracing

Conduct contact tracing of suspected and confirmed variant influenza cases to identify additional illnesses and collect information on the epidemiology of the virus. Contact tracing is essential to evaluate virus transmission patterns and potential person-to-person transmission.

If fair or event-associated:

- Work with Fair/Exhibit Organizers and 4-H/Future Farmers of America (FFA) Adult Leaders to identify names and contact information of all swine exhibitors and others exposed to swine.
- Develop health monitoring survey and protocol to collect information on illness status of swine exhibitors and household members. Work with your MDHHS Regional Epidemiologist to implement the survey and track responses.

Influenza Testing Plan

Prepare to facilitate testing of exposed and epi-linked persons reporting influenza-like illness (ILI).

- Arrange for respiratory specimens to be collected as quickly as possible from:
 - All persons with ILI and acute respiratory infection who have had recent contact (within 10 days prior to illness onset) with swine or recent attendance at an agricultural event where swine are present.
 - All ill household members and persons reporting close contact (within 6 ft) to a person with suspected/confirmed variant influenza infection or to an ill person with recent swine exposure.
- Preferred specimens include a nasopharyngeal swab or aspirate, or a combined nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab. If possible, collect sputum in addition.
- Arrange for specimens to be submitted to MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) for PCR testing.** Commercially available tests may not reliably detect variant influenza virus and cannot distinguish between seasonal human influenza viruses and swine variant viruses.

Infection Control Measures

Provide information and instructions on infection control steps for ill and non-ill persons and for healthcare personnel

- Advise healthcare personnel who treat ill persons with suspected swine variant influenza infection to follow standard, contact, and droplet precautions as recommended for patient care.
- Ill persons with suspected or confirmed variant virus infections who do not require hospitalization should be isolated at home away from other family members as much as possible. Household members who are at increased risk for influenza complications should avoid coming within 6 feet of ill persons.
- Persons at high risk for influenza complications should avoid exposure to swine. If exposure to swine cannot be avoided, consider wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/swineflu/prevent-spread-flu-pigs-at-fairs.pdf>).

Public Messaging

- Develop press release in coordination with MDHHS Communications Office/Public Information Officer (PIO) to notify persons who attended the same event and had exposure to swine.
- Notify healthcare providers that a human case of variant influenza has been detected. Providers should look for cases of ILI and ask about exposure to swine. Provide information about how to collect and submit respiratory specimens to MDHHS for testing.

This guidance should be considered interim and may change as situations warrant