



Public Health  
Division

# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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### Addendum A: PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

**Communicable Disease:** Influenza A H1N1/2009 Virus (aka "Swine Flu")  
**Principal Investigator:** Poki Stewart Namkung, M.D., M.P.H., Health Officer (454-7529)  
**Date:** May 8, 2009  
**Provider Alert #** 4

#### ➤ **SITUATION UPDATE**

As of May 8, 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have 2,488 probable/confirmed cases in 44 states, including 337 probable/confirmed cases in California. There are NO probable/confirmed cases in Santa Cruz County as of 11:00am today. This advisory is intended to provide UPDATED guidance for SURVEILLANCE and information on provision of ANTIVIRALS for treatment and prophylaxis. **Because of the rapidly evolving situation with the Influenza A H1N1/2009 virus, this guidance may change and will be updated in future provider advisories.**

#### ➤ **CASE DEFINITIONS**

**Influenza-like illness (ILI)** is defined as having a FEVER  $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) **AND** a COUGH **AND/OR** a SORE THROAT in the absence of a known cause other than influenza.

- A **confirmed** case is a person with ILI and laboratory-confirmed influenza A H1N1/2009 virus by RT-PCR or viral culture.
- A **probable** case is a person with ILI and laboratory positive for influenza A, but negative for human H1 and human H3 (i.e. "unsubtypable") by RT-PCR.
- A **suspected** case is a person with ILI or pneumonia (as defined in Santa Cruz County).

#### ➤ **TESTING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Of note, testing and results should not be used to guide clinical decision-making. However, for surveillance purposes, testing in the regional Public Health laboratory in Santa Clara is being prioritized for severely ill patients. Please continue to test the following patients for Influenza A H1N1/2009 virus:

- **HOSPITALIZED** patients with ILI or pneumonia
- Patients with ILI who work or live in **CONGREGATE** settings (such as: healthcare facility, school, daycare, jail, homeless shelter or long-term care facility, etc.)

**PLEASE document the severity of the illness and/or the name of the congregate setting on the laboratory submittal form.** Laboratory turnaround time will depend upon the priority assigned to each patient.



- **Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- **Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
- **Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

➤ **SPECIMEN COLLECTION**

For patients who meet the testing/surveillance criteria above, nasopharyngeal (NP) specimens must be obtained in the following manner:

- Collect specimens within 24-72 hours after onset of symptoms when possible, but not later than 5 days after symptom onset.
- Refrigerate specimens at 4°C and send with cold packs within 5 days of collection. If samples will be received by the Public Health lab more than 5 days after collection, freeze samples at -70°C or below and ship on dry ice to:  
Santa Cruz County Public Health Lab  
1080 Emeline Ave.  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Phone: 454-5445; Fax: 454-5000
- If patient is hospitalized with pneumonia, specimens from the lower respiratory tract (e.g. tracheal aspirate, bronchoalveolar lavage) should be obtained when possible.
- Remember to include the lab submittal form with the specimen

***PLEASE do NOT tell patients to call the Public Health laboratory for test results.***

➤ **ANTIVIRAL TREATMENT GUIDELINES**

Treatment with influenza antivirals should be **considered**, and may be provided using the Santa Cruz County stockpile, when antivirals are not available through usual commercial methods, for patients with suspected, probable, or confirmed Influenza A H1N1/2009 virus infection who are:

- Experiencing a potentially life-threatening complication
- Hospitalized for evaluation and treatment of ILI
- At high risk for complications with influenza<sup>1</sup>
- Judged severely ill by the treating physician (e.g., toxic appearance, altered mental status, tachypnea, hypotension, significant hypoxia, etc.)

➤ **ANTIVIRAL PROPHYLAXIS**

Antiviral chemoprophylaxis (pre-exposure or post-exposure) with either oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) or zanamivir (Relenza®) should be **considered** and may be provided using the Santa Cruz County stockpile, when antivirals are not available through usual commercial methods, for the following individuals:

- Household and close contacts of a **confirmed or probable** Influenza A H1N1/2009 case, who are a high-risk for complications of influenza.
- Health care workers, public health workers, and emergency responders who did not use appropriate personal protective equipment during close contact with a confirmed, probable or suspect Influenza A H1N1/2009 case during the case's infectious period (1 day prior to 7 days after onset of symptoms).

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<sup>1</sup> Persons at high risk for complication of influenza include the following:

- children < 5 years of age;
- persons aged 65 years or older;
- children aged six months to 18 years who are on long-term aspirin therapy;
- pregnant women;
- persons with chronic diseases such as diabetes mellitus, asthma, heart disease (excluding hypertension), kidney diseases, severe anemia, cancer, and weakened immune systems due to immunosuppressive medications (corticosteroids, anti-TNF alpha medicines, etc.) or HIV infection;
- residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities

➤ **ANTIVIRAL PROPHYLAXIS (continued)**

- Patients at high-risk for severe influenza who have had close contact with an infectious health care worker who is either a confirmed, probable, or suspected case of Influenza A H1N1/2009 virus.

**SECONDARILY**, antiviral chemoprophylaxis (pre-exposure or post-exposure) with either oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) or zanamivir (Relenza®) may be **considered** and may be provided using the Santa Cruz County stockpile, when antivirals are not available through usual commercial methods, for the following:

- Household close contacts of a *suspected* Influenza A H1N1/2009 case, who are at high-risk for complications of influenza.
- Children attending school or daycare who are at high-risk for complications of influenza and who had close contact (face-to-face) with a confirmed, probable, or a suspected case.

➤ **INSTRUCTIONS FOR ORDERING ANTIVIRALS**

There are a sufficient number of antiviral supplies at major distributors within California. Please adhere to your usual practice in obtaining them for your patients. The antivirals, which have been delivered from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), are intended for use in a severe pandemic where there is a shortage of commercially available supplies. However, if a patient is eligible for anti-virals according to our guidelines but is unable to pay for a prescription, then the SNS anti-virals can be made available for that patient.

*To order antivirals from the Santa Cruz County Stockpile:*

- Complete the INFLUENZA A H1N1/2009 ANTIVIRAL ORDER FORM located at [www.santacruzhealth.org/swineflu](http://www.santacruzhealth.org/swineflu)
- Fax the completed order form to the Santa Cruz County Public Health Department at (831) 454 – 5068. Health Department staff will call providers to arrange for pick-up of antivirals.
- Refer to CDPH guidance on "Prescribing and Patient Information for Tamiflu and Relenza" also located at [www.santacruzhealth.org/swineflu](http://www.santacruzhealth.org/swineflu) for additional prescribing information.

➤ **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- [www.santacruzhealth.org/alerts](http://www.santacruzhealth.org/alerts) for informational updates and other alerts
- [http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidelines\\_infection\\_control.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidelines_infection_control.htm) for comprehensive guidance
- Instructions for NP swab collection:  
[http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/Nasopharyngeal\\_swab\\_collection\\_042709.pdf](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/Nasopharyngeal_swab_collection_042709.pdf)
- Lab submittal form:  
<http://www.santacruzhealth.org/alerts/pdf/Lab%20Submittal%20Form%20fill-in%20form.pdf>