



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Public Health

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April 26, 2009

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
for Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **SWINE INFLUENZA – UPDATE #3**

In follow-up to my report of April 25, 2009, this is to provide you with an update on swine influenza.

Disease Summary

As of today, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting 20 cases of swine influenza in the U.S. in 5 states: California, Texas, Kansas, Ohio, and New York. The illness is characterized as mild, and no deaths have been reported among these cases.

There is no additional information than previously reported regarding the characteristics of Mexican flu cases.

No cases have been identified in Los Angeles County although it is reasonable to expect cases will be identified in the near future as a result of increased surveillance.

Federal and State Response

In a morning White House press conference, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano declared a federal Public Health Emergency. Secretary Napolitano emphasized that this is a precautionary step that allows the federal and state governments easier access to federal resources. The federal government is making available to states 25 percent of antivirals and other response materials in Strategic National Stockpile (SNS).

While CDC did not revise its travel guidance today, a revised travel guidance recommending only essential travel to Mexico is expected tomorrow, April 27, 2009. At present, there continues to be no domestic or international travel restrictions, but travelers are urged to use caution and practice preventive measures to minimize transmission of respiratory viruses.

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The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has convened calls with local health departments to coordinate laboratory reporting and deployment of SNS resources.

Both CDC and CDPH are convening daily conference calls in which DPH is participating.

DPH Response

As previously reported, DPH is taking actions to increase surveillance activities and distribute educational materials reinforcing respiratory hygiene to schools and community partners. Updated information is posted on the DPH website: <http://ph.lacounty.gov>

With respect to SNS resources and antivirals, DPH is taking action to acquire emergency warehouse space for storage of material.

DPH emergency operations have been activated and are actively monitoring the situation closely 24/7.

We will keep you apprised as warranted. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:lm

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors