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This information is based on what is known on April 28, 2009. This interim guidance may change based on new information from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Any physician who does not have access to the internet to get the CDC guidance described below can contact the local health department and a copy can be faxed to them. The contact information is at the end of this document.

Clinicians should consider swine influenza infection in the differential diagnosis of patients with acute febrile respiratory illness who have either been in contact with persons with confirmed swine flu, or who were in one of the five U.S. states (CA, OH, NY, TX, KS) that have reported swine flu cases or in Mexico during the 7 days preceding their illness onset.

Definitions of Respiratory Illness

A. Acute respiratory illness: Recent onset of at least two of the following:

1. rhinorrhea or nasal congestion
2. sore throat
3. cough
4. fever or feverishness

B. Influenza-like illness: fever $>37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ (100°F) plus

Suspected swine influenza illness is a Class A reportable disease by the Ohio Department of Health (influenza A novel virus). All suspected cases must be called immediately to the local health department in which jurisdiction the patient resides with all the demographic and clinical information. The local health department will confer with the Ohio Department of Health as to whether a laboratory specimen should be sent to the Ohio Department of Health laboratory. Specimens should not be sent to ODH without consulting with the local health department.

A *suspected case* of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as:

- 1) A person with acute respiratory illness who was a close contact to a confirmed case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection during the case's infectious period, OR
- 2) A person with an acute respiratory illness who traveled to or resides in an area where there are confirmed cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection.

Individuals with mild illness should stay at home and call their physician if they have questions about care or treatment. CDC is not encouraging people with mild illness to visit their doctor or other healthcare facilities to avoid clogging the healthcare system. Persons who have mild disease should stay at home for 7 days after start of illness and fever is gone. See the CDC guidance, Interim Guidance for Swine influenza A (H1N1): Taking Care of a Sick Person in Your Home, on the CDC swine flu Guidance for Professionals website (<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance/> for specific care information.

There is some guidance for prescribing antiviral medications to suspected or confirmed cases or contacts. This guidance is found on the CDC swine flu Guidance for Professionals website <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance/>

People who are ill and develop severe symptoms including high fever, difficulty breathing, cyanosis, uncontrolled vomiting or diarrhea, and unresponsiveness should seek medical care. If these patients fit the criteria for a suspected swine influenza case, they should be tested for influenza and clinical specimens positive for influenza should be sent to public health laboratories for further characterization after consultation with the local health department.

Rapid influenza testing may not identify the swine A(H1N1) influenza strain.

Clinicians who suspect swine influenza virus infections in humans should obtain a nasopharyngeal swab from the patient, place the swab in a viral transport medium, refrigerate the specimen, and then contact their local health jurisdiction to discuss the case and to facilitate transport to the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory for timely diagnosis. All persons examining the patient or obtaining the nasopharyngeal specimens should wear masks (preferably N95) and gloves. The local health departments do not carry viral transport medium; that must be obtained from a hospital laboratory. For the current swine influenza A (H1N1) virus investigation, testing should focus on acute illness. Thus, although serology is a methodology that can be used for diagnosis, it is not recommended as a routine primary diagnostic tool at this time.

The CDC interim guidance for Infection Control Guidelines can also be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance/>

The local health department communicable disease contact numbers

Business hours:

Akron Health Department: 330-375-2145 or 330-375-2013

Barberton Health District: 330-861-7167

Summit County Health District: 330-926-5787

After-hours and weekend contact numbers:

Akron Health Department: 330-710-2770 (pager)

Barberton Health District: 330-730-0045 (cell phone)

Summit County Health District: 330-912-0134 (pager)

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