



Health & Human Services Department
Public Health Division
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HEALTH ALERT

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H1N1 (Swine) Influenza

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF CLINICIANS

Current Situation

- As of today, 17 California residents in 5 counties, have been diagnosed with confirmed swine influenza A (N1H1) virus infection. There have been 3 hospitalizations.
- There have been no confirmed cases in Berkeley, but clearly it is only a matter of time. Since the situation changes rapidly, your best sources for information are:
 - CDC website: www.cdc.gov/swineflu
 - California Department of Public Health www.cdph.ca.gov
 - City of Berkeley Public Health Department www.ci.berkeley.ca.us

Updates

- The best method for the Health Department to communicate information to you quickly is through email. If you have email access that is checked on a frequent basis, please send your email address to BerkeleyPublicHealth@CityofBerkeley.info

Guidelines

The CDC has issued a number of important new guidelines. We strongly advise you to read them:

- Care of Patients of Swine Flu www.cdc.gov/swineflu/identifyingpatients.htm
- Care of Young Children www.cdc.gov/swineflu/childrentreatment.htm
- Care of Pregnant Women www.cdc.gov/swineflu/clinician_pregnant.htm
- Antiviral Prophylaxis and Treatment www.cdc.gov/swineflu/recommendations.htm
- Infection Control in Healthcare settings www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidelines_infection_control.htm
- Care in the Home www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance_homecare.htm

Specimen Collection and Transport:

- Specimen collection: Nasopharyngeal swabs are preferable, specimens should be collected using swabs with a **synthetic** tip and an aluminum or plastic shaft. The specimen should be placed in a standard container with 2 – 3 ml of viral transport medium. Only **one nasopharyngeal** swab is necessary for testing.
- If you are unable to collect a nasopharyngeal specimen, you will need to send a nasal and a throat swab in the same transport medium. Be sure to **note** on the lab slip that these are **nasal and throat swabs**. For a video demonstration of NP swab collection, please see: <http://video.cdc.gov/asxgen/nip/isd/swabdemo.wmv>
- If you do not have the appropriate NP swabs and you are unable to obtain them, the City of Berkeley has **limited supplies**. Please contact Barbara Gregory, PHN at (510) 981-5302.
- Specimen storage– Specimens should be stored at 4 degrees C if specimens will be received by the lab within 5 days of collection. For 5 or more days, freeze at –70 degrees C.
 - a) Labeling of specimens – be sure to fill out the screening form including risk factors and the 2 laboratory slips
 - b) Shipping – ship specimens that have been refrigerated on ice packs. For frozen specimens ship on dry ice.
- Ship specimens to Alameda County Public Health Laboratory at 499 5th St., Oakland, CA 94607, Monday through Friday 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM. Call (510) 268-2700 if you have any questions.

If you are unable to arrange delivery with your current service, you may bring specimens to the City of Berkeley Public Health Clinic, 830 University Ave., Berkeley, (510) 981-5350, Monday through Friday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM (closed 12 Noon to 1:00 PM). You may also bring them to the Public Health Clinic on Saturday from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.