



Otago
District Health Board
Pōari Hauora-ā-rohe ki Ōtāgo



Southland District
HEALTH BOARD
Te Pōari Hauora o te Rohe o Murihiku

**To: Staff at Otago and Southland District Health Boards
External Stakeholder Group,
Primary and Community Health Care Providers**

Advisory 2 - 28 April 2009 at 17.00 hrs

From: District Health Board Incident Controller Leanne Samuel

Subject: Swine Influenza

Note:

1: This advisory remains current until the situation changes or new information is made available.

2: All clinical teams please collect this information and subsequent information in folders. Department heads please print this information and make it visible e.g. on staff notice boards.

The World Health Organisation Director General has raised the level of the influenza pandemic alert from current phase 3 to 4.

As of today there are 40 confirmed cases of swine flu in the United States, with no deaths. There have been 26 confirmed cases in Mexico, including 7 deaths.

Public Health Staff have contacted all 23 people from Otago and Southland who were on Flight NZ1 and none of them are ill. As a precaution, they have all been asked to go into voluntary quarantine and have been offered the antiviral medication Tamiflu.

Two nurses were at Dunedin International Airport this afternoon to meet an international flight and support border staff. Nurses will be present for other international flights in Dunedin and Queenstown this week.

At this stage, we are not expecting any shipping from affected areas to arrive at Bluff or Port Chalmers.

We remind people with concerns about swine flu to either phone their GP for advice or phone Healthline rather than turning up at hospitals or medical centres.

The Healthline is 0800 611 116.

The most important steps we can all take to prevent or reduce the spread of disease in our community are:

- Wash hands with soap and water and dry them well. This is especially important after going to the toilet and before preparing/eating food.
- Cover sneezes and coughs with a tissue, and throw it in a bin. Wash hands.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow, NOT your hands.
- Sick staff or students should stay at home, until they are well.

- If a person in your home is sick, try to keep a distance of one metre, and avoid sharing utensils, cups etc.

Use the 20-20 rule – wash hands for 20 seconds with warm soapy water and dry thoroughly with clean towels or paper towels for another 20 seconds.

Case Definitions for Infection with Swine Influenza A (H1N1) Virus

Ministry of Health, NHCC, 28th April 2009, 1530 hrs

Confirmed case

A confirmed case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as a person with an acute respiratory illness with laboratory confirmed swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection by one or more of the following tests:

- real-time RT-PCR
- viral culture
- four-fold rise in swine influenza A(H1N1) virus specific neutralising antibodies

Probable case

A probable case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as a person with an acute respiratory illness with an influenza test that is positive for influenza A, and has developed symptoms within 7 days of travel to an area of concern

OR

A probable case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as a person with an acute respiratory illness with an influenza test that is positive for influenza A, and is considered to be a close contact of a probable or confirmed case

Suspected case

A suspected case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as a person with an acute respiratory illness who has developed symptoms within 7 days of travel to an area of concern

OR

A suspected case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as a person with an acute respiratory illness who is considered to be a close contact of a probable or confirmed case.

Close contact

Close contact is defined as having cared for, lived with, or had direct contact with respiratory secretions or bodily fluids of a probable or confirmed case.

Acute respiratory illness

For the purpose of these case definitions, an acute respiratory illness is defined as:

- Recent onset of at least 2 of the following:
 1. Rhinorrhoea or nasal congestion
 2. Sore throat
 3. Cough
 4. Fever or feverishness

OR

- Influenza-like illness: fever $>37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ plus cough or sore throat

Area of concern

An area of concern is any country so defined by the Ministry of Health

KEY MESSAGES

- 1) Reminder about the importance of **Infection prevention and control**
 - Hand hygiene; respiratory hygiene; social distancing; environmental cleaning; appropriate use of PPE; stay home if sick
 - Refresh donning and removal of personal protective equipment
 - Use respiratory isolation precautions as per infection control policies.

- 2) For patients presenting with influenza-like-illness please take a travel history. If there has been travel to Mexico in the last seven days:
 - Take a nasopharyngeal swab for virology and ask for influenza testing
 - Inform the laboratory the specimen is coming
 - Inform the Medical Officer of Health by phoning
 - - Daytime – (03) 4769800
 - After hours via hospital switchboards

- 3) Watch for further information

<http://www.who.int>

<http://www.cdc.gov/>

<http://www.moh.govt.nz>