

**To: Staff at Otago and Southland District Health Boards
External Stakeholder Group**

Advisory 4 – 30 April 2009 at 1800

From: DHB Incident Controller Pip Stewart

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 has raised the pandemic alert from phase 4 to phase 5. To date, there are 148 confirmed cases of swine flu in 9 countries, with seven deaths in Mexico and one in the United States (Texas).

In New Zealand there are three laboratory-confirmed cases and 104 suspected. Cases are being quarantined and monitored.

The New Zealand Government has made changes to the Health Act 1956 so “non-seasonal influenza (capable of being transmitted between human beings) has been made a notifiable and quarantinable disease with effect from 4pm April 28. This means:

- Non-seasonal influenza (such as H1N1/swine flu), which is capable of being transmitted between human beings, must be notified to the Medical Officer of Health.
- Medical Officers of Health now have the power to direct people with non-seasonal influenza into quarantine.

The Emergency Operations Centre is co-ordinating the emergency planning and response for the Otago and Southland DHBs, which involves about 30 Public Health South staff and about 15 general DHB staff.

The current focus is on:

- Nurses at airports for international flights
- Encouraging all sectors – including schools and workplaces - to report any increased sickness and to review their pandemic planning procedures
- Medical Centres reviewing their pandemic plans

There are still no people with symptoms in Otago-Southland. Four more tourists have contacted Public Health South. The first people in Otago-Southland who went into voluntary quarantine can leave their quarantine tomorrow.

There is now an 0800FLULINE (0800 358 5463) for swine flu information and queries.

As the swine flu outbreak is a quickly evolving situation, we encourage everyone to keep themselves up-to-date by listening to news broadcasts and viewing international and New Zealand websites:

www.who.int/en/

www.cdc.gov/

www.moh.govt.nz