SLO Public Health Laboratory Bulletin

SPECIAL EDITION 2 -- May 2009

SWINE ORIGIN INFLUENZA A (H1N1) VIRUS (S-OIV) -- BULLETIN

Current Situation: As of today, May 6, 2009, there are 3 confirmed and 5 probable cases of swine-origin Influenza A (H1N1) virus (S-OIV) in San Luis Obispo (SLO) County. All of the cases have occurred in a single cluster of individuals linked to a residential school at Camp San Luis. No other probable or confirmed cases have been detected, though results of many tests are still pending.

Additional testing should be focused on patients with the greatest epidemiological significance (i.e., ones that are important to identify because of disease control implications). **We are not attempting to identify all cases**.

Prioritization is for specimen collection of the following groups:

- Hospitalized patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) (i.e., fever $\geq$ 100°F + sore throat and/or cough)
- Direct care healthcare providers with ILI
- First case with ILI in a high-risk setting for transmission (e.g., prison, homeless shelter)
- Patient is part of a outbreak or cluster of people with ILI (although only one patient needs lab confirmation, in settings of epidemiological significance, specimens can be collected from $\geq$2 patients to increase the likelihood of detecting S-OIV)

Other specimens will not be referred to the state laboratory.

The specimen requested is a **nasopharyngeal (NP) swab in M4 Viral Transport Medium**.

- viral transport medium other than M4 is also acceptable.

As specimens are still being referred to the state laboratory, the state form is the only document required when submitting specimens. COMPLETE the epidemiologic and clinical information at the bottom of the state form. Submissions that meet this criteria will be tested without a fee. **The SLO Laboratory will NOT process specimens that lack these completely filled-out forms.**

Detailed information, specimen collection procedures and forms can be found at:
http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/health/publichealth/swineflu/swineflulabnfo.htm

H1N1 Influenza Virus Biosafety Guidelines for Laboratory Workers

This guidance is for laboratory workers who may be processing or performing diagnostic testing on clinical specimens from patients with suspected H1N1 influenza virus infection, or performing viral isolation. This guidance is *not* for clinics or clinicians performing rapid influenza antigen tests. For guidance on infection control in clinical settings, including those obtaining specimens and performing rapid tests. see: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidelines_infection_control.htm.

Diagnostic laboratory work on clinical samples from patients who are suspected cases of H1N1 influenza virus infection should be conducted in a BSL2 laboratory. All sample manipulations should be done inside a biosafety cabinet (BSC).

Viral isolation on clinical specimens from patients who are suspected cases of H1N1 influenza virus infection should be performed in a BSL2 laboratory with BSL3 practices (enhanced BSL2 conditions).

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Additional precautions include: Recommended Personal Protective Equipment (based on site specific risk assessment)

- Respiratory protection – fit-tested N95 respirator or higher level of protection.
- Shoe covers
- Closed-front gown
- Double gloves
- Eye protection (goggles or face shields)

Waste

- All waste disposal procedures should be followed as outlined in your facility standard laboratory operating procedures.

Appropriate disinfectants

- 70% Ethanol
- 5% Lysol
- 10% Bleach

All personnel should self monitor for fever and any symptoms. Symptoms of H1N1 influenza infection include cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, runny nose, and muscle aches. Any illness should be reported to your supervisor immediately.

For personnel who had unprotected exposure or a known breach in personal protective equipment to clinical material or live virus from a confirmed case of H1N1 influenza, antiviral chemoprophylaxis with zanamivir or oseltamivir for 7 days after exposure should be considered.

For additional information, please see: antiviral treatment and chemoprophylaxis guidance.

Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL) 5th Edition Section IV Laboratory Biosafety Level Criteria

For additional information, call Dr James Beebe 805-781-5512 or Sharon Beccacio 805-781-5509.