

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (6) DH SEB CD/8/89/1

25 April 2009

Dear Doctor,

Reporting of suspected cases of human Swine Influenza A/H1N1

Further to the letter to you yesterday, I would like to update you on the latest situation concerning human Swine Influenza A/H1N1 in the United States as well as in Mexico.

So far, human cases of Swine Influenza have been confirmed in San Diego and Imperial Counties of California (6 cases) and Guadalupe County of Texas (2 cases) in the United States with no fatality. In Mexico, three separate events of influenza-like-illnesses (ILI) have been reported in the Federal District of Mexico (more than 854 pneumonia cases, 59 deaths), San Luis Potosi (24 ILI cases, 3 deaths) and Mexicali (4 ILI cases, 0 deaths) respectively. Of the Mexican cases, 18 have been laboratory confirmed in Canada as Swine Influenza A/H1N1, while 12 of those are genetically identical to the Swine Influenza A/H1N1 viruses from California.

The majority of these cases have occurred in otherwise healthy young adults. Accordingly to USCDC, illness signs and symptoms have consisted of influenza-like illness – fever and respiratory tract illnesses, headache, muscle aches- and some cases have had vomiting and diarrhea. The infectious period is 1 day before onset of symptoms to 7 days after onset of illnesses.

The Swine Influenza A/H1N1 viruses characterized in this outbreak have not been previously detected in pigs or humans. The viruses so far characterized have been sensitive to oseltamivir, but resistant to both amantadine and rimantadine. Because there are human cases associated with an animal influenza virus, and because of the geographical spread of multiple community outbreaks, plus the somewhat unusual age groups affected, WHO considered these events of high concern.



To facilitate early case detection public health actions locally, your assistance is sought to report suspected cases of human Swine Influenza. Please report all cases that fulfill the reporting criteria in Annex 1 to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) by fax (2477 2770), by phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line (<http://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno>). **Please refer the patient to a public hospital for further clinical management.**

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'SK CHUANG', is centered below the closing. The signature is fluid and cursive.

(Dr. SK CHUANG)
Consultant Community Medicine (Communicable Disease)
Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health

Reporting criteria for suspected human Swine Influenza A/ H1N1

Reporting criteria

An individual fulfilling **BOTH** *the Clinical Criteria* **AND** *Epidemiological Criteria* should be reported to CHP for further investigation.

Clinical Criteria

- person with acute respiratory illness, characterized by fever (temperature $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$) and cough and/or sore throat, OR
- person with pneumonia, OR
- person died of unexplained acute respiratory illness

Epidemiological Criteria

- History of recent travel (7 days before onset of illness) to one of the following areas:
 - ◆ Mexico, OR
 - ◆ Texas or California of the United States; OR
- History of recent contact (7 days before onset of illness) with
 - ◆ patient with swine flu; OR
 - ◆ patient who has febrile respiratory illness and has visited Mexico; Texas or California of the United States during the 7 days preceding their illness onset.