



**ALAMEDA COUNTY HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Division of Communicable Disease Control & Prevention
1000 Broadway, 5th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Alex Briscoe, Director
Anita Siegel, Director
Muntu Davis, MD, MPH, Health Officer

Erica Pan, MD, MPH
Division Director, Deputy Health Officer
Main (510) 267-3200
Fax (510) 268-2140

HEALTH ADVISORY

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NOVEL H3N2 INFLUENZA VIRUS: INCREASED SURVEILLANCE

SITUATION

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is requesting increased surveillance and testing for influenza in children less than 18 years of age.

Background: Since July 2011, a novel swine-origin triple reassortant H3N2 influenza virus (S-OtrH3N2) has been reported in 5 states with a total of 12 cases. To date, the virus has not been reported in California. Eleven of 12 cases have occurred in children, with a median age of 3 years. Increased surveillance will help identify how widely the virus has spread, and gather information regarding transmission.

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF CLINICIANS:

- 1. Collect and submit specimens from children <18 years of age with influenza-like-illness (ILI). Submit naso-pharyngeal swab specimens to the Alameda County Public Health laboratory.**
 - This surveillance testing is offered at no charge to your patients.
 - Specimens will be tested in batches with results reported out weekly.
 - Please do not wait for test results when making clinical or treatment decisions for a specific patient.
 - Contact the **Acute Communicable Disease Unit (ACD)** at (510) 267-3250 for assistance in submitting specimens. A copy of the lab submittal form is attached.
 - Consider participation in the CA Sentinel Provider Program (see link for more information below).
- 2. Report fatal cases of laboratory-confirmed seasonal influenza in persons 0-64 years of age.**
 - Save specimens from hospitalized critically ill and fatal cases of influenza.
 - Contact **ACD** at (510) 267-3250 for reporting and assistance in arranging further testing.
- 3. Report outbreaks of influenza in residents of large group or institutional settings (e.g. long-term care or assisted living facilities) to ACD Unit.**
- 4. Continue influenza vaccination efforts for all persons 6 months of age and older, especially health care workers, high-risk populations, and caregivers of high-risk populations.**
 - Participate in the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) to assist us in determining county-wide influenza vaccination rates.

To make reports or for further information, please contact Alameda County Public Health Department ACD Unit at (510) 267-3250.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

REPORTING:

- Alameda County Public Health Department: www.acphd.org/communicable-disease/disease-reporting-and-control.aspx

- California Department of Public Health case report for severe/fatal cases
www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/2011_October_Final_Appendix%20A_SevereInfluenzaCaseHistoryForm_Sept2011.pdf
- Influenza Reporting Guidance for 2011-2012
www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/dcdc/Documents/CDPH_Health_Alert_InfluenzaReporting_2011-12_RevisedLetterHead.pdf

LAB TESTING:

- Alameda County Public Health Lab: www.acphd.org/public-health-lab.aspx

REFERENCES:

- Alameda County Public Health Department: www.acphd.org/seasonal-flu.aspx
- CDPH General Flu Information
[www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Influenza\(Flu\).aspx#_blank](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Influenza(Flu).aspx#_blank)
- CDPH Weekly Flu Summary
www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/dcdc/Documents/2012_Jan14_Final_FluReport_Ending_01142012.pdf
- CDPH Sentinel Provider Program
www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/dcdc/Pages/CaliforniaSentinelProviderProgram.aspx
- CDPH Recommendations for Prevention & Control of Flu in LTCF – Updated Dec 2011
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/hai/Documents/Influenza-Recommendations-LTCF-v.12-11.pdf>
- CDC www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/influenza-variant-viruses-h3n2v.htm

Health ALERT: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health ADVISORY: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health UPDATE: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.