



H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu) Update in California May 2009

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified cases in several states, including California, where people have been diagnosed with a form of influenza virus known as H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu).

Preliminary investigations indicate that in all cases there was no contact with swine. The swine influenza subtype isolated from these cases is unique and not previously recognized in either pigs or people.

- **Currently, there are no known outbreaks of swine influenza in pigs in California.**
 - Public health, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) veterinarians are investigating any possible link to swine but, to date, **there are no known swine exposures** and animal health laboratories report that there are no recent cases of this swine influenza subtype detected anywhere in the United States.
- **Owners of sick pigs are encouraged to call their veterinarian or CDFA.**
 - CDFA and USDA officials work together with animal owners and veterinarians to look for unusual swine influenza outbreaks in pig populations on a regular basis.
 - Owners of sick pigs with questions should call the Animal Health Branch District Office nearest them. (District map attached)
 - Appropriate samples may be submitted to any of the California Animal Health and Food Safety Labs (CAHFSL map attached)
- **The California Department of Food and Agriculture always recommends proper hygiene and health management practices when working with animals, which include:**
 - Wash hands before and after working with animals.
 - Keep new animals separate from your herd for two weeks and observe for signs of disease.
 - More specific swine biosecurity recommendations may be found on the National Pork Board website <http://www.pork.org>



- **Key background information on swine influenza in pigs:**
 - Swine Influenza Virus infections are a common cause of respiratory illness in pigs.
 - Flu vaccines for pigs can help, but are not 100% effective. One reason is that several different strains of flu can infect pigs and vaccines may not protect against all strains.
 - Infected pigs usually show signs of disease about 3 days post exposure and then are sick and infectious for about a week.
 - Pigs may show a variety of signs of disease, including coughing, runny nose and/or eyes, sneezing, depression, lack of appetite, depression, difficulty breathing and fever. The fever can cause them to abort a pregnancy.
 - Spread of the virus from pig to pig can be rapid and occurs via direct contact, getting carried on something that was not cleaned, and via respiratory excretions that become airborne for a short distance.
 - According to CDC, swine influenza virus is not considered a threat to food safety. Swine influenza viruses are not spread by food. You cannot get swine influenza from eating pork or pork products. Eating properly handled and cooked pork and pork products is safe.

- **For more detailed information related to swine influenza in pigs:**

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

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/SwineInfluenza.aspx>

http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Swine_Health.html#Flu

<http://www.pork.org>

**United States Department of Agriculture
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