

# H1N1 INFLUENZA A (SWINE FLU) ALERT CENTER

## MANAGEMENT OF H1N1 INFLUENZA CASES

### Suspected H1N1 Influenza

Patient with:

- Fever > 100.4°F (> 38°C) *and*
- Respiratory signs and symptoms (cough, sore throat, dyspnea) *and*
- Onset of acute illness within 7 days of close contact with a person who has a confirmed case of influenza A (H1N1) virus infection, *or*
- Onset of acute illness within 7 days of travel to a community (in the United States or internationally) where one or more influenza H1N1 cases have been confirmed, *or*
- Residence in a community where at least one influenza H1N1 case has been confirmed.

### Laboratory Testing

- Obtain and refrigerate a respiratory specimen for H1N1 influenza testing:
  - Preferred—nasopharyngeal swab/aspire or nasal wash/aspire
  - Acceptable—combined nasal swab with oropharyngeal swab
  - Intubated patients—also collect an endotracheal aspirate
- Contact state or local health department to facilitate testing at a state public health laboratory

### Infection Control

- Institute:
  - Standard precautions (hand hygiene)
  - Contact precautions (gown & gloves)
  - Droplet precautions (eye protection: goggle or full face shield)
  - Airborne precautions (N95 or equivalent respirator)
- Use precautions for all patient care activities
- Maintain precautions for 7 days after illness onset or until symptoms have resolved.
- Perform suctioning, bronchoscopy, or intubation in a procedure room with negative-pressure air handling
- Instruct patient in respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette

### Disposition in Hospital

- Notify hospital Infection Control
- Place patient in a single-patient room with the door kept closed.
- If available, an airborne-infection isolation room (AIIR) with negative-pressure air handling can be used

### Environmental Control

- Use dedicated noncritical medical equipment (e.g., stethoscope, thermometer) where possible; otherwise, disinfect after use
- Follow established guidelines for isolation precautions, including housekeeping practices

### Transport

- Confine patient to AIIR unless transport is essential
- Notify hospital infection control and receiving departments before transporting patient
- Patient must wear surgical mask when outside AIIR
- Transporter should wear N95
- Avoid populated areas during transport; use secure elevator

### Visitors

- Restrict access
- Screen for signs/symptoms of influenza
- Educate in use of infection control precautions

#### Sources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Guidelines for Professionals. <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/>  
Public Health Service, CDC, Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee.

Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings 2007.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/guidelines/Isolation2007.pdf>