

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released the following information:

Interim Guidance on Case Definitions for Swine Influenza A (H1N1) Human Case Investigations

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This document provides interim guidance for state and local health departments conducting investigations of human cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus. The following case definitions are for the purpose of investigations of suspected, probable, and confirmed cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection.

Definitions of Respiratory Illness

1. Acute respiratory illness
Recent onset of at least two of the following:
 1. rhinorrhea or nasal congestion
 2. sore throat
 3. cough
 4. fever or feverishness

2. Influenza-like illness: fever >37.8°C (100°F) plus cough or sore throat

Case Definitions for Infection with Swine Influenza A (H1N1) Virus

1. A Confirmed case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as a person with an acute respiratory illness with laboratory confirmed swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection at CDC by one or more of the following tests:
 1. real-time RT-PCR
 2. viral culture
 3. four-fold rise in swine influenza A (H1N1) virus specific neutralizing antibodies

2. A Probable case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as a person with an acute respiratory illness with an influenza test that is positive for influenza A, but H1 and H3 negative.

3. A Suspected case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as:
 1. A person with an acute respiratory illness who was a close contact to a confirmed case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection while the case was ill
OR
 2. A person with an acute respiratory illness with a recent history of contact with an animal with confirmed or suspected swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection
OR
 3. A person with an acute respiratory illness who has traveled to an area where there are confirmed cases of swine influenza A (H1N1)

Infectious period for confirmed cases = 1 day before onset to 7 days after onset of illness

Day before onset = Day -1

Onset day = Day 0

Days after onset = Days 1-7

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Human-to-human transmission of swine flu is thought to occur in the same way as seasonal flu occurs in people, which is mainly person-to-person transmission through coughing or sneezing of people infected with the influenza virus. People may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose. Increased EMS activity has been reported in the affected areas. More information on the current outbreak is available at http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/general_info.htm.