

Human Cases of Influenza A (H1N1) of Swine Origin in the United States and Abroad

April 29, 2009

Situation Update

- The World Health Organization raised the influenza pandemic alert from 4 to 5 today (it's second-highest level).
- CDC is reporting 91 human infections with this influenza A (H1N1) virus of swine origin in the United States. (An increase in 27 over the number of cases reported yesterday.)
- Total of 51 confirmed cases in New York State.
- The list of states with the numbers of people who are confirmed cases is updated daily at 11am at www.cdc.gov/swineflu.
- Human infections with this new virus have been confirmed in 10 states at this time.
- Today, CDC also is reporting the nation's first death from this outbreak. This death occurred in the state of Texas in a 22-month-old child.
- Expect to see more cases, more hospitalizations and more deaths from this outbreak over the coming days and weeks.
- Beginning to see a pattern of more severe illness in the cases in the United States that we had feared might emerge.
- Because this is a new virus, most people will not have immunity to it and so illness may be more severe and widespread as a result.
- The picture on the world stage is more somber today too. Internationally, more countries are reporting cases of infection with this new virus.
- There is no vaccine available right now to protect against this virus, but we have begun the process to get a vaccine developed. But as mentioned before, we do have antiviral medications in our arsenal to be used against flu.
- There are two influenza antiviral medications that are recommended for use against swine influenza. These are oseltamivir (trade name Tamiflu ®) and zanamivir (Relenza ®).
- Influenza antiviral drugs work best when started soon after illness onset (within two 2 days), but treatment with antiviral drugs should *still be considered after 48 hours of symptom onset, particularly for hospitalized patients or people at high risk for influenza-related complications.*