

Bug Bulletin

WEEKLY HUMAN SWINE INFLUENZA UPDATE

SYDNEY WEST | NSW HEALTH
AREA HEALTH SERVICE



June 22 2009

In liaison with WentWest, SWAHS Public Health Unit is providing you with a regular local update on the human swine flu situation. We hope this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any questions about human swine influenza please don't hesitate to contact your local public health unit.

National and State Policy

In recognition of established community transmission in Australia, and the relatively mild illness caused by human swine flu in most people, Australia moved to the PROTECT phase on June 17.

The focus of the PROTECT phase is to provide early treatment to those at highest risk of poor outcomes from human swine influenza.

Antivirals from the National Medical Stockpile will be dispensed free-of-charge by **GPs to patients meeting certain criteria**. An algorithm to guide your use of antivirals for your patients is available at

<http://www.emergency.health.nsw.gov.au/swineflu/professionals/index.asp>

People who present with acute febrile respiratory illness, whether or not they qualify for free antivirals, should be asked remain isolated at home until their symptoms resolve.

Viral testing is to be limited to people requiring hospital admission, or where the results could influence clinical management. If laboratory testing for respiratory infection is required for clinical management of symptomatic patients, then requests should state:

- 'influenza' if you require testing for seasonal influenza and H1N1 influenza 09
- 'respiratory virus' if a broader range of respiratory virus testing is required.

Laboratory testing should not be performed for asymptomatic patients.

Antiviral supplies

In NSW antivirals will be distributed from the State Vaccine Centre, with distribution starting this week. An order form is available at: <http://www.emergency.health.nsw.gov.au/swineflu/professionals/index.asp>

Prior to receiving supplies from the vaccine centre, and to obtain Tamiflu suspension until further notice, you can access free treatment for your patients by calling the **SWAHS Pharmacy Hotline 9881 8151** from 0830-1700 M-F. Outside these hours, dispensing will be via Emergency Departments - please provide your patient with a script and ask them to take it to their nearest hospital Emergency Department.

Tamiflu capsules will be supplied from the State Vaccine Centre for adults and children over 40kg. Relenza inhalers are available to order for patients with severe renal failure.

Situation in SWAHS

As of June 22, SWAHS Public Health Unit has assessed 630 people for human swine influenza of which 129 are confirmed and 16 are probable cases. Several local areas appear to have a high rate of cases: St Marys/Mt Druiitt; Merrylands; Kings Langley and Baulkham Hills.

Schools

During CONTAIN phase, public health action was taken in several SWAHS schools where children with confirmed human swine influenza had attended whilst infectious. Close contacts were supplied with antiviral prophylaxis and other families were given information to watch out for symptoms.

During PROTECT phase when the PHU becomes aware of a case that attended school whilst infectious a letter will be provided to alert families to look out for symptoms, and to keep children with febrile respiratory illness at home.

Contact Details **Centre for Population Health, Sydney West Area Health Service**

Parramatta Office

Phone (02) 9840 3603 Fax (02) 9840 3608

Penrith Office

Phone (02) 4734 2022 Fax (02) 4734 3444

After hours: telephone Westmead Hospital switchboard on 9845 5555 and page the Public Health Officer on-call.