



County of Erie

CHRIS COLLINS
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ANTHONY J. BILLITTIER IV, M.D., FACEP
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

HEALTH ADVISORY #243

JUNE 12, 2009

HEALTH ADVISORY: NOVEL INFLUENZA A H1N1 (SWINE FLU) LABORATORY TESTING PRIORITIES

Please distribute immediately to Community providers, staff in the Departments of Laboratory Medicine, Critical Care, Emergency Medicine, Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Infectious Disease, Infection Control, Pediatrics, Pulmonary Medicine, and all inpatient and outpatient units.

Swine Flu Testing

New York State and Erie County public health swine flu testing capacity remains limited and continues to be utilized for epidemiological purposes only. Patient care should continue to be based upon history, physical exam, and any other appropriate alternate laboratory testing.

The Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) has updated our Swine Flu testing priorities. The ECDOH Public Health Laboratory will not run the H1N1 test if a patient does not meet the following criteria.

A. Hospitalized Patients

Physicians are encouraged to test for Influenza A H1N1 (swine flu) virus in ALL hospitalized patients with:

- Influenza-like-illness (ILI) *
- Pneumonia

B. Non-Hospitalized Patients

Physicians with suspect cases of Influenza A H1N1 (swine flu) virus who meet the following criteria are asked to contact the ECDOH Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance division at (716) 858-7697 prior to testing for further direction on testing procedures.

Non-hospitalized persons who have ILI* illness and are:

- Health care workers
- Children under the age of 5 years
- Adults over the age of 65 years
- Pregnant

- Individuals working in or individuals living in a residential institutional or group facility (group home, nursing home, correctional facility, college dormitory, etc.) **without** a previously confirmed case
- Individuals working in or individuals attending a non-residential facility or other group gathering (school, daycare, large community based organization, etc.) **without** a previously confirmed case.
- Other non-school aged individuals who live in a zip code area **without** a previously confirmed case. You will find a current map of zip codes in Erie County where there have been confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 (swine flu) virus on the ECDOH website at http://www.erie.gov/health/swine_flu.asp (click on the link titled “Areas in Erie County with positive cases of Novel Influenza A H1N1 (swine flu) virus”).

***Influenza-like-illness (ILI)** is defined as fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) and a cough and/or a sore throat in the absence of a known cause other than influenza.

Questions regarding this advisory should be directed to the ECDOH at (716) 858-7697 or [DOH @erie.gov](mailto:DOH@erie.gov)

Health Category Definitions:

Health Alert FLASH: conveys the highest level of importance due to a large-scale, catastrophic public health emergency; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Alert Priority: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention to a health problem or situation

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary