



ASCIP *RISK ALERT!*

Date: April 27, 2009

Attention: ASCIP Members

Subject: *SWINE INFLUENZA VIRUS*

In light of the recent media attention given to 20 human cases of Swine Influenza A (H1N1) being confirmed in the United States, government officials, health authorities and World leaders are calling for swift action to control the spread of this disease. Swine Influenza A (H1N1), first identified in 1930, is a respiratory disease affecting pigs caused by Type A viruses. Typically, Swine Influenza A is limited to pigs, but as early as 1976 the disease was confirmed in Humans.

California and other states that border Mexico are of particular concern as many people travel between Mexico and the United States and may carry the Swine Influenza unknowingly into the United States. A human disease outbreak could occur and initiate a Statewide SEMS/NIMS response.

Because young children explore by handling and tasting their environment and interact with others through touch and sharing of books, toys and the like, it is important for staff to maintain a sanitary environment and to closely monitor student hygiene practices. Swine Influenza is much like other Type 'A' influenzas and presents symptoms of fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headaches, chills and fatigue and is spread through person-to-person contact or by touching a contaminated surface.

Since Swine Influenza is a worldwide concern, the Federal Government is working with various state and foreign governments to establish certain protocols by which this issue may be addressed. Until a protocol is developed, staff and students should practice good hygiene procedures: limit contact with those who are infected with Swine Influenza, wash hands thoroughly, cover your nose and mouth when sneezing and/or coughing, properly dispose of used tissues, do not touch contaminated surfaces or objects, and remain at home if you are ill or sick.

Staff should report any suspected or identified cases of Swine Influenza to its local health agency. For more information on communicable and reportable diseases, see ASCIP's risk alert on [Communicable & Reportable Diseases](#). In addition, Members should familiarize themselves with their SEMS/NIMS emergency response plans addressing Pandemic Flu or similar types of influenzas.

ASCIP Staff is available to assist in answering potential disease concerns as they may arise.

Related Risk Alerts

[Avian Influenza](#)
[Communicable & Reportable Diseases](#)