

Infection control guidance for community and primary care for H1N1 (swine) influenza

Issued by: Oxfordshire PCT in consultation with the Thames Valley Health Protection Unit (HPU) and the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Local Medical Committee (LMC) **Author:** Dr Tom Porter **Date:** 2 May 2009 **Version:** 1.0

Please note This is an evolving situation and therefore this guidance is subject to regular review; the latest version will be posted on the Oxfordshire PCT intranet at <http://www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk/Directorates/Pages/SwineInfluenza.aspx>. The current HPA algorithm² advises all suspected cases of H1N1 (swine) flu should be notified and discussed with the local HPU (tel: 0845 279 9879), who can also confirm the latest personal protective equipment (PPE) recommendations.

This guidance summarises current guidelines and evidence from the Department of Health,¹ Health Protection Agency,² World Health Organization,^{3,4} British Medical Association and Royal College of General Practitioners,⁵ on H1N1 (swine) influenza^{2,3} and pandemic influenza.^{1,4-5}

Current H1N1 (swine) influenza case definitions⁶

Suspected* Travel to an area known to have H1N1 infections in the 7 days prior to the onset of illness OR close contact with a probable or confirmed case while the case was symptomatic or within 24h of symptoms starting

and

Fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ OR history of fever; AND flu-like illness (2 or more of: cough, headache, rhinorrhoea, diarrhoea/vomiting)
OR other severe or life-threatening illness suggestive of an infectious process

Probable A suspected case in whom there has been a positive lab test for influenza A (not typed)

Confirmed A suspected or probable case in whom there has been a positive lab test for swine influenza H1N1

In all patients

Standard universal precautions. Personal and hand hygiene are of paramount importance – hands should be washed thoroughly between patients.

For patients with suspected H1N1 influenza¹⁻⁵

For routine examinations and procedures (**including** nasal and throat swabs)

- Standard fluid-repellent surgical face mask; gloves; apron
- If there is a risk of splashes onto the face, goggles and a gown should be worn

For aerosol-generating procedures **only** (primarily intubation, NP aspiration, tracheostomy care, chest physiotherapy, bronchoscopy and nebuliser therapy)

- A fit-tested FFP3 face mask (disposable or reusable)
- Eye protection (e.g. goggles); gloves; gown

For patients with probable or confirmed H1N1 influenza (or suspected cases in the household)²

Current HPA national guidance advises that full PPE should be worn when community and primary care staff are in attendance at the household of a patient with **probable** or **confirmed** H1N1 in a community setting:

- A fit-tested FFP3 face mask (disposable or reusable)
- Eye protection (e.g. goggles); gloves; gown

Note The current HPA recommendation of full PPE when attending probable or confirmed cases exceeds WHO recommendations for swine flu infection control³ and is subject to review.

Change and disposal of PPE

Disposable masks should be changed when they become moist. All PPE should be disposed of carefully and treated as infectious clinical waste.

*Also referred to as a 'possible' case

References

1. DH (2007). Pandemic influenza: guidance for infection control in hospitals and primary care settings. From: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_080771 2. HPA (2009). Human swine influenza Algorithm S5. From: <http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1240812234677> 3. WHO (2009). Infection prevention and control in health care in providing care for confirmed or suspected A(H1N1) swine influenza patients. From: <http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/swineflu/swineinflcont/en/index.html> 4. WHO (2007). Infection prevention and control of epidemic- and pandemic-prone acute respiratory diseases in health care. From: http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/WHO_CD_EPR_2007_6/en/index.html 5. DH, RCGP, BMA (2008). Preparing for pandemic influenza - guidance for GP practices. From: http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical_and_research/pandemic_planning.aspx 6. HPA (2009). Swine flu case definitions. From: <http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1240812234677>