

Date: April 29, 2009

To: All Staff

From: Senior Executive, Alberta Health Services
Dr. Gerry Predy, Sr. Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health Services

RE: Human Swine Influenza in Alberta

Alberta Health and Wellness has confirmed cases of Human Swine Flu in Alberta. Nationally, a total of 13 cases have been recorded as of April 28. All of these cases are classified as mild. Currently, Alberta Health Services has increased surveillance levels and is working closely with Alberta Health and Wellness to monitor Human Swine Influenza activity in our province.

Across the province, AHS has taken the appropriate steps to implement our response plans for this situation. Locally, Emergency Operation Centres or EOCs have been activated as part of our standard practice for events such as this. These centres will assist with the streamlining of clinical directives and responses as needed.

As a healthcare worker, taking precautions to ensure the health and safety of yourself and others is part of our work environment. As always, to protect yourself from infectious disease at work, please follow routine infection prevention and control practices. Please remember to:

- wash your hands frequently
- cover your cough; and,
- stay home and inform your supervisor if you are ill. (If you have recently traveled abroad and are well, please report to work as usual).

Staff are reminded to follow the established protocols for dealing with people with cough and respiratory infections. If dealing with patients suspected of having Serious Respiratory Illness, or when performing aerosol generating procedures, N95 masks are recommended. If you have specific questions, please check with your local Infection Prevention and Control Program or local Medical Officer of Health.

Your health is a priority for Alberta Health Services. We will continue to monitor this situation and advise staff of any updates. For up-to-date information, please visit your local intranet site or www.albertahealthservices.ca.

Please share this with fellow staff members who do not have access to e-mails. Print and post on staff bulletin boards and in staff rooms.
