



Public Health Message

from the Fort Wayne-AlLEN County Department of Health

Date: May 1, 2009

Update

Global/National:

- CDC has issued new guidance for school closure. One new recommendation is that if a school is closed, it should be for a minimum of 14 days. To minimize staffing shortages encourage staff need to make alternate child care plans should the schools close for this duration. For complete information: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/k12_dismissal.htm
- No change in pandemic phase
- Just a reminder of who should be tested:

CDC recommends that state and local health departments, hospitals, and clinicians in regions with few or no reported cases of S-OIV consider the following recommendations for testing of the following persons for S-OIV infection with a nasopharyngeal swab by PCR:

1. Patients presenting to providers who are sentinel sites who meet the case definition of influenza-like illness (ILI), or
2. Patients with an ILI who have traveled within 7 days to a community either within the United States or internationally where there are one or more confirmed swine influenza A (H1N1) cases, or
3. Patients admitted to the hospital with an ILI.

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.

State/Local

- We have received additional calls from physicians who have diagnosed patients with Influenza B. This does appear to be occurring in other parts of the state as well.
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- The ISDH lab will be operating this weekend. Samples can be sent or drove down if needed. The ISDH lab hours will be:
 - Saturday 8 AM to 5 PM
 - Sunday 12 PM to 5 PM

The Department of Health will transport on Saturday if there is a need. Specimens will be picked up starting at 8:30am and cut-off for pick-up will be 11am. We will only run specimens on Saturday. Calls for pick-up or for questions should still come to Brad Witte, our Emergency Preparedness Director at 449-7151.

Please feel free to call if needed
Deb McMahan, MD