

MCMS BULLETIN



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IMPORTANT NOTICE! SWINE FLU UPDATE!!

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services has issued surveillance and testing protocols regarding the swine flu for physicians and healthcare providers. Symptoms of the swine flu include fever, cough, sore throat, nasal congestions, rhinorrhea, vomiting, diarrhea, myalgia, headache, chills, fatigue, dyspnea and conjunctivitis. Be alert to patients who:

- 1) have a travel history where swine flu (H1N1) has been documented or who have traveled to affected areas (California, Texas or Mexico);
- 2) have a history of travel to areas where other respiratory infections have been identified;
- 3) have had close contact (within six feet) of an ill patient who has traveled to one of the above areas;
- 4) have had recent exposure to pigs;
- 5) works with live influenza virus in a laboratory.

Physicians **MUST** report cases meeting the above criteria **IMMEDIATELY** to the local health department where the patient resides. **A list of the Morris County Health Officers can be obtained from the Society office.** If you are unable to reach the local health officers, physicians are **REQUIRED** to report the case to the NJ Department of Health & Senior Services, Communicable Disease Service at **(609) 588-7500, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. During all other times, please call (609) 392-2020.**

Recommendations for office staff and physicians are: keeping a distance of at least 6 feet from the ill person; personal protective equipment, fit-tested N95 respirator, or if unavailable a medical/surgical mask.

For collecting respiratory specimens from an ill suspected or confirmed case it is recommended that personal protective equipment, fit-tested disposable N95 respirator (or medical/surgical mask), disposable gloves, gown and goggles be used. When completed, place all of the above in a biohazard bag for appropriate disposal; wash hand the thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand gel. It is also advisable to keep patients suspected of having swine flu separate from other patients.

If you would like a copy of the entire protocol or the reporting form, please call the Society office. For additional information about the swine flu, please contact the CDC at (800) 232-4636 or <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu>.