



## PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY CDC Health Advisory Influenza A H3N2v

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Columbus Public Health &  
Franklin County Public Health

### What you need to know

Influenza viruses that normally circulate in pigs are called "variant" viruses when they infect people. Influenza A H3N2 variant viruses ("H3N2v") with the matrix (M) gene from the 2009 H1N1 pandemic virus were first detected in pigs in 2010, then in 12 people during 2011. In 2012, 309 cases of H3N2v infection were detected, of which 107 were Ohioans. H3N2v infections have already been confirmed in Indiana in 2013. H3N2v infections have mostly been associated with prolonged exposure to pigs at agricultural fairs. Limited human-to-human spread of this virus has been detected as well, but no sustained or community spread of H3N2v has been identified to date. Because sporadic H3N2v infections and even localized outbreaks are anticipated, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed guidance for healthcare providers.

### What to watch for

Influenza-like illness (ILI) including fever >100°F with cough or sore throat in individuals with recent exposure to swine, recent attendance at a fair where swine were present or close contact with a confirmed case of influenza A H3N2v..

### What you can do

Healthcare providers who suspect influenza in persons with recent exposure to swine should obtain a nasopharyngeal swab or aspirate, place the swab or aspirate in viral transport medium and contact Infectious Disease Reporting System (IDRS) at 614 525-8888 to arrange real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) at Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Laboratory.

Healthcare providers should consider antiviral treatment with oral oseltamivir (Tamiflu) or inhaled zanamivir (Relenza) for patients with suspected or confirmed influenza A H3N2v. Antiviral treatment is most effective when initiated as soon as possible after illness onset.

### Who is at risk

Individuals at high risk of serious influenza A H3N2v complications include children younger than 5 years, people 65 years and older, pregnant women and people with long-term health conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease, weakened immune systems and neurological or neurodevelopmental conditions. Such high risk individuals, who attend a fair where pigs are present, should avoid pigs and swine barns at the fair.

Children are at highest risk of infection with influenza A H3N2v. Young children have little or no pre-existing immunity, while older children and adults have low levels of cross-reactive antibody.

Influenza A H3N2v is mostly associated with prolonged exposure to pigs at agricultural fairs.

### To learn more

CDC Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory ~ Influenza A H3N2v  
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00351.asp>

CDC ~ Treatment of Influenza A H3N2v  
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-treatment.htm>

CDC ~ Influenza A H3N2v Specimen Collection, Processing & Testing  
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-testing.htm>

What is this? [Learn more about this emergency notification system.](#)

### Contact

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