



PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY: Flu Illnesses from Butler County Fair Healthcare Providers Advised to Watch for Flu Symptoms and Test

August 3, 2012

From Columbus Public Health and
Franklin County Public Health

What you need to know

The Ohio Departments of Health (ODH) and Agriculture (ODA), along with the Butler County Health Department are actively investigating human illnesses associated with the Butler County Fair.

The CDC has confirmed that nine of the 10 suspected influenza cases in Butler County have tested positive for the H3N2v strain. The strain matches the flu virus that recently infected four people with swine exposure at an [Indiana County Fair](#).

No individuals have been hospitalized to date.

What to watch for

Influenza viruses such as H3N2v and its variants are not unusual in swine and can be directly transmitted from swine to people and from people to swine in the same way that all viruses can be transmitted between people.

When humans are in close proximity to live infected swine, such as in barns and livestock exhibits at fairs, movement of these viruses can occur back and forth between humans and animals. Influenza viruses cannot be transmitted by eating pork or pork products.

The illnesses caused by H3N2v virus have been similar to illnesses associated with seasonal flu virus infections which may include fever, headache, tiredness, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, diarrhea, and vomiting.

What you can do

1. Consider testing for influenza if you see patients with Influenza-like illness who have had direct contact to swine, 7 days prior to onset or had direct contact to another confirmed case of influenza A, H3N2v. PCR diagnostic testing or viral culture testing through your clinical laboratory is preferred so that sequencing can be done.
2. Currently available rapid influenza diagnostic tests for use in physician's offices may not adequately detect this virus. Consider collecting a nasopharyngeal swab for PCR diagnostic testing or viral culture testing through your clinical laboratory.
3. Individual cases of seasonal influenza are not reportable. However, any Novel Influenza A cases such as H3N2v is reportable immediately upon recognition of the case. Please visit our Infectious Disease Reporting System website www.idrsinfo.org for details on how to report a disease.
4. Advise precautions: always wash hands with soap and water before and after petting or touching any animal; do not eat, drink, or put anything in your mouth in animal areas;

Who is at risk

People in close proximity to live infected swine, such as in barns and livestock exhibits at fairs.

Additionally, children, pregnant women, elderly, and those with compromised immune systems should be especially careful around swine and practice good hand washing habits; those who work closely with swine should take appropriate protective measures, including hand hygiene, personal protective equipment, and regular influenza vaccination.

To learn more

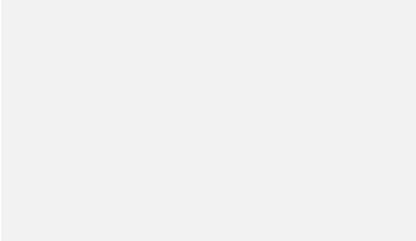
[Health Officials Investigating Flu-Like Illness From Butler County Fair](#)

cdc.gov/flu/spotlights/safe-fair-going

[What People Who Raise Pigs Need To Know About Influenza \(Flu\)](#)

[Interim Guidance for health care professional relevant to H3N2v](#)

and older adults, pregnant women, young children, and people with weakened immune systems should use extra caution around animals.



What is this? **Learn more about this emergency notification system.**



www.idrsinfo.org

IDRS line: 614-525-8888

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614-645-1474 option #2