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30 April 2009

PPA OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO. 02 - 2009



TO : All Port District Managers/Port Managers
Shipping Lines/Companies/Agents
Terminal Operators/Cargo Handlers
Passengers/Cargo Owners/Port Users
Harbor Pilots and Other Concerned

SUBJ : **POLICIES AND GUIDELINES GOVERNING HEALTH MEASURES FOR ARRIVING/DEPARTING PASSENGERS AND CREW FROM/TO INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS DUE TO INFLUENZA A (H1N1) OUTBREAK**

This is in reference to the attached Memorandum Circular No. 02-S2009 dated 28 April 2009 from the Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) on health measures against the spread of the Influenza A (H1N1) virus. Said Circular defines the policies and prescribes the guidelines for the effective and efficient health screening measures of arriving/departing passengers and crew to prevent, protect, control and mitigate the transmission or spread of said Influenza virus.

In view thereof, all concerned are hereby directed to strictly enforce and implement the health measures prescribed under said BOQ Circular. The PDOs/PMOs and others concerned are hereby directed to implement the following health screening measures, among others:

1. Assist quarantine personnel in seaports in the heightened surveillance of international travelers arriving with Influenza-like Illness (ILI) and to report any cases thereof;
2. Assist quarantine personnel in seaports in conducting health promotion and education activities with regard to the Influenza A (H1N1) virus, in advising arriving passengers/crew on the importance of the Health Alert Notices (HAN) and if warranted, in the submission of a duly accomplished Health Declaration Checklist to quarantine officials;
3. Ensure that all arriving vessels at seaports of entry are to be boarded first by a Quarantine Medical Officer. It must be emphasized that only after a Free Pratique is issued will other persons be allowed to embark or disembark. Harbor Pilots and stevedores/port workers shall only board and work on vessels after ascertaining that a Free Pratique has already been granted;

VISION

By 2010, PPA shall have met the international standards in port facilities and services in at least ten (10) ports in support of national development.

MISSION

We commit to provide reliable and responsive services in our ports, sustain development of our port communities and the environment, and be a model corporate agency of the government.

4. Issuance of direct berthing privileges (Controlled Pratique) shall be on a case-to-case basis or suspended if warranted, depending on the pandemic alert phase of the Influenza A (H1N1) outbreak. If direct berthing is allowed, the Quarantine Medical Officer shall clear the vessel first before boarding by other persons;
5. Vessel Master shall report in advance any case of influenza-like illness, other health emergencies and deaths on board the vessel. The required health declaration documents shall also be properly accomplished and submitted to the Quarantine Medical Officer;
6. Assist in implementing previously designed and agreed upon quarantine health protocols in handling suspected cases of swine influenza or other infectious diseases.

Kindly take note that the prescribed health screening measures are being adopted in all airports and seaports of entry in the wake of the Influenza A (H1N1) outbreak.

For guidance and immediate compliance.


LEOPOLDO E. RUNGUBUNG
Assistant General Manager for Operations

Encl : BOQ Memorandum Circular No 02-S2009 dated 28 April 2009



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BUREAU OF QUARANTINE
25th and A.C. Delgado Streets
Port Area, Manila



28 April 2008

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2 S2009

TO: ALL QUARANTINE PERSONNEL, AIRPORT AND SEAPORT AUTHORITIES; GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AT PORTS OF ENTRY, AIRLINES, SHIPPING, PORT USERS AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: POLICIES AND GUIDELINES GOVERNING HEALTH MEASURES FOR ARRIVING / DEPARTING PASSENGERS AND CREW FROM / TO INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS DUE TO SWINE INFLUENZA OUTBREAK

I. RATIONALE

As mandated by Republic Act No. 9271 and in pursuit to prevent, protect, mitigate the introduction, transmission or spread of public health emergencies of international concern into the country at our airports / seaports of entry, the Department of Health, through the Bureau of Quarantine, is tasked to promulgate and enforce rules and regulations on health screening measures on arriving /departing passengers and crew.

II. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

As mandated by Section 53.1, Part XI of Administrative Order No. 186, series of 2004, otherwise known as the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9271, this Circular defines the policies and prescribes the guidelines for effective and efficient health screening measures of arriving/departing passengers and crew to prevent, protect, control, and mitigate the transmission or spread of Swine Influenza.

III. DEFINITION OF TERMS

A. Airport of entry - any airport designated as such by a competent authority of the Philippines on which an aircraft may make its entry into the country.

- B. Seaport of entry - any seaport designated as such by a competent authority of the Philippines on which a sea craft may make its entry into the country.
- C. Health Declaration Checklist - health declaration form to be accomplished by a passenger or crew upon arrival and departure.
- D. Health Alert Notice - card or flyer given to arriving passenger or crew with information of a particular disease and contact data of health authorities.
- E. Public Health Emergency of International Concern - an emergency posing a serious and direct threat to the human population considering the element of seriousness, unexpectedness, potential for spread and travel restriction.
- F. Thermal Scanner - equipment to measure body temperature at a distance using infra-red sensor
- G. Pratique - permission for an aircraft / sea craft to enter an airport or seaport, disembark person/s and commence port operation after compliance of health regulations.

IV. POLICY STATEMENT

A. GENERAL POLICY GUIDELINES

The Bureau hereby adopts efficient, effective, reliable health screening measures due to the swine influenza outbreak without necessarily impeding restriction to trade, travel, and passengers/crew comfort and safety.

B. OPERATIONAL POLICY GUIDELINES

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

- a. All quarantine personnel assigned at international airports/seaports are hereby ordered to heighten surveillance on travelers arriving with Influenza-like Illness (ILI). All port authorities, government agencies, airlines, shipping lines are encouraged to report any case/s of ILI.
- b. All quarantine personnel assigned at international airports/seaports are ordered to conduct health promotion and

education activities with regard to swine influenza virus through posters, flyers, tarpaulins, public health announcements (PHA) and other I.E.C. material. All port authorities, government agencies, airlines, shipping lines are encouraged to provide assistance in promoting this activity.

- c. All arriving passengers /crew are to be issued Health Alert Notices (HAN). This is to be kept by the passenger/crew for at least ten (10) days in order for them to contact proper health authorities if they need help or assistance on swine influenza. All port authorities, government agencies, airlines, shipping lines are encouraged to advise and instruct all arriving passengers /crew on the importance of the HAN.
- d. All arriving passengers/crew are to undergo fever monitoring check thru the use of thermal scanners or forehead thermometers.
- e. All arriving passengers/crew are to submit a duly accomplished Health Declaration Checklist if warranted, depending on the pandemic alert phase of the swine influenza.
- f. Departing passengers/crew are to undergo fever monitoring thru use of thermal scanners or forehead thermometers, if warranted, depending on the pandemic alert phase of the swine influenza.
- g. Departing passengers/crew are to fill-up Health Declaration Checklist, if warranted, depending on the pandemic alert phase of the swine influenza.
- h. All sea craft or vessels arriving at seaports of entry are to be boarded first by a Quarantine Medical Officer. Only after a free pratique is issued will other person/s be allowed to embark or disembark. Direct berthing privileges (Controlled Pratique) issuance shall be on a case to case basis or suspended if warranted, depending on the pandemic alert phase of the swine influenza.
- i. Aircraft Commanders/Master of Vessel are ordered to report in advance case/s of influenza-like illness, other health emergencies and deaths on board. Health documents (i.e. General Declaration, Maritime

Declaration, Manifest, etc.) are to be accomplished and submitted upon to the Duty Quarantine Medical Officer.

- j. All port authorities, government agencies, airlines, shipping lines, port users are encouraged to assist in implementing previously designed and agreed upon quarantine health protocols in handling suspected case/s of swine influenza or other infectious diseases.

V. REPEALING CLAUSE:

All orders, memoranda and or other Bureau of Quarantine issuances in conflict herewith are hereby rescinded, revised, or modified accordingly.

VI. EFFECTIVITY:

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.

For strict compliance.



EDGARDO C. SABITSANA, MD, MPH
Director IV, CESO III

27 April 2009

Swine influenza - update 3

27 April 2009 -- The current situation regarding the outbreak of swine influenza A(H1N1) is evolving rapidly. As of 27 April 2009, the United States Government has reported 40 laboratory confirmed human cases of swine influenza A(H1N1), with no deaths. Mexico has reported 26 confirmed human cases of infection with the same virus, including seven deaths. Canada has reported six cases, with no deaths, while Spain has reported one case, with no deaths.

Further information on the situation will be available on the WHO website on a regular basis.

WHO advises no restriction of regular travel or closure of borders. It is considered prudent for people who are ill to delay international travel and for people developing symptoms following international travel to seek medical attention, in line with guidance from national authorities.

There is also no risk of infection from this virus from consumption of well-cooked pork and pork products. Individuals are advised to wash hands thoroughly with soap and water on a regular basis and should seek medical attention if they develop any symptoms of influenza-like illness.

Related links

[Swine influenza web site](#)

Daily updates will be posted on this site.

[Contacts](#) | [E-mail scams](#) | [Employment](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Privacy](#) | [RSS feeds](#)
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Swine influenza frequently asked questions

27 April 2009

- What is swine influenza?
- What are the implications for human health?
- Where have human cases occurred?
- How do people become infected?
- Is it safe to eat pork meat and products?
- What about the pandemic risk?
- Is there a human vaccine to protect swine influenza?
- What drugs are available for treatment?

What is swine influenza?

Swine influenza, or "swine flu", is a highly contagious acute respiratory disease of pigs, caused by one of several swine influenza A viruses. Morbidity tends to be high and mortality low (1-4%). The virus is spread among pigs by aerosols, direct and indirect contact, and asymptomatic carrier pigs. Outbreaks in pigs occur year round, with an increased incidence in the fall and winter in temperate zones. Many countries routinely vaccinate swine populations against swine influenza.

Swine influenza viruses are most commonly of the H1N1 subtype, but other subtypes are also circulating in pigs (e.g., H1N2, H3N1, H3N2). Pigs can also be infected with avian influenza viruses and human seasonal influenza viruses as well as swine influenza viruses. The H3N2 swine virus was thought to have been originally introduced into pigs by humans. Sometimes pigs can be infected with more than one virus type at a time, which can allow the genes from these viruses to mix. This can result in an influenza virus containing genes from a number of sources, called a "reassortant" virus. Although swine influenza viruses are normally species specific and only infect pigs, they do sometimes cross the species barrier to cause disease in humans.



World Health Organization

What are the implications for human health?

Outbreaks and sporadic human infection with swine influenza have been occasionally reported. Generally clinical symptoms are similar to seasonal influenza but reported clinical presentation ranges broadly from asymptomatic infection to severe pneumonia resulting in death.

Since typical clinical presentation of swine influenza infection in humans resembles seasonal influenza and other acute upper respiratory tract infections, most of the cases have been detected by chance through seasonal influenza surveillance. Mild or asymptomatic cases may have escaped from recognition; therefore the true extent of this disease among humans is unknown.

Where have human cases occurred?

Since the implementation of IHR(2005)¹ in 2007, WHO has been notified of swine influenza cases from the United States and Spain.

How do people become infected?

People usually get swine influenza from infected pigs, however, some human cases lack contact history with pigs or environments where pigs have been located. Human-to-human transmission has occurred in some instances but was limited to close contacts and closed groups of people.

Is it safe to eat pork and pork products?

Yes. Swine influenza has not been shown to be transmissible to people through eating properly handled and prepared pork (pig meat) or other products derived from pigs. The swine influenza virus is killed by cooking temperatures of 160 F/70 C, corresponding to the general guidance for the preparation of pork and other meat.

Which countries have been affected by outbreaks in pigs?

Swine influenza is not notifiable to international animal health authorities (OIE, www.oie.int), therefore its international distribution in animals is not well known. The disease is considered endemic in the United States. Outbreaks in pigs are also known to have occurred in North America, South America, Europe (including the UK, Sweden, and Italy), Africa (Kenya), and in parts of eastern Asia including China and Japan.

¹ International Health Regulation (2005) <http://www.who.int/ihr/about/en/>



**World Health
Organization**

What about the pandemic risk?

It is likely that most of people, especially those who do not have regular contact with pigs, do not have immunity to swine influenza viruses that can prevent the virus infection. If a swine virus establishes efficient human-to-human transmission, it can cause an influenza pandemic. The impact of a pandemic caused by such a virus is difficult to predict: it depends on virulence of the virus, existing immunity among people, cross protection by antibodies acquired from seasonal influenza infection and host factors.

Is there a human vaccine to protect from swine influenza?

There are no vaccines that contain the current swine influenza virus causing illness in humans. It is not known whether current human seasonal influenza vaccines can provide any protection. Influenza viruses change very quickly. It is important to develop a vaccine against the currently circulating virus strain for it to provide maximum protection to the vaccinated people. This is why WHO needs access to as many viruses as possible in order to select the most appropriate candidate vaccine virus.

What drugs are available for treatment?

There are two classes of such medicines, 1) adamantanes (amantadine and remantadine), and 2) inhibitors of influenza neuraminidase (oseltamivir and zanamivir).

Most of the previously reported swine influenza cases recovered fully from the disease without requiring medical attention and without antiviral medicines.

Some influenza viruses develop resistance to the antiviral medicines, limiting the effectiveness of treatment. The viruses obtained from the recent human cases with swine influenza in the United States are sensitive to oseltamivir and zanamivir but resistant to amantadine and remantadine.

Information is insufficient to make recommendation on the use of the antivirals in treatment of swine influenza virus infection. Clinicians have to make decisions based on the clinical and epidemiological assessment and harms and benefit of the treatment of the patient². For the ongoing outbreak of the swine influenza infection in the United States and Mexico, the national and the local authorities are recommending to use oseltamivir or zanamivir for treatment of the disease based on the virus's susceptibility profile.

² For benefits and harms of influenza-specific antivirals, see http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/guidelines/pharmamanagement/en/index.html



What should I do if I am in regular contact with pigs?

Even though there is no clear indication that the current human cases with swine influenza infection are related to recent or ongoing influenza-like disease events in pigs, it would be advisable to minimize contact with sick pigs and report such animals to relevant animal health authorities.

Most people are infected through prolonged, close contact with infected pigs. Good hygiene practices are essential in all contact with animals and are especially important during slaughter and post-slaughter handling to prevent exposure to disease agents. Sick animals or animals that died from disease should not be undergoing slaughtering procedures. Follow further advice from relevant national authorities.

Swine influenza has not been shown to be transmissible to people through eating properly handled and prepared pork (pig meat) or other products derived from pigs. The swine influenza virus is killed by cooking temperatures of 160°F/70°C corresponding to the general guidance for the preparation of pork and other meat.

How can I protect myself from getting swine influenza from infected people?

In the past, human infection with swine influenza was generally mild but is known to have caused severe illness such as pneumonia. For the current outbreaks in the United States and Mexico however, the clinical pictures have been different. None of the confirmed cases in the United States have had the severe form of the disease and the patients recovered from illness without requiring medical care. In Mexico, some patients reportedly had the severe form of the disease.

To protect yourself, practice general preventive measures for influenza:

- Avoid close contact with people who appear unwell and who have fever and cough.
- Wash your hands with soap and water frequently and thoroughly.
- Practice good health habits including adequate sleep, eating nutritious food, and keeping physically active.



World Health Organization

What should I do if I think I have swine influenza?

If you feel unwell, have high fever, cough and/or sore throat:

- Stay at home and keep away from work, school or crowds as much as possible.
- Rest and take plenty of fluids.
- Cover your mouth and nose with disposable tissues when coughing and sneezing and dispose of the used tissues properly.
- Wash your hands with soap and water frequently and thoroughly, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Inform family and friends about your illness and seek help for household chores that require contact with other people such as shopping.

If you need medical attention:

- Contact your doctor or healthcare provider before travelling to see them and report your symptoms. Explain why you think you have swine influenza (for example, if you have recently travelled to a country where there is a swine influenza outbreak in humans). Follow the advice given to you for care.
- If it is not possible to contact your healthcare provider in advance, communicate your suspicion of having swine influenza immediately upon arrival at the healthcare facility.
- Take care to cover your nose and mouth during travel.



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If there is an ill person at home:

- Try to provide the ill person a separate section in the house. If this is not possible, keep the patient at least 1 meter in distance from others.
- Cover mouth and nose when caring for the ill person. Masks can be bought commercially or made using the readily available materials as long as they are disposed of or cleaned properly.
- Wash your hands with soap and water thoroughly after each contact with the ill person.
- Try to improve the air flow in the area where the ill person stays. Use doors and windows to take advantage of breezes.
- Keep the environment clean with readily available household cleaning agents.

If you are living in a country where swine influenza has caused disease in humans, follow additional advice from national and local health authorities.