



DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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To: First Responder and Ambulance Service Providers
Service Medical Directors
EMS Training Centers
Hospitals

From: Brian Litza, Chief
Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Section

Re: Wisconsin Officials on Alert for Swine Flu

State officials announced today that they are working closely with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to monitor an outbreak of swine influenza infection. There are no reported cases affecting Wisconsin residents at this time. Although there are currently no confirmed cases in Wisconsin, this is a good time for emergency medical services personnel to review the symptoms of influenza and the contents of their services' specific infection control programs and practices. All EMS personnel should take acceptable protective precautions dependent on the patient and patient's symptoms. At a minimum, frequent hand-washing practices, protective gloves and eye and face protection should be employed with most patients.

Symptoms of influenza include:

- Fever greater than 100 degrees
- Body aches
- Coughing
- Sore throat
- Respiratory congestion
- And in some cases diarrhea and vomiting

To learn more about the Swine Flu outbreak and influenza, visit the Wisconsin EMS website at http://dhs.wi.gov/ems/Prevention_safety/prevention_index.htm.

Further information on influenza can be found at: <http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov> and <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/influenza/index.htm>.

For more information about CDC and Swine Flu: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/index.htm>