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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

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TO: St. Clair County Providers, Hospital ICPs, Emergency Departments, ED Physicians Walk-in Clinics, SCC Schools, LTC Facilities

FROM: Chris Czubachowski RN, BS
SCCHD C.D. Coordinator
P: 810- 987-5300 F: 810-985-4340

SWINE FLU CONFIRMED IN PIGS AT EASTERN MICHIGAN STATE FAIR, IMLAY CITY

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) have identified pigs at the Eastern Michigan State Fair (July 23rd through July 27th) that tested positive for swine flu on July 30th.

- Pigs may be infected with swine influenza viruses that are different from human flu viruses.
- Rarely, swine flu viruses can spread from pigs to people in the same way that human flu viruses spread; mainly through droplets when infected pigs cough and sneeze.
- Patients presenting with influenza-like illness (ILI) who have had recent contact with swine and/or attendance at the Eastern Michigan State Fair should be tested for swine variant influenza at the MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (BOL). Symptoms may include:
 - Fever >100°F plus a cough and/or a sore throat.
 - Vomiting, diarrhea, and conjunctivitis have been reported in some cases.
- Variant influenza (such as swine flu) is not always detected by a “rapid test.” Please refer to testing guidelines.

Testing Guidelines:

- Human testing for swine variant influenza viruses can be performed at MDHHS BOL free of charge. Preferred specimens include nasopharyngeal (NP) and/or oropharyngeal (OP) swabs.
- If the patient is able to produce a sputum specimen, please collect in addition to upper respiratory specimens.
- Testing at MDHHS BOL should not preclude influenza testing at a healthcare facility, but it is recommended that specimens be collected for both. In addition, it is recommended that healthcare facilities pursue PCR-based tests over rapid EIAs due to the low predictive value during times of low seasonal influenza activity.
- All specimens should be placed into sterile containers and immediately placed on refrigerant gel-packs at 4°C (refrigerator) for transport to the laboratory. For swabbed specimens, use sterile viral transport media.
- For information on how to collect and submit specimens to the MDHHS BOL, including the required Test Requisition form, refer to: https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71551_2945_5103-213906--_00.html

Treatment:

- The antiviral drug oseltamivir (Tamiflu) is effective in treating variant influenza infection.
- Early initiation of antiviral treatment is most effective. Further information is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/interim-guidance-strategies.htm>

Infection Control:

- Healthcare personnel who treat ill persons with suspected swine variant influenza infections should follow standard, contact, and droplet precautions as recommended for patient care.

Call SCCHD (810) 987-5300 with questions, to report suspect cases, or to assist with coordination of specimen submission to MDHHS BOL during regular business hours. Refer to the “After Hours Emergency Contact List” or www.scchealth.co for after-hours contact.