



Health Advisory: Novel Influenza - Recommendations for Minnesota

Minnesota Department of Health Fri Jan 17 10:00 CDT 2014

Local and tribal health departments: Please forward to hospital and clinics in your jurisdiction.

Hospitals and Clinics: Please distribute to healthcare professionals who treat patients with flu-like symptoms, particularly family practice, travel clinics, urgent care centers, and emergency departments.

Healthcare professionals:

- Ask about recent international travel among patients who present with an illness compatible with influenza
- Use standard, contact, and airborne precautions for management of patients with suspected novel influenza
- Remember that rapid influenza tests may not detect novel influenza
- Ongoing surveillance and testing for all strains of influenza continues at MDH among patients hospitalized in MN with influenza-like illness.
- Contact MDH at 651-201-5414 for questions about patients who have traveled to areas where novel influenza is circulating

H5N1 avian influenza was recently identified in Canada in a person who traveled to Beijing, China. H5N1 influenza has circulated throughout Asia for many years and H7N9 influenza continues to circulate in China. The epidemiology of these infections continues to evolve. This is a reminder to consider novel influenza among the many possible causes of an illness in returning travelers.

Ask patients with an illness compatible with influenza about recent international travel. Among those who have traveled within the last 10 days to areas where novel influenza is circulating, contact MDH for questions regarding testing and infection prevention. Rapid influenza tests may not detect novel influenza. Ongoing surveillance and testing for all strains of influenza continues at MDH among patients hospitalized in MN with influenza-like illness. Standard, contact, and airborne precautions are recommended for management of patients with suspected novel influenza.

See links below for updated information on these novel strains of influenza.

CDC Health Advisory 1/15/2014 on human infection with Avian Influenza A H5N1 (including infection prevention and treatment): <http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00360.asp>

CDC Current Information on Avian Influenza: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/avian-flu-summary.htm>

MDH information on Novel and Variant Influenza:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/current/index.html>