

Health Alert Network – Influenza A H3N2v

Between August and December 2011, 12 U.S. residents were found to be infected with an influenza A H3N2 variant virus (H3N2v) with the matrix (M) gene from the 2009 H1N1 virus. This M gene may confer increased transmissibility to and among humans, compared to other variant influenza viruses. This virus also has been found in swine in many U.S. states. Investigations into the human cases revealed infections with these viruses following contact with swine as well as some limited human-to-human transmission. In 2012, another case of H3N2v in a child was detected in April. Then, beginning in July 2012 multiple H3N2v human infections were identified. On August 3, 2012 CDC issued a Health Advisory regarding the increase in cases: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/HAN/han00325.asp>. The chart below indicates the number of CDC-reported infections since August 2011 and is current as of August 17, 2012.

States Reporting H3N2v Cases	2011	2012
Hawaii		1
Illinois		3
Indiana	2	138
Iowa	3	
Maine	2	
Michigan		1
Ohio		72
Pennsylvania	3	4
Utah		1
West Virginia	2	3
Wisconsin		2
Total	12	225

Of the reported cases there have been 8 hospitalizations and no deaths. There have been no cases of H3N2v in Louisiana and overall influenza activity remains low as expected this time of year.

Commercially available rapid influenza diagnostic tests may not detect H3N2v virus in respiratory specimens. In addition, a positive rapid test result for influenza A cannot confirm H3N2v because these tests cannot distinguish between influenza A virus subtypes. Therefore, if influenza is suspected in persons with recent exposure to swine respiratory specimens should be collected and sent for testing at the state public health laboratory. Detailed information for specimen submission can be found in this August 10, 2012 memo from the state laboratory: http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/oph/Center-PHCH/Center-CH/infectious-epi/Influenza/OPHlabLetter_0812.pdf

Information for protecting yourself, prevention strategies at agriculture fairs, detailed information for clinicians, school guidance, updated weekly case counts and much more can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/influenza-variant-viruses-h3n2v.htm>