



# Homeland Security Services

## UPDATE 4-27-09

### Medical Brief



#### Swine flu infections in Canada, Mexico and USA

All three countries in North America have confirmed human infections with a new strain of influenza, swine flu A/H1N1. Suspected cases are under investigation in New Zealand, France, Spain and Israel. This virus has the potential to cause a pandemic (global flu outbreak).

#### Canada

Four people in Nova Scotia have been confirmed infected with swine flu H1N1. Two others from British Columbia, a province all the way on the other side of Canada, may also be infected. Test results are awaited. It appears these people only suffered a mild illness, and none required hospital treatment. All infected people survived.

#### USA

Nationwide, 20 people have been infected with swine flu A/H1N1. Cases have been confirmed in 5 states: California, Kansas, New York, Ohio and Texas

Most of those infected only suffered minor illness, although two cases required hospital treatment. None were fatal.

#### Mexico

Over 1,300 cases of a severe respiratory illness have been reported in Mexico City, and at least 80 people have died nationwide. Other affected areas include San Luis Potosi, Mexicali and Oaxaca. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that suspected cases have occurred in 19 of the country's 32 states.

Laboratories in the US and Canada have confirmed at least 18 of the Mexican cases definitely had swine flu H1N1. It is not certain how many of the other cases are attributable to this new strain of influenza in Mexico.

#### Globally

April 27, 2009

In response to the swine-flu outbreak, China, Russia and Taiwan are planning to quarantine travelers arriving from flu-affected areas if they have symptoms, and Italy, Poland and Venezuela have advised citizens to postpone travel to affected parts of Mexico and the United States, The Associated Press reported April 27. Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Indonesia, South Korea and the Philippines are assessing all passengers from North American airports for signs of fever. In Malaysia, health workers took the temperatures of plane passengers arriving from Los Angeles.

### **ITSS Recommendations:**

Review the need for non-essential travel to Mexico City and other affected areas in Mexico. At this stage there are no restrictions on movement. Travelers should be aware that if mandated travel restrictions are implemented, these would restrict movement in and out of the affected area / country. .

In addition, to prevent respiratory infections (including flu) and prevent spreading illness:

- Maintain good personal hygiene. Wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your face.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a mask or a tissue.
- Avoid obviously sick people.
- Stay home if you are unwell

If you are in or have traveled to an affected area:

- Monitor your health
- If you develop symptoms seek medical attention
- Advise the healthcare facility that you have recently been in an area that has reported swine flu
- Parents should take their young children with fever or influenza-like symptoms for prompt medical attention.

For More information see:

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

<http://urgent.internationalosos.com>