



miOttawa Department of
Public Health

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Health Officer

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Medical Director

HEALTH INFORMATION NOTIFICATION

August 3, 2016

Dear Health Care Provider,

The Ottawa County Department of Public Health received notification this afternoon that a swine at the Muskegon County Fair has been diagnosed with swine flu. At least one individual associated with the fair became ill with influenza-like symptoms. Although there were nine exhibitors from Ottawa County that had swine at the fair we have not received any reports of illness in Ottawa County residents related to this event.

Attached is the information that the Muskegon County Health Department has forwarded to medical providers in that area. If you have any questions please contact me at 616-494-5548 or at my email address pheidel@miottawa.org or contact the Muskegon Health Department at 231-724-6246.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul A. Heidel".

Paul A. Heidel, MD, MPH
Medical Director, Ottawa County Department of Public Health
616-494-5548

This fax communication contains a total of 6 pages.

Our Vision - Healthy People

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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August 3, 2016

Dear Health Care Providers,

This is a "health alert" notice regarding a recent diagnosis of swine influenza in a pig shown at the Muskegon County Fair last week from July 25-30, 2016.

Public Health Muskegon County (PHMC) is working with Muskegon County's Michigan State University Extension 4-H to notify families who exhibited swine at the Muskegon County Fair that they may have been exposed to influenza from infected pigs.

Pigs may be infected with swine influenza viruses that are different from human flu viruses. Swine flu viruses spread among pigs and – while rare – they can spread from pigs to people, too. Spread of swine flu viruses from a pig to a person is thought to happen in the same way that human flu viruses spread; mainly through droplets when infected pigs cough and sneeze. This has happened in different settings, especially at fairs where pigs from many farms come in close contact with each other and with people.

PHMC is asking that families who exhibited swine at the Muskegon County Fair watch themselves for symptoms of influenza for 10 days after their last exposure to pigs at the fair. At least one individual associated with the fair has become ill with influenza-like symptoms and has sought medical care. A nose or throat swab may be collected for testing for swine influenza. Influenza antiviral drugs can treat swine influenza viruses, as well as seasonal flu illness in people. These drugs work better the sooner they are started.

Swine influenza in pigs is not a food safety concern. Influenza viruses are not transmitted by food, so you cannot get influenza from eating cooked pork or pork products.

Please contact PHMC at 231-724-4723 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kathy Moore
Health Officer

Douglas E. Hoch
Medical Director

Swine Influenza Talking Points – Muskegon County Fair

Current Situation

- A pig that was exhibited at the Muskegon County Fair was diagnosed with influenza.
- Additional testing is underway to determine the strain of flu.
- There were also reports of other pigs becoming ill with similar symptoms at the fair.
- An exhibitor at the fair has also been reported ill with influenza-like symptoms.
- Public Health Muskegon County is working with Muskegon County Michigan State University Extension 4H and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) monitor the situation and work with fair officials to respond to the situation and notify exhibitors.

General Information about Influenza

- Swine flu viruses are spread among pigs and – while rare – they can spread from pigs to people too.
- Symptoms of human infections with swine influenza virus are similar to those of seasonal flu: fever, cough, nasal congestion, body aches, headache, and fatigue. Symptoms usually last 7 days but may be longer. Influenza may cause severe illness in some people.
- The typical incubation period for these types of influenza affecting humans is approximately 3 days, but can be up to 10 days.
- Influenza in swine is not a pork safety issue: You cannot get influenza from eating cooked pork or pork products.
- Certain people are at greater risk of serious flu-related complications (including young children, elderly persons, pregnant women, and people with certain long-term medical conditions), which is true of any influenza infection.
- If you or a family member gets sick after attending a fair:
 - Tell your doctor you have had contact with swine.
 - Protect other animals and humans by limiting contact

- Practice good respiratory and hand hygiene – cover your mouth and nose when coughing/sneezing and wash hands after coughing/sneezing.
- Contact the local health department at the contact numbers below.
- To avoid all influenza illness, Michigan residents should take steps to prevent the spread of illness, such as:
 - Avoid close contact with sick people
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub
 - Do not eat or drink in livestock barns or show rings
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Germs spread this way
 - If you are sick, stay home from work or school until your illness is over
 - Avoid contact with pigs if you have flu-like symptoms. Wait 7 days after your illness started or until you have been without fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, whichever is longer.
- A health care provider can decide whether treatment is needed. Influenza antiviral drugs can treat swine influenza as well as seasonal influenza illness in people. These drugs work better the sooner they are started, so seek medical treatment promptly if you get symptoms and are at high risk.

Information pertaining to the 2016 Muskegon County Fair

- County Youth Fair took place July 25 to 30, 2016.
- There were approximately 78 pigs exhibited by 64 exhibitors.
- Swine began to show signs of respiratory disease on Thursday, July 28, 2016. This included coughing, sneezing, and elevated temperatures. Pigs were under the care of a veterinarian at this time.
- The pig barn was closed to the public on Friday, July 29, 2016 after more pigs were exhibiting symptoms.
- At the end of the fair, all fair pigs were sold for slaughter.

- On Monday, August 1, 2016 a pig was reported positive for influenza. Further lab testing is underway to identify the specific influenza strain.
- On Sunday, July 31, 2016 influenza-like illness was reported in a swine exhibitor.

Contact information for agencies

Local Health Department

MDHHS

Media: Jennifer Eisner, 517-241-2112, EisnerJ@michigan.gov
Communicable Disease Staff: 517-335-8165

MDARD

Media: Jennifer Holton: 517-284-5724, holtonj@michigan.gov

Resources and more information can be found at:

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

http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/keyfacts_pigs.htm

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/people-raise-pigs-flu.htm>

Additional Information for Health Care Providers

- Human testing for swine variant influenza viruses can be performed at the MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) free of charge. Preferred specimens include nasopharyngeal (NP) and/or oropharyngeal (OP) swabs.
- Testing at BOL should not preclude influenza testing at a healthcare facility, but it is recommended that enough specimens be collected for both. In addition, it is recommended that healthcare facilities pursue PCR-based tests over rapid EIAs (which have a low predictive value positive during times of low seasonal influenza activity).
- Influenza testing kits available to local public health can be used for specimen collection. Specimens to be tested at BOL should be shipped on ice packs and sent in a prompt fashion.
- MDHHS epi staff is available to answer any specimen collection or shipping inquiries.
 - After hours: 517-335-9030
 - Influenza Epidemiologist: 517-284-4927 (desk), 517-643-7365