



- Please immediately bring to the attention of all doctors -

Date: 30 April 2009

Contact telephone number: **8226-7177 (24 hours/7 days)**

International and national situation at 0430 30/04/09

Australia is now at pandemic DELAY (OS5) phase. This means continuing to focus on delaying the entry of the virus in Australia using enhanced border measures such as the measures at airports the Australian Government introduced overnight; and enhanced vigilance for cases domestically.

The number of people being investigated is constantly changing, but 112 people are currently being investigated in Australia, including 7 in South Australia. There remain **no** confirmed cases in Australia. The table shows the situation internationally.

Countries	Suspect Cases ^{1,2}	Probable ^{2,3}	Confirmed ^{2,3}	Probable Deaths ²	WHO Confirmed Deaths
Mexico	1614	697	26	159	7
USA	0	0	91	0	1
Canada	13	0	13	0	0
Americas other	66	0	1	0	0
UK	17	0	5	0	0
Spain	34	0	4	0	0
Israel	0	0	2	0	0
Europe other	46	1	4	0	0
NZ	43	7	3	0	0
China	116	0	0	0	0
Asia other	1	0	0	0	0
Middle East	0	0	2	0	0
Total	2078	705	151	159	8

In SA there is a daily meeting of key SA Health, CNAHS, SAHS, CYWHS, CHSA, SAAS, people to monitor and manage the situation. Professor Nigel Stocks attends that meeting as a representative of the whole GP community and will help to improve communication with GPs.

Case definition

The current case definition for suspected swine influenza is a person with

- > An acute febrile respiratory illness with onset of symptoms since 15 April 2009 with the onset being:
- > Within 7 days of close contact with a confirmed case or
- > Within 7 days of travel to the United States, Mexico or Canada

Suspected cases fitting this case definition should go directly to a designated flu hospital:

In metro Adelaide – FMC, RAH or WCH (if a child). If in country SA - Mt Gambier Hospital, Whyalla Hospital, RRHS – Berri, Port Lincoln Hospital and Port Augusta Hospital (paediatric focus) if within one hours drive. Otherwise they should contact their local GP or health service for advice. If country cases require admission then transfer to a designated flu hospital in country or metropolitan Adelaide will be considered as appropriate for their condition

Triage, personal protective equipment (PPE) and masks

All SA Health Emergency Departments, the SA Ambulance Service and Country Health SA health services have triage in place to determine whether a patient is a potential case as described above.

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GP practices should have a triage system in place and have decided whether or not the practice is equipped to manage potential patients. PPE is necessary for staff dealing with suspected patients. If a practice is not equipped to deal with a suspected patient then the patient should be advised to wear a surgical mask, or use other facial covering, and be referred to one of the designated flu hospitals.

At the moment the Commonwealth is not releasing PPE from its stockpile to general practices as there remain no confirmed cases of swine flu in Australia. That situation is reviewed daily.

PPE and masks can be sourced via usual suppliers or via MAJAC MEDICAL PRODUCTS
TELEPHONE: 1300 138 578 FACSIMILE: 1300 138 612 www.majacmedical.com.au E-Mail:
sales@majacmedical.com.au as per the RACGP website (www.racgp.org.au).

PPE N95 masks require fit testing to be fully effective. Initial fit testing takes up to 30 minutes and is provided via the RDNS to GP practices (phone: [1300 364 264](tel:1300364264)) and by CHSA in the country. If fit tested in the last 2 years, and no change in facial architecture has occurred, repeat fit testing is not required.

Antivirals

Australia has a large stockpile of antiviral drugs (Tamiflu and Relenza). Doctors can prescribe antivirals for private dispensing, with the decision based on clinical need. Pharmacies have, or can access, stock. The cost is ~\$50 by private prescription. However, SA Health will organise antivirals **as directed by the CDCB** for public health purposes for appropriate suspected, probable and confirmed cases and their contacts, **including GP practice and Emergency Department staff**, free of charge. This will usually require virological diagnosis so it is essential that specimens are sent for testing from suspected cases as described in the Public Health Alerts of 27 and 28 April. All designated flu hospitals have stocks of antivirals for distribution **as directed by the CDCB**.

Potential international travellers

The best advice for potential international travellers is to monitor www.smarttraveller.gov.au. Prescription of antivirals "just in case" should be an individual clinical decision based on the destination and patient profile but has to be balanced against the risk of unnecessarily depleting Australia of these medicines. Antivirals from the stockpile will not be released to potential international travellers.

Resources

SA Health will be sending regular updates on the swine flu situation. For more flu information from SA Health see www.flu.sa.gov.au.

The RACGP website has a number of resources for helping GP practices understand and potentially deal with suspected swine flu with regular updates – see [http://www.racgp.org.au/](http://www.racgp.org.au). The Federal Government has also set up a website: www.healthemergency.gov.au and a public hotline number: 180 2007. Country Health SA has set up a 'Swine Flu' incident management team led by the Chief Medical Advisor, Dr Peter Chapman.

Further enquiries and notification of all suspected cases who fit the case definition:

CDCB: 08 8226-7177 (24 hours/7 days)

Professor Paddy Phillips, Chief Medical Officer: 08 8226 2578.

Information contained within this advice should be treated as confidential and is for the intended recipient only.

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