



News Alert



Swine Flu Guidance

Pharmacists are asked to report observations of their patients exhibiting unusual flu symptoms to your state's Department of Health. Pharmacists may be among the first healthcare personnel to see patients with flu-like symptoms.

There are four influenza antiviral drugs approved for use in the United States (oseltamivir, zanamivir, amantadine and rimantadine). The swine influenza A (H1N1) viruses that have been detected in humans in the United States and Mexico are resistant to amantadine and rimantadine so these drugs will not work against these swine influenza viruses. Laboratory testing on these swine influenza A (H1N1) viruses so far indicate that they are sensitive to oseltamivir and zanamivir.

Advise patients that if they are in areas where swine influenza cases have been identified and become ill with influenza-like symptoms, including fever, body aches, runny nose, sore throat, nausea, or vomiting or diarrhea, they should contact their doctor, particularly if they are worried about their symptoms to determine whether influenza testing or treatment is needed.

Also remember to remind your patients to:

- Wash your hands often.
- Use good cough etiquette.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid close contact.

Get plenty of sleep, exercise, and practice good nutrition

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE LINKS:

Swine Influenza Frequently Asked Questions—Centers for Disease Control
http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/key_facts.htm

Swine Influenza Frequently Asked Questions—World Health Organization
http://www.who.int/csr/swine_flu/swine_flu_faq.pdf

Swine Influenza “Flu” Article—Centers for Disease Control
<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

Swine Flu in the News
http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/27/world/27flu.html?_r=1

Five Things You Need to Know About the Outbreak
http://news.yahoo.com/s/time/20090427/hl_time/08599189402900

Official: U.S. Flu Victims May be Infecting Others
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/30398682/>

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