



New Hampshire Health Alert Network

Health.Alert@nh.gov

Status: Actual
Message Type: Alert
Severity: Moderate
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Identifier: NH-HAN #20130405 Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus
Delivery Time: 12 hours
Acknowledgement: No
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Public Health Services

DATE: April 5, 2013 **TIME:** 1730 EDT

TO: Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurses, Infection Control Practitioners, Infectious Disease Specialists, Hospital Emergency Departments, Hospital CEOs, Laboratory Response Network, Manchester Health Department, Nashua Health Department, NHHA, DHHS Outbreak Team, DPHS Investigation Team, Public Health Network, and DPHS Management Team, Zoonotic Alert Team

FROM: Sharon Alroy-Preis, MD, NH State Epidemiologist

SUBJECT: Novel Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus

NH Division of Public Health Services (NH DPHS) recommends:

- Awareness that a novel avian influenza A (H7N9) virus has been identified in 14 patients in China and resulted in six deaths. These are the first human infections with this virus and no person-to-person transmission has been identified. To date, no cases have been detected in the United States.
 - Consider the possibility of novel influenza A (H7N9) virus infection in persons with respiratory illness and an appropriate travel or exposure history.
 - If influenza A (H7N9) virus is suspected:
 - a. Promptly notify NH DHHS-DPHS at 603-271-4496.
 - b. Specimens should be collected with appropriate infection control precautions and sent to the NH Public Health Laboratories. Viral culture should not be attempted in these cases.
 - c. For persons hospitalized or high risk patients with suspected influenza, including influenza A (H7N9) start empiric treatment (oral oseltamivir or inhaled zanamivir) as soon as possible.
- ▶ For detailed information please refer to the CDC HAN at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00344.asp>
- ▶ For situational updates please refer to the CDC's Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus website at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm>

For any questions regarding the contents of this message, please contact NH DHHS Infectious Disease Investigation and Surveillance Sections at 603-271-4496. Call after-hours or toll free at 800-852-3345, ext. 4496.

DEFINITION OF TERMS AND ALERTING VOCABULARY

Message Type

Alert: Original alert
Update: Prior alert has been updated and superseded
Cancel: Prior alert has been cancelled
Error: Prior alert has been retracted

Status

Actual: Refers to a live event
Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test: Related to a technical and/or system test

Severity

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe: Significant threat to life or property
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Sensitive

Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Identifier

A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation

Delivery Time

Indicates the time frame for the delivery of the alert

Acknowledgement

Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the time frame in which a response is required.

Originating Agency

A guaranteed unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

Alerting Program

The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our emergency notification database.

If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would prefer to be used, please contact:

Denise M. Krol, MS
NH HAN Coordinator
Denise.Krol@dhhs.state.nh.us

Business Hours: 8 AM – 4 PM
Tel: 603-271-4596
Fax: 603-271-0545