

H1N1 Influenza Swine Flu

May 6, 2009

A public service message from:

Sheriff Jerry Speziale



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What is Swine Flu?

- Swine Influenza (swine flu) is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza virus that regularly causes outbreaks in pigs.
- The classic swine flu virus type A H1N1 virus was first isolated from a pig in 1930.



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Swine Flu in Pigs

- Swine flu causes high levels of illness and low death rates in pigs.
- Swine flu outbreaks are common, especially during winter months similar to outbreaks in humans.
- In the U.S. 30%-50% of pigs have been infected with swine flu.

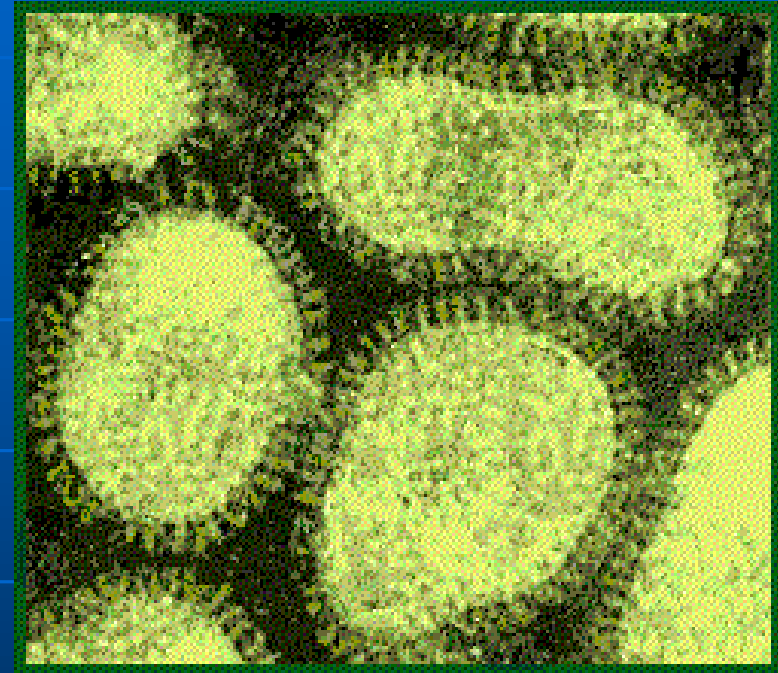


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Emergence of New Viruses

- Like all influenza viruses, swine flu viruses change constantly. Pigs can be infected by avian influenza and human influenza as well as swine influenza.
- Viruses from different species can swap genes and form new viruses.



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Swine Flu Spread Among Pigs

- Swine flu viruses spread through close contact with infected pigs and contaminated objects between infected and uninfected pigs.
- Vaccinated herds may still have a sporadic disease or show mild symptoms



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Symptoms of Swine Flu in Pigs

- Fever
- Coughing (barking)
- Discharge from nose/eyes
- Sneezing
- Breathing difficulties
- Going off feed
- Eye redness or inflammation
- Depression



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Swine Flu in Humans

- Swine flu viruses do not normally infect humans, however there have been documented cases of swine flu in humans
- Swine flu in humans commonly occur among persons who have direct exposure to pigs. Documented cases of person to person swine flu have occurred.



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Eating Pork and Swine Flu

- Swine Flu viruses are not transmitted by food. You cannot get swine flu from eating pork or pork products.
- Eating properly handled cooked pork and pork products is safe.
- Cooking pork to an internal temperature of 160°F kills the swine flu virus as it does other bacteria and viruses.



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Symptoms of Swine Flu in Humans

- Fever
- Lethargy
- Lack of appetite
- Coughing
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Nausea
- Vomitting
- Diarrhea



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Tips to Prevent Swine Flu

- Wash your hands with soap and water, if neither is available use alcohol based sanitizer.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



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Contact Your Physician If:

- You have come in close contact with pigs and experiencing flu-like symptoms
- You have been in contact with someone with confirmed swine flu
- Or were in one of the U.S. states that have reported swine flu cases or Mexico and are experiencing flu like symptoms



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References and For Further Information

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>



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