

What is Swine Influenza?

Swine Influenza is a viral infection of the respiratory tract much like regular human influenza. The Swine Influenza currently circulating is an Influenza A (H1N1).

Who can get Swine Influenza?

Swine influenza affects all age groups, like human influenza.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms start suddenly with fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, body aches and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting.

How is Swine Influenza spread?

The swine influenza virus is spread from person to person by droplets from the nose, throat, and mouth through sneezing, coughing, and speaking. You cannot become infected by eating pork or pork products.

How long is a person contagious?

Usually one day prior to onset of symptoms to 7 or more days after becoming ill.

Are there complications?

Complications include: pneumonia, respiratory failure, and death.

Is there a treatment for Swine Influenza?

Yes, your health care provider will determine if testing or treatment is needed. Children and teens with influenza should not be given aspirin or aspirin products because of the risk of developing Reye's Syndrome.

How can Swine Influenza be prevented?

- Avoid contact with infected or sick people whenever possible.
- Cough or sneeze into tissues and throw away immediately. Wash hands after using a tissue for coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are spread this way.
- Get an annual flu shot, especially if you are a member or caregiver of a high-risk group.
- If you are sick, stay home and avoid contact with others.
- No vaccine is available to protect against swine influenza