

# CDC Influenza Division Key Points

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## Human Infections with influenza A (H1N2) variant (“H1N2v”) virus

- This week’s [FluView](#) includes reports of two human infections with an influenza A (H1N2) variant (“H1N2v”) virus; one in Wisconsin and one in Minnesota.
- There have been a total of three reported human infections with H1N2v flu virus in the United States in 2016.
  - See [Case Count: Detected U.S. Infections with Variant Influenza Viruses by State since December 2005](#) (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/variant-cases-us.htm>).

### Wisconsin

- The reported case occurred in an adult patient who was hospitalized and found to have a bacterial infection.
- A respiratory specimen was taken from the patient tested at the hospital laboratory and tested positive for influenza A(H1) virus.
- The influenza specimen was forwarded to the Wisconsin Public Health Laboratory for additional testing. The specimen tested positive by RT-PCR for influenza A that was unsubtypable.
- The specimen was forwarded to CDC for additional testing. RT-PCR testing at CDC was consistent with Wisconsin’s results, suggesting the virus was a swine-origin influenza A(H1)v. Genetic sequencing confirmed an influenza A(H1N2)v virus.
- The patient continues to recover.
- Direct exposure to swine in the week preceding symptom onset was reported. No ongoing community transmission has been detected.

### Minnesota

- The case occurred in a child who developed flu-like illness and visited a primary health care provider.
- A sample was collected and the specimen was forwarded to the Minnesota Public Health Laboratory as part of routine surveillance activities. Analysis there indicated an influenza A virus that was unsubtypable.
- CDC received the specimen for additional testing. Genetic sequencing confirmed an influenza A(H1N2)v virus.
- The patient has fully recovered.

- Direct exposure to swine in the week preceding symptom onset was reported. No additional illnesses have been reported.

### **Background**

- Swine flu viruses do not normally infect humans. However, sporadic human infections with influenza viruses that normally circulate in swine have occurred.
- When this happens, these viruses are called "variant viruses." They also may be denoted by adding the letter "v" to the end of the virus subtype designation.
- Human infections with H1N1v, H1N2v, and H3N2v viruses have been detected in the United States.
- Most commonly, human infections with variant viruses occur in people with exposure to infected pigs (e.g., children near pigs at agricultural fairs or workers in the swine industry).
- There have been documented cases of multiple persons becoming sick after exposure to one or more sick pigs and also cases of limited spread of variant influenza viruses from person to person.
- The vast majority of human infections with variant influenza viruses do not result in person-to-person spread.
- However, each case of human infection with a variant influenza virus should be fully investigated to a) be sure that such viruses are not spreading in an efficient and ongoing way in humans, and b) to limit further exposure of humans to infected animals if infected animals are identified.
- CDC recommends that people with underlying health conditions or age factors that put them at high risk for serious flu complications avoid pigs and swine barns.
- Agricultural fairs are one setting which can result in many human exposures to swine.
- CDC has issued guidance for people attending agricultural fairs where swine might be present during fair season, including additional precautions for people who are at high risk for serious flu complications. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-other-guidance.htm>
- High-risk people include children younger than 5 years, people 65 years and older, people with underlying health conditions like asthma, diabetes and heart disease, and pregnant women. A full list of conditions that increase the risk of influenza-related complications is available at [http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/high\\_risk.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/high_risk.htm).

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- In addition, people at high risk of flu complications who develop flu symptoms after exposure to pigs at a fair or had other possible contact with pigs should contact a health care professional.
- People who go to a doctor for flu symptoms following direct or close contact with swine should tell their doctor about this exposure. (Clinicians should notify the local or state public health department regarding probable variant influenza cases as soon as possible.)
- CDC recommends that people at high risk of flu complications get influenza antiviral treatment as quickly as possible if they experience [flu-like symptoms](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/symptoms.htm) (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/symptoms.htm>).