



Department of Health
Department of Agriculture



Butler County
Health Department



News Release

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For Immediate Release

ADDITIONAL H3N2v CASES IN OHIO CONFIRMED BY CDC

Ohioans Encouraged to Take Precautions, Prevent Spread of Influenza

COLUMBUS — The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) today announced that additional cases of Influenza A variant H3N2 have been confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). There are currently 14 human cases identified in Butler County, linked to swine exposure at the Butler County Fair; and one confirmed human case in Clark County, linked to swine exposure at the Ohio State Fair. Those with confirmed cases of H3N2v are between the ages of 3 and 36 years old, and to date, none of the confirmed cases have resulted in hospitalization.

On Monday, ODH hosted a statewide conference call with all local health departments to provide an update on the situation. Local health departments have been urged to work with agriculture and fair officials to post necessary signage and to speak directly with those working in livestock facilities to ensure necessary care is taken to avoid further transmission of the H3N2v strain.

ODH continues to partner with local health departments and health care providers across the state on any reports of human influenza-like illness. Individuals who have reported close contact with swine and are exhibiting flu-like symptoms will undergo testing. Samples will be sent to the ODH laboratory for preliminary testing and then to CDC for confirmation. ODH will provide notice of any additional H3N2v human case confirmations.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) is actively working with industry partners to assist with public education efforts and to increase the number of hand sanitation stations available at county fairs. ODA will make contact this week with each upcoming fair veterinarian instructing them to post signage for both the exhibitors and for the visiting public, to closely monitor swine health and to take temperatures of any ill swine and notify ODA immediately of the results. ODA will continue to swab and test animals as needed throughout the fair season.

With county fairs running into the first week of October in Ohio, ODA and ODH remind residents and visitors that fair attendance is safe. Those attending the fair should remember:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and running water before and after exposure to animals.
- Never eat, drink or put things in your mouth in animal areas, and don't take food or drink into animal areas.
- Young children, pregnant women, people 65 and older and people with weakened immune systems should be extra careful around animals.
- If you have animals – including swine – watch them for signs of illness and call a veterinarian if you suspect they might be sick.
- Avoid close contact with animals that look or act ill, when possible.
- Avoid contact with swine if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms.

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More information is available from ODH at: <http://bit.ly/OhioH3N2vUpdates>.

Chronology

- 8/6 ODH holds statewide conference call with local health departments to provide an update on the situation.
- 8/5 CDC confirms additional human cases of H3N2v. The totals include 14 in Butler County and one in Clark County.
- 8/3 CDC holds national call to provide media with an overview of the H3N2v investigation.
- 8/2 ODH sends MedScape alert to all subscribing health care providers encouraging them to monitor for influenza-like illness, especially in those who had close contact with swine; an additional alert is sent to hospitals and local health departments asking for increased influenza surveillance.
- 8/2 Two swine sent home from Ohio State fair after showing flu-like symptoms; testing of samples underway.
- 8/2 CDC confirms nine individuals who had direct contact with swine at Butler County Fair have Influenza A variant H3N2.
- 8/1 ODA works with the Ohio Expo Commission to move extra hand sanitation stations and informational signage to the O'Neil Swine Arena at the Ohio State Fair.
- 8/1 ODA asks fair exhibitors to take precautions and alerts attending veterinarians to closely monitor swine as they arrive on the fairgrounds for signs of influenza.
- 8/1 ODH investigates flu illness from Butler County fair. Preliminary positive results indicate H3N2v strain of influenza.
- 7/31 ODH notifies local health departments to monitor influenza-like illness in their area.

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