



August 10, 2012  
For Immediate Release

### **County Fair Outreach Underway**

#### *As Additional Cases of Influenza A variant H3N2 are Identified*

COLUMBUS — Today the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) announced the launch of an outreach plan to increase awareness of H3N2v at county fairs. A representative from ODA and ODH, or a local designee such as the fair veterinarian or health commissioner, will visit every fair to make in-person contact with swine exhibitors and reinforce the importance of preventing the spread of flu. As part of that outreach, ODA has set guidance for fair boards. Together, the agencies created an informational video for fairgoers and exhibitors:

<http://youtu.be/WBJsCcqscU0>.

ODH has confirmed six additional cases of Influenza A variant H3N2 in Ohio. There are currently 36 cases of H3N2v statewide. At this time, surveillance indicates that the individuals most likely became ill with the flu virus after exposure to swine.

<i>County of Residence</i>	<i>Number of Confirmed H3N2v Cases</i>
Butler	16
Clark	3
Gallia	6
Greene	4
Hamilton	3
Medina	1
Monroe	2
Morrow	1

Those with confirmed cases of H3N2v are between the ages of 6 months and 36 years old. To date, one of the confirmed cases in Ohio was hospitalized, but they have since been treated and released. Health officials have not determined person to person transmission at this time, but continue to investigate the possibility.

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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.

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

### **Chronology**

- 8/8 ODH confirms 30 cases of H3N2v in Ohio.
- 8/7 ODA distributes communication to fair exhibitors and county fair boards across Ohio reiterating the importance of good hygiene to prevent the spread of influenza viruses.
- 8/6 ODH holds statewide conference call with local health departments to provide an update on the situation; ODA holds statewide conference call with state fair boards.
- 8/5 CDC confirms additional human cases of H3N2v, bringing the total to 15.
- 8/2 Two swine sent home from Ohio State Fair after showing flu-like symptoms.
- 8/2 CDC confirms nine individuals who had direct contact with swine at Butler County Fair have Influenza A variant H3N2.
- 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; ODA also works with the Ohio Expo Commission on hand sanitation stations and informational signage at the Ohio State Fair.
- 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 and health care providers in Ohio to monitor influenza-like illness in their area.

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