



August 24, 2012
For Immediate Release

OHIO DOCUMENTS 98 HUMAN CASES OF INFLUENZA A H3N2v

COLUMBUS —The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) today announced additional confirmed cases of Influenza A H3N2v, bringing the total number of cases statewide to 98. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) points out that the virus does not spread easily from person-to-person but limited human-to-human infection has occurred.

<i>County of Residence</i>	<i>Number of Confirmed H3N2v Cases</i>
Ashland	1
Athens	8
Butler	17
Champaign	15
Clark	3
Fairfield	1
Franklin	4
Gallia	11
Greene	6
Hamilton	3
Henry	5
Huron	3
Jackson	1
Licking	2
Medina	1
Monroe	2
Montgomery	2
Morrow	1
Preble	1
Richland	2
Ross	7
Union	1
Warren	1

Those with confirmed cases of H3N2v are between the ages of 6 months and 51 years old. To date, several of the confirmed cases in Ohio were hospitalized, but they have since been treated and released.

At this time, surveillance indicates that the individuals most likely became ill with the flu virus after

exposure to swine. Therefore, the CDC recommends that at-risk individuals (children younger than 5 years old, people 65 years and older, pregnant women, and people with certain chronic conditions such as asthma and other lung diseases, diabetes, heart disease, weakened immune system, and neurologic or neurodevelopmental disorders) should avoid exposure to pigs and swine barns during this fair season.

With county fairs running into the first week of October, the Ohio Department of Agriculture (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
- Leave baby strollers parked outside of areas with pigs
- 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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Chronology

- 8/23 ODH lab testing yields no positive H3N2v results for the first time in several weeks.
- 8/13 ODA distributes flu testing kits to veterinarians at each upcoming fair to help identify H3N2v cases among swine showing signs of illness at the fair.
- 8/10 ODH confirms 36 cases of H3N2v in Ohio. A county fair outreach plan is put into motion, with a representative from ODA and ODH, or a local designee such as the fair veterinarian or health commissioner, visiting every fair to make in-person contact. Dr. Wymyslo, Director of ODH leads national call with directors of health from each state to provide guidance and support as they identify H3N2v cases in their territories.
- 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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Note: Case counts will be updated daily on ODH's website: <http://bit.ly/OhioH3N2vUpdates>. Press releases with case counts in Ohio will be issued on Fridays.