



MEMORANDUM

To: Facility Managers
From: Lana Kacherova, QI Director
Subject: **Swine Flu Update**
Date: April 30, 2009

As of this morning, April 30, 2009, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting 109 human infections with the Influenza A (H1N1) virus of swine origin in the United States. (An increase of 18 over the number of cases reported yesterday). The World Health Organization elevated the pandemic alert to a phase 5 alert level yesterday. Phase 5 is characterized by human-to-human spread of the virus into at least 2 countries in a single WHO region. Please note that there are NO confirmed cases of swine flu among dialysis patients in the United States. At this time we are encouraging dialysis patients to continue going to their facilities for treatment.

If you have a patient in your facility with suspected swine flu you must notify the patient's doctor immediately (Do not just send the patient to the emergency room). All staff and patients must continue following precautionary measures recommended by the CDC:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

The CDC is currently developing a statement to address the dialysis population. This statement will be a helpful resource for both dialysis providers and patients. As soon as it becomes available we will forward it to all facilities.

Attached please find the ***Pandemic Flu Planning Checklist for Individuals & Families***. Please review and distribute this document to your staff and patients. This checklist will help you, your staff, and patients prepare for a flu pandemic.

Please continue to monitor the CDC website (<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>) and your local media for information. Information may also be found on the Network 18 website at www.esrdnetwork18.org. Additional resources are available on the KCER (Kidney Community Emergency Response Coalition) website at www.kcercoalition.com.

If you have a suspected or confirmed case of swine influenza A H1N1, please inform Network 18 at (323) 962-2020.

The Network will continue updating you with developments regarding this healthcare concern.

Mission Statement

To provide leadership and assistance to renal dialysis and transplant facilities in a manner that supports continuous improvement in patient care, outcomes, safety and satisfaction.