

Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Updates: Healthcare workers and Infection Control Issues

Dawn Terashita MD, MPH
Sharon Sakamoto RN, MSN, MPH
Acute Communicable Disease Control
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

August 28, 2009
September 4, 2009

Information provided in this presentation is
considered provisional and is subject to change



RAGE ON THE WARS OF IRAQ ANNA QUINDEEN STAREWELL

Newsweek®

FEAR & THE FLU

THE NEW AGE OF PANDEMICS

BY LAURIE GARRETT

ON SALE UNTIL MAY 18, 2009

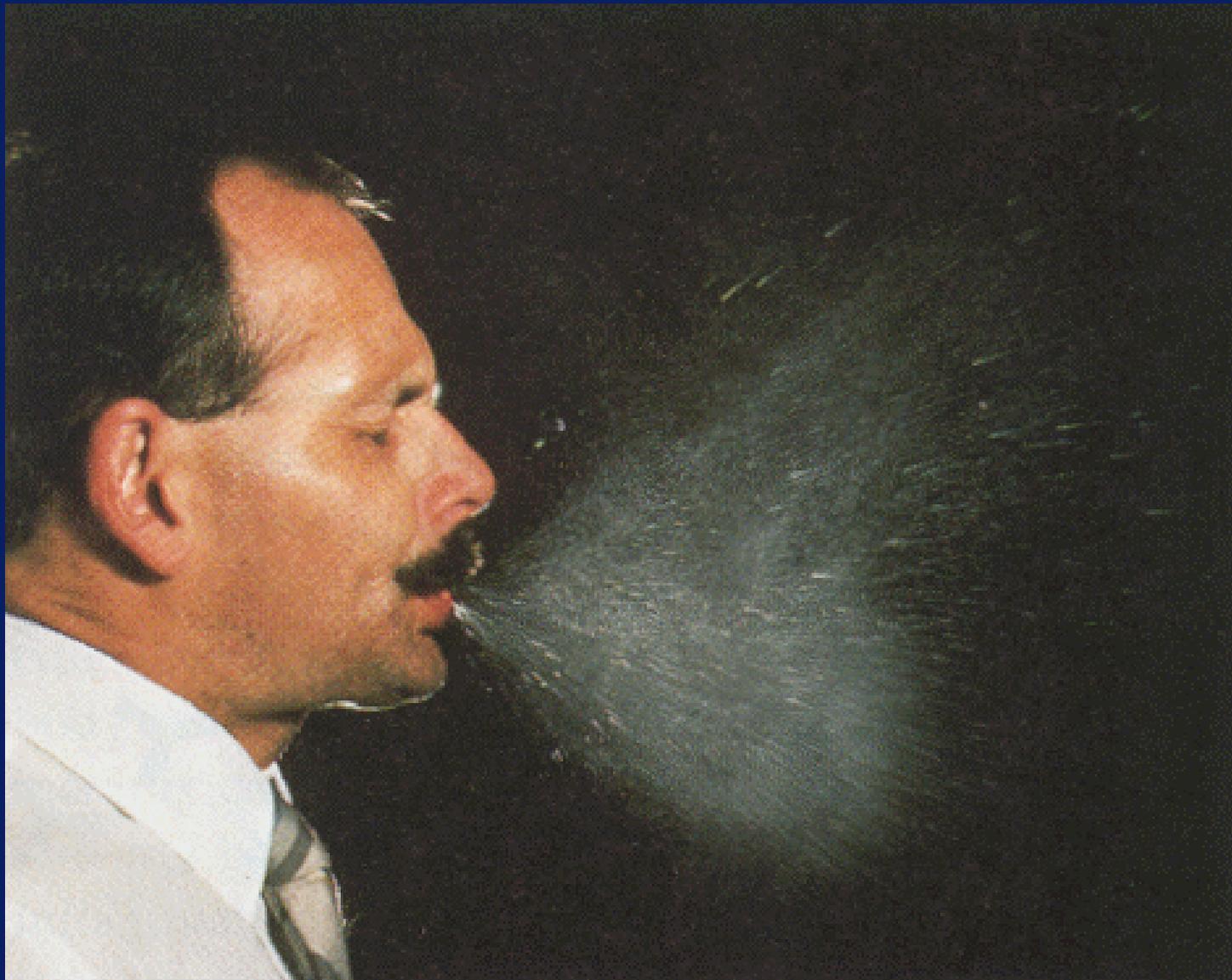


newsweek.com



Influenza guidance provided by Los Angeles County is largely based on seasonal influenza recommendations





Isolation Precautions

- Droplet precautions* for all patients with ILI
 - ILI: Temp $> 37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ (100°F) plus new cough or sore throat
 - Surgical mask for close patient contact
- Ideally, place patients in single occupancy room
- For aerosol generating procedures: N95 masks, eye protection, gown, and gloves should be used
- Patient should be transported with surgical mask

*This differs from CDPH, CDC, and Cal/OSHA



Aerosol Generating Procedures

- Bronchoscopy, resuscitation with emergency intubation or CPR, open suctioning of airway secretions
- NOT generally considered aerosol-generating include nasopharyngeal specimens collection, closed suctioning, and administration of nebulized meds*

*This differs from the CDC



Duration of Isolation for Patients for Influenza

- 7 days after onset of symptoms, or 24 hours after resolution of fever, whichever is later



Infection Control Guidance

- Visitor
 - Screening
 - Signage
 - Provide tissues, masks, waterless hand sanitizers
- Cough etiquette
- Hand hygiene
- Stay home if you are sick
- Employee health surveillance/staff absenteeism



MIKE SMITH

LAS VEGAS SUN 2009 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE MIKE SMITH

WHEN IT COMES TO
THE SWINE FLU,
I'M NOT TAKING
ANY CHANCES.



Prophylaxis Guidance (1)

- First: PREVENT EXPOSURES!
- Consider within 7* days of exposure for:
 - Healthcare workers who provided care to a confirmed influenza patient AND did not use proper PPE (especially if high risk)
 - Household and other close contacts of an influenza patient who are at high risk
 - Outbreaks (ie closed facility like a SNF)
- Prophylaxis duration is for 10 days after last exposure



Prophylaxis Guidance (2)

- Underlying medical conditions that are risk factors for severe influenza:
 - <4 years
 - >65 years
 - Pregnancy
 - Chronic disorders (pulmonary, CV, renal, hepatic, hematologic, metabolic)
 - Immunosuppression
 - Long term aspirin therapy and <19 years
 - Residents of nursing homes or other chronic care facilities



Prophylaxis Guidance (3)

- Close contacts include:
 - Performing physical examination or medical procedure
 - Sharing eating or drinking utensils
 - Kissing or embracing
 - Any other contact likely to result in exposure to respiratory droplets
 - Typically NOT walking by an infected person or sitting across from a symptomatic patient
- Consider length of time of exposure



Return to Work

- Self-isolate until afebrile without anti-pyretics for >24 hours*

*This differs from CDPH and CDC



Reporting Guidelines

- Individual case reports for severe cases
 - ICU and deaths
- Aggregate reporting
 - All hospitalized cases and deaths
 - Weekly
 - Via online survey



Vaccinations

- Ensure HCW receive vaccines
 - Asymptomatic transmission has occurred
- Seasonal influenza vaccine recommendations:
 - Patients ages 6 month through 19th birthday
 - Adults at high risk for complications or in close contact with someone at high risk
 - Review pneumococcal vaccine
- H1N1 Vaccine
 - Priority groups will be addressed



CAL-OSHA (1)

- May 21, 2009: Cal/OSHA Standards Board adopted aerosol transmissible disease (ATD) standards
- Covered workplaces for 5199 include health care settings (hospitals, clinics, doctor's offices and home health care operations, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, emergency response operations and laboratories)
- August 5, 2009: standards go into effect
- “Novel or unknown pathogens” (H1N1)



CAL-OSHA (2)

- “Any local public health department’s guidance supersedes all other guidance except for the Cal/OSHA regulations.”
 - August 4, 2009 California Hospital Association



Pandemic Flu Plan

- Make sure you know about the pandemic planning and response activities of the hospitals, outpatient facilities, and local public health in your community



Conclusions

- “The real uncertainty is the fall and how the novel H1N1 virus will affect our influenza 2009-2010 season.”
- Preparedness and planning is essential!
- Start now!!



STAHLER.
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH.
2009.



References

- <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/Diseases/Swine.htm>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>
- <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>
- To sign up for Influenza Watch:
 - <https://admin.publichealth.lacounty.gov/phcommon/public/listserv/index.cfm?ou=ph>

