



## H1N1 (SWINE) FLU

Spread The Truth

### What is Novel H1N1 (Swine) Flu?

- Novel H1N1 is a NEW influenza VIRUS that causes people to get sick
- At this time, flu symptoms are similar to seasonal influenza experienced each year
- Because it's new, many people have LITTLE OR NO IMMUNITY to it
- The virus has a mixture of genes from swine, bird, and human influenza viruses

## H1N1 Flu Symptoms

- Fever (above 100 degrees F)
- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Runny or Stuffy Nose
- Body Aches
- Headache
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Diarrhea & Vomiting (serious signs / not normal)
- Severe illness and death are possible



#### H1N1 Characteristics

- The virus is passed to others through contact with infected respiratory droplets caused by coughing or sneezing
- Adults are contagious beginning 1 day before the onset of symptoms and up to 24 hours after their fever has subsided (without taking fever reducing medicines such as Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen)
- □ The virus can live on hard surfaces from 2-8 hours.

#### Flu Prevention

- Wash hands frequently and vigorously for at least 20 seconds (sing the happy birthday song twice in your head)
- Use alcohol based hand sanitizers (60-95% alcohol) only when soap and water are not available
  - follow up by washing hands with soap and water as soon as possible
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Avoid close contact with infected or sick individuals

# Helping Others Remain Healthy When You're Sick

- Stay home from work until 24 hours after your fever has subsided WITHOUT taking fever reducing medicines such as Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen
- Avoid contact with others (avoid public places / stay home)



# Helping Others Remain Healthy When You're Sick (cont'd)

#### Cough and Sneeze Etiquette



- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and throw used tissues away promptly after use then wash hands with soap and water immediately
- Cough or sneeze into the bend of your arm (not into your hands) when tissues are not available

### H1N1 Frequently Asked Questions

- Should I go to the Emergency Room with the onset of flu symptoms?
  - The Pennsylvania Department of Health says no. The current recommendation is for you to call your family doctor if you or a loved one begins to experience flu-like symptoms. Currently, the available treatment is for your doctor to prescribe a course of antiviral drugs. The drugs can shorten the duration of illness and decrease the severity of symptoms. There is no vaccine available for the H1N1 virus at this time.

## H1N1 Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a risk from drinking water?

■ According to the CDC website the answer is no. Tap water that has been treated by conventional disinfection processes does not likely pose a risk for transmission of influenza viruses. Current drinking water treatment regulations provide a high degree of protection from viruses.

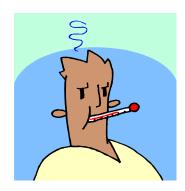
## Urgent Warning Signs For Children

- If your child begins to exhibit the following signs in addition to common flu symptoms, urgent medical attention is needed
  - Fast and/or labored breathing
  - Bluish or gray skin color
  - Severe or persistent vomiting
  - Not waking up or not interacting



## Urgent Warning Signs For Adults

- If you or an adult loved one begins to exhibit the following signs in addition to common flu symptoms, urgent medical attention is needed
  - Difficulty Breathing or shortness of breath
  - Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
  - Confusion
  - Severe or persistent vomiting



## Cleaning For H1N1

 The following are examples of "Hard Surface" items you'll find at work and home that require vigilance to keep clean (this list is not exhaustive)

| Common          | Office             | Home                |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Light Switches  | Keyboards          | Refrigerator Handle |
| Door Knobs      | Mouse              | Cupboard Handles    |
| Remote Controls | Copiers/Printers   | Coffee Tables       |
| Faucets         | Fax Machines       | End Tables          |
| Toilet Handles  | Vending Machines   | Night Stands        |
| Telephones      | Desk Tops          | Counter Tops        |
| Pens            | Drinking Fountains | Toys                |

#### What Kills The H1N1 Virus?

- Chlorine bleach
  - **■** (1:10 mixture)
  - Add 1 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups bleach to a gallon of water
  - WARNING: Combining chlorine bleach and ammonia cleaners can be harmful, resulting in serious injury or death
- Detergents (soap)
- lodophors (lodine based antiseptics)
- Alcohols



#### Other Household Items & H1N1

- When used by an infected person, care should be taken handling:
  - linens
  - eating utensils
  - dishes
- Items should not be shared
- Items don't need to be washed separately
- Linens should be laundered as usual and tumble dried on a hot setting
- Avoid "hugging" dirty laundry

#### **DISCLAIMER**

- This PowerPoint presentation contains Novel H1N1 universal precautions and general recommendations from the <u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</u> and the <u>Pennsylvania Department of Health</u>. If you have further questions, try visiting one of these websites or call your family doctor today.
  - **■** www.cdc.gov
  - www.pandemicflu.gov
  - http://www.hlnlinpa.com/
  - www.ready-york.org
  - www.yammrs.org