

# H1N1

## H1N1 Influenza Management for Hotels Fall 2009



Action and Prevention from your State and National Lodging Associations



## **Management of H1N1 in Your Hotel**

Having a plan for response to H1N1 pandemic wave is very important to ensuring that a wave of H1N1 will not cripple your business. NYSH&TA has been in contact with the State Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

A plan should include a method to handle the affect H1N1 pandemic wave would have on your employees, cleaning methods, handling of guests.

### Employees

- ♦ Expect absenteeism of about 25% above normal
- ♦ Determine a method for sending employees home, and covering their tasks
- ♦ Plan how you will operate if schools are closed and parents must care for their children
- ♦ Train employees to recognize the H1N1 symptoms

### Cleaning Methods

- ♦ Use masks and gloves in all cleaning
- ♦ The CDC has stated at routine cleaning is adequate, and recommends no abnormal cleaning schedule in reaction to the H1N1 virus
- ♦ Use normal cleaning products
- ♦ Be sure to clean all surfaces touched by guests
- ♦ Avoid hugging linens when gathering them
- ♦ Wash linens in standard laundry soap
- ♦ Dry linens in hot heated drying mode

### Handling of Guests

- ♦ Have a plan for communication to guests
- ♦ Recommend that the affected guest stay in his or her room unless necessary
- ♦ Do not release the details of any affected guest
- ♦ If a guest is affected, contact the local health department for specific recommendations

*This bulletin was prepared by Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLP, 677 Broadway Albany, NY 12207 and is issued for the general information of members of the New York State Hospitality & Tourism Association Inc. It is not intended to constitute legal advice to any NYSH&TA member in particular. This document is not to be reprinted or copied without permission of the Association.*

For more information, go to AH&LA's website (H1N1) or see attached materials.

## **New York State Department of Health**

Visit the New York State Department of Health's website [www.health.state.ny.us](http://www.health.state.ny.us) for  
More updates and weekly information regarding H1N1 influenza

### *Novel H1N1 Influenza Frequently Asked Questions and Answers*

#### **I heard that novel H1N1 influenza is pandemic—what does that mean?**

This means that influenza due to the novel H1N1 virus is occurring in multiple countries around the world and that human infection is widespread. However, this does not mean that the severity of the illness has increased. Despite its wide and quick spread, most people who have gotten novel H1N1 influenza have had mild illness. Unfortunately, some people in New York State, in the United States, and in other countries have developed more severe illness and some have died. At this time, it is uncertain how many people with novel H1N1 influenza will develop serious complications during this pandemic.

#### **What is novel H1N1 influenza?**

The word "novel" means new. Novel H1N1 influenza is a new flu virus not seen before. Novel H1N1 influenza is an influenza virus that was first seen in the United States in April 2009. Health officials initially called it "swine flu" because it looked similar to some flu viruses that pigs get. However, further study showed that novel H1N1 influenza contains a combination of flu virus genes found in some pigs, humans, and birds. Novel H1N1 influenza is not the same as swine flu.

#### **Is novel H1N1 influenza the same as swine flu?**

No. Swine flu is a respiratory disease that pigs get that is caused by a different influenza virus. Outbreaks of swine flu happen regularly in pigs. People do not normally get swine flu, although sometimes people who work or live around pigs can get it. Very rarely, people with swine flu can spread it to others.

#### **Is novel H1N1 influenza the same as seasonal flu?**

No. Seasonal influenza (flu) is caused by different viruses than novel H1N1 influenza. Some differences between seasonal flu and novel H1N1 influenza are:

	<b>Seasonal Influenza</b>	<b>Novel H1N1 Influenza</b>
When flu occurs:	Every year; usually winter and early spring	First identified April 2009; continuing to present
Age group most affected:	People 65 years and older	Children and young adults (5-24 years old)
Vaccine available:	Yes, available every year	Late September to mid-October

#### **Is novel H1N1 influenza the same as the avian flu (bird flu) that has been in the news in recent years?**

No. Even though novel H1N1 influenza contains avian (bird) genes, it is not the same. The bird flu virus that has been watched closely is categorized as influenza A (H5N1), and is transmitted primarily among birds. This strain of avian flu (bird flu) has not been found in the United States.

**Additional topics can be found at [www.health.state.ny.us](http://www.health.state.ny.us).**

- Novel H1N1 Influenza – What It Is and Is Not
- Vaccine
- Prevention
- Transmission and Illness
- Treatment
- Flu-like illness and Novel H1N1 in the Household
- Schools
- Pregnancy
- Camps
- Novel H1N1 Influenza in New York, the U.S. and Worldwide
- Definitions and Terminology
- Internet Links for More Information

This information was taken directly from the New York State Department of Health's website