



# This is an official Oklahoma Health Alert Network Health Update

April 30, 2009  
OKHAN-0112-09-04-30-UPD-N

## Addendum to Swine Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines: Clarification on Procedures for Rapid Influenza Testing

In response to questions from laboratory directors, laboratory managers, and medical clinic operators, the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), Public Health Laboratory (PHL) has received clarification from the Work Safety and Health Desk at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding infection control measures applicable to laboratorians who are performing rapid influenza tests.

The following are updates to the previous OK-HAN Advisory OK-HAN-0109-09-03-27-ADV-N, titled "Swine Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Biosafety Guidelines for Laboratory Workers":

### Updated CDC guidance for infection control when performing rapid influenza testing:

- There are **NO** special requirements or unique infection control practices such as testing under a hood, or under enhanced BioSafety Level 2 conditions. As usual, Universal Precautions should be employed.
- CDC guidance specific to swine influenza A (H1N1) does state that "viral isolation" procedures do require enhanced infection control practices during viral typing and culturing, but this should not be confused with those standard biosafety precautions used for rapid influenza testing.

Please direct any additional questions to the OSDH, PHL at (405) 271-5070.

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Categories of Health Alert messages:

**Health Alert** highest level of notification that the Oklahoma State Department of Health will send out. This usually refers to an immediate threat to the OSDH community and requires immediate action.

**Health Advisory** advises medical providers of a condition in the area. These are usually not medical emergencies. These may not require immediate action.

**Health Update** provides updates on previous alerts or advisories. These are unlikely to require immediate action.

##This Update has been distributed to Laboratories and State and Local Health Officials ##

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