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MARINE SAFETY AND SECURITY INFORMATION BULLETIN 01-09

Reporting of H1N1 Virus Cases

In response to recent outbreaks of H1N1 (Swine Influenza) virus cases in the United States and internationally, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has declared a Public Health Emergency. Subsequently, in an effort to increase awareness and protection measures for personnel working within the maritime environment, all vessel crew, owners, operators, and agents are requested to maintain a heightened state of awareness and pay special attention to health conditions of all persons onboard vessels.

As Captain of the Port (COTP) Western Alaska considers the H1N1 virus a hazardous condition as defined by Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 160.204, any suspected or confirmed H1N1 virus cases aboard vessels entering, departing or within the Western Alaska COTP zone must be reported immediately in accordance with 33 CFR 160.215, which requires notification to the Sector Anchorage Command Center. Vessels required to submit an advanced notice of arrival (ANOVA) must also identify any suspected or confirmed H1N1 virus cases as a hazardous condition on their ANOVA. All other vessels not required to submit an ANOVA shall report suspected or confirmed cases to the Sector Anchorage Command Center. The Sector Anchorage Command Center can be reached at (907) 271-6769. Reporting suspected or confirmed cases to Sector Anchorage does not relieve reporting requirements under other federal, state or local laws and regulations.

The following provides some guidance as to the management of passengers or crew members with symptoms of influenza:

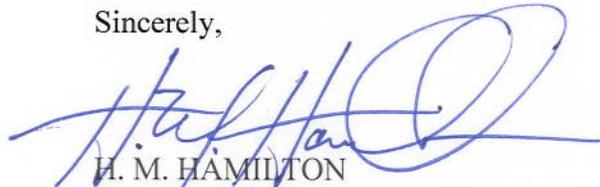
- Be aware of the possible symptoms of swine influenza, which include: fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue, and in some cases, diarrhea and vomiting.
- Minimize the number of personnel directly exposed to the ill person.
- Separate the ill person (6 feet) from others as much as possible without compromising safety.
- Have the ill person wear a facemask, if it can be tolerated, to reduce the number of droplets coughed or sneezed into the air.
- If a facemask can not be tolerated, provide tissues and ask the ill person to cover his or her mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing along with a plastic bag for proper disposal of contaminated tissues.
- Gloves are not intended to replace proper hand hygiene. Gloves should be carefully removed and discarded and hands should be cleaned immediately following activities involving contact with body fluids. Gloves should not be washed or reused.
- Personnel having close contact with an ill person should wear a facemask at a minimum or, ideally, a NIOSH-certified particulate respirator rated N-95 or better.

- Dispose of soiled material, gloves, items contaminated with body fluids, and disposable respirators in a sturdy plastic bag that is tied shut, not reopened, and disposed of according to state solid waste regulations.
- Personnel should wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and warm water before tending to an ill person, and after removing gloves and mask, touching commonly touched surfaces, contacting respiratory secretions or tending to the sick person. Use waterless, Alcohol based hand gels when soap is not available and hands are not visibly soiled.

Additional information on the H1N1 virus can be found on the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website at: www.cdc.gov/swineflu. Resources for updated information on H1N1 virus, pandemic flu, and prevention methods can also be found at www.hhs.gov , www.dhs.gov, www.usda.gov, www.who.org and www.pandemicflu.gov, a site run by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

If you have any questions about the reporting requirements for the H1N1 virus please contact the Sector Anchorage Command Center at (907) 271-6769.

Sincerely,



H. M. HAMILTON
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port Western Alaska