



Influenza Fact Sheet

Dated: September 9, 2009

With heightened awareness of 2009 H1N1 type A Influenza (Swine Influenza), the following important facts and frequently asked questions on influenza have been compiled based on information provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO). For additional information refer to the following websites:

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu>

WHO: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>

FAQ's: Types and Spread of Influenza Viruses

There are three types of influenza viruses – A, B and C. Humans can be infected by all three types of influenza. Influenza A viruses infect birds, swine and humans.¹

What is swine influenza?

Swine influenza is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by one of several swine influenza type A viruses. Outbreaks in pigs can and do occur at any time of the year, with an increased incidence in the fall and winter seasons.

At any given time, there are several swine influenza virus subtypes such as H1N2, H3N1, as well as the currently identified H1N1, circulating in pigs. Although influenza viruses are normally species specific, the viruses can cross over and cause disease in other species such as the swine influenza infecting humans.

How does influenza spread?

Once in humans, influenza is transmitted from person-to-person primarily via virus-laden large droplets that are generated when infected persons cough or sneeze; these large droplets can then be directly deposited into the upper respiratory tracts of people who are near (e.g. within 6 feet) the droplet source.² Transmission may also occur through direct and indirect contact with respiratory secretions.

Disinfectants and Influenza Claims

2009 H1N1 type A Influenza information per the Environmental Protection Agency web site as of May 4, 2009: <http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/influenza-disinfectants.html>

“The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are currently tracking an H1N1 flu outbreak that has caused infections in humans in the United States, Mexico, Canada and other countries. Information on this Web page will help you identify antimicrobial products that are registered by EPA to disinfect hard, non-porous surfaces that may be contaminated with the 2009-H1N1 flu.

EPA registers pesticide products, including disinfectants. As part of the registration process, EPA evaluates the product efficacy to make sure the public health label claims are accurate. Currently, over

500 disinfectant products are registered for use on hard, non-porous surfaces against influenza A viruses. EPA believes, based on available scientific information, that the currently registered influenza A virus products will be effective against the 2009-H1N1 flu strain and other influenza A virus strains on hard, non-porous surfaces. For safe and effective use of these products, always follow label instructions for these products, paying special attention to the product's dilution rate (if applicable) and contact time.

Choose a product whose label states that it is effective against "Influenza A virus" and lists your specific site of concern, such as: farm premises, hospitals and other healthcare facilities, schools, offices or homes.

As the CDC stresses, your first line of defense is to wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based cleaner. These registered disinfectant products are for use on hard, non-porous surfaces, such as door knobs, handles, tables, floors, etc. EPA emphasizes that these products are not to be used on the skin or to be taken orally.

More than 500 antimicrobial products (17 pp, 137 K PDF) are registered by EPA specifically for use against influenza A virus. This is not a complete list since some products may have different distributor or product names and may not be referenced. We will continue to update this list as more information becomes available. Approved products specifically have label information which states they provide effectiveness against "Influenza A virus."

*Up-to-date information about the 2009-H1N1 flu is available on CDC's Web site."*⁴

Please be aware that the EPA list referenced above is a listing of products by the primary registrant number and therefore the 3M name does not appear on this list. The EPA registration number is specific to a formulation and is required to be printed on each bottle of disinfectant.

Efficacy of disinfectants against influenza viruses

The following 3M disinfectants are EPA approved against influenza A or A2.

- ❖ 3M™ Bathroom Disinfectant Cleaner Concentrate 4L, EPA reg. 6836-309-10350
- ❖ 3M™ Quat Disinfectant Cleaner Concentrate 5L/5H, EPA reg. 6836-78-10350
- ❖ 3M™ CompuBlend™ II Base V with Fragrance, EPA reg. 6836-78-10350
- ❖ 3M™ Non-Acid Disinfectant Bathroom Cleaner Concentrate 15L, EPA reg. 1839-166-10350
- ❖ 3M™ Phenolic Disinfectant Cleaner Concentrate 18L/18H, EPA reg. 6836-252-10350
- ❖ 3M™ Neutral Quat Disinfectant Cleaner Concentrate 23L/23H, EPA reg. 47371-129-10350
- ❖ 3M™ Neutral Quat Disinfectant Cleaner Concentrate, gallon, EPA reg. 47371-129-10350
- ❖ 3M™ HB Quat Disinfectant Cleaner Concentrate 25L/25H, EPA reg. 61178-5-10350
- ❖ 3M™ HB Quat Disinfectant Cleaner Concentrate, gallon, EPA reg. 61178-5-10350
- ❖ 3M™ TB Quat Disinfectant Cleaner – Ready-To-Use, quart, EPA reg. 1839-83-10350*

*This product is not on the EPA list dated April 28, 2009, but it does have the required type A influenza registration.

According to the CDC guidelines: Infection Control Guidance for the Prevention and Control of Influenza in Acute-Care facilities at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/healthcarefacilities.htm> and Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings 2007 at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/guidelines/Isolation2007.pdf>, high-touch surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected more frequently than minimal-touch surfaces. Since workers can contaminate their hands by touching surfaces; good hand hygiene (frequent hand washing) is critical.

Follow appropriate guidelines for surface disinfection:

1. Use a one-step process and an EPA-registered disinfectant when uncertainty exists as to the nature of the soil. Pre-clean surfaces which have a gross quantity of body fluid. If a gross quantity of blood or body fluid exists, use protective gloves and other personal protection equipment appropriate for the cleaning situation.
2. Apply use-solution to hard, non-porous surfaces, thoroughly wetting the surface with a cloth, mop, sponge, coarse spray or by immersion. Wipe the surface to remove soil. Allow the surface to air dry.
3. Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces such as bed rails, door knobs, light switches, etc., on a more frequent schedule than minimal-touch surfaces.

References:

1. Influenza Viruses – CDC – www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/gen-info/flu-viruses.htm
2. Infection Control Measure for the Prevention and Control of Influenza in Health-Care Facilities
3. Ten Things you Need to Know about Pandemic Influenza - WHO
4. EPA http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/avian_flu_products.htm

Additional Information:

U.S. Dept of Health & Human Services <http://pandemicflu.gov/general/>
3M Occupational Health & Environmental Safety www.3M.com/OccSafety
Environmental Protection Agency <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/avian.htm>

Important:

The information provided in this report is believed to be reliable; however, due to the wide variety of intervening factors, 3M does not warrant that the results will necessarily be obtained.



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