



# Influenza Fact Sheet

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Dated April 27, 2009

With heightened awareness of 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/swineflu>

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

## **FAQ's: Types and Spread of Influenzaviruses**

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.<sup>1</sup>

### **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 3 feet) the droplet source. Transmission may also occur through direct and indirect contact with respiratory secretions.<sup>2</sup>

### **Disinfectants and Influenza Claims**

When Avian Influenza was the primary focus of pandemic concern the EPA web site stated: “Although there are no antimicrobial products registered specifically against the H5N1 subtype of avian influenza A viruses, EPA believes that the currently registered avian influenza A products, when applied in strict accordance with the label directions, will be effective against the H5N1 strain.”<sup>4</sup>

As of April 27, 2009 the EPA has not made a similar comment regarding swine flu. However, a similar conclusion would be logical with respect to swine influenza.

### **Efficacy of disinfectants against influenza viruses**

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

- .  3M™ Bathroom Disinfectant Cleaner Product No. 4
- .  3M™ Quat Disinfectant Cleaner Product No. 5
- .  3M™ CompuBlendII Base V with Fragrance
- .  3M™ Non-Acid Disinfectant Bathroom Cleaner Product No. 15
- .  3M™ Phenolic Disinfectant Cleaner Product No. 18
- .  3M™ Neutral Quat Disinfectant Cleaner Product No. 23
- .  3M™ HB Quat Disinfectant Cleaner Product No. 25
- .  3M™ HB Quat Disinfectant Cleaner - Gallon

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. Workers contaminate their hands by touching surfaces; therefore good hand hygiene is critical.

#### References:

1. Influenza Viruses – CDC – [www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/gen-info/flu-viruses.htm](http://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](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](http://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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