



SWINE INFLUENZA INFORMATION UPDATE – April 28, 2009

Many of you will have seen or heard news reports about how a strain of Swine Influenza has begun infecting humans and that some human to human transmission has occurred. While the epicenter of the outbreak is in Mexico, cases are also being reported in other parts of the world, including the United States and most recently, Canada.

While some cases in Mexico have been fatal, the cases reported in Canada as of April 26, 2009, are mild and in all cases, there has been a full recovery.

At present, there is no specific information about how to handle dead human bodies. The information relates primarily to minimizing the risk of contracting and spreading the virus. As always, you are encouraged to implement universal precautions when handling human remains. It has been suggested that it is a good practice to cover the face of any suspected cases with a mask and as always, utilize universal precautions.

Health officials around the world are monitoring the situation in the event it results in a pandemic.

The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care issues regular Important Health Notices (IHN), which can be emailed to you directly by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. You may register to receive the IHNs at www.serviceontario.ca. Look under **Important Health Notices** on the right side of the page. Click on **“Sign up for Important Health Notices.”**

Other good sources of information may be Health Canada www.hc-sc.gc.ca, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) www.cdc.gov, World Health Organization (WHO) www.who.int websites.

For a copy of the **Pandemic Guide** produced jointly by the Funeral Service Association of Canada and the Board of Funeral Services, visit www.funeralboard.com. You are encouraged to review the guide and encourage your colleagues to do the same. All businesses should also have a plan in place and be part of the local public health office’s pandemic plan.

Please pass along this information to your colleagues. Anyone wishing to receive this type of notice in the future may email the Board of Funeral Services at info@funeralboard.com.

The Board of Funeral Services is committed to working with the Funeral Service Association of Canada and provincial associations to distribute timely information to funeral service professionals.

In the meantime, please remember to take personal precautions by washing your hands frequently and thoroughly, covering your coughs and sneezes, and staying home if you are ill.

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