Algorithm to assist in decisions on testing and treatment for H1N1 (swine flu) Virus in Regions (state or metropolitan area) with Fewer than 5 confirmed Cases

Patient presents with
- Fever >37.8°C (100°F) and
- Respiratory symptom (may include cough, sore throat, etc)
- Sepsis-like syndrome

Yes

Consider additional workup for other respiratory conditions and co-infections if warranted.
- Patient should stay home until symptoms resolve
- Use hand, respiratory, and cough hygiene
- Call if symptoms worsen

No

Implement appropriate infection control measures

Patient traveled to Mexico or US community with confirmed H1N1 (swine flu) cases, or is a close contact of a confirmed or probable case
- or
- Patient’s clinical conditions indicates need for hospitalization

Yes

Obtain any of the following: nasopharyngeal swab; nasal aspirate; nasal swab plus throat swab; or nasal wash
- Store in refrigerator while awaiting transport (do not freeze)
- Send to state public health laboratory for RT-PCR testing

No

Recommend early antiviral treatment with oseltamivir or zanamivir if patient is severely ill or at high risk for complications
- Use clinical judgment to decide whether additional antibacterial therapy is needed

1. As with seasonal influenza, infants, adults ≥65 years-old and persons with compromised immune systems may have atypical presentations.
2. Information on infection control can be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidelines_infection_control.htm
4. Real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) is the preferred laboratory test for identifying H1N1 (swine flu) virus. Rapid antigen tests and immunofluorescence tests have unknown sensitivity and specificity to detect H1N1 (swine flu) virus. For more information, please see http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/specimencollection.htm.
5. Interim guidance for antiviral use can be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/recommendations.htm
6. Interim guidance for clinicians is available at: http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/identifyingpatients.htm

Please note: these algorithms do not apply to providers participating in the US Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILI Net). For guidance related to ILI Net see: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/screening.htm