



August 14, 2012  
For Immediate Release

**H3N2v Surveillance Continues with Additional Case Identification**

*State Officials Encourage Safe Practices as Ohio Fair Season Continues*

COLUMBUS — The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) announced today additional confirmed cases of Influenza A H3N2v, bringing the total number of cases statewide to 54. Those with confirmed cases of H3N2v are between the ages of 6 months and 36 years old. To date, five of the confirmed cases in Ohio were hospitalized, but they have since been treated and released.

<i>County of Residence</i>	<i>Number of Confirmed H3N2v Cases</i>
Butler	17
Champaign	8
Clark	3
Franklin	2
Gallia	11
Greene	4
Hamilton	3
Medina	1
Monroe	2
Morrow	1
Ross	1
Warren	1

At this time, surveillance indicates that the individuals most likely became ill with the flu virus after exposure to swine. Health officials have not determined person-to-person transmission at this time, but continue to investigate the possibility.

Case counts will be updated daily on ODH’s website: <http://bit.ly/OhioH3N2vUpdates>. Press releases with case counts in Ohio will be issued on Fridays moving forward.

With county fairs running into the first week of October, the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and ODH remind residents and visitors that fair attendance is safe. Those attending the fair should remember:

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- Wash your hands frequently with soap and running water before and after exposure to animals.
- Never eat, drink or put things in your mouth in animal areas, and don't take food or drink into animal areas.
- Young children, pregnant women, people 65 and older and people with weakened immune systems should be extra careful around animals.
- If you have animals – including swine – watch them for signs of illness and call a veterinarian if you suspect they might be sick.
- Avoid close contact with animals that look or act ill, when possible.
- Avoid contact with swine if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms.

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### Chronology

- 8/13 ODA distributes flu testing kits to veterinarians at each upcoming fair to help identify H3N2v cases among swine showing signs of illness at the fair.
- 8/10 ODH confirms 36 cases of H3N2v in Ohio. A county fair outreach plan is put into motion, with a representative from ODA and ODH, or a local designee such as the fair veterinarian or health commissioner, visiting every fair to make in-person contact. Dr. Wymyslo, Director of ODH leads national call with directors of health from each state to provide guidance and support as they identify H3N2v cases in their territories.
- 8/8 ODH confirms 30 cases of H3N2v in Ohio.
- 8/7 ODA distributes communication to fair exhibitors and county fair boards across Ohio reiterating the importance of good hygiene to prevent the spread of influenza viruses.
- 8/6 ODH holds statewide conference call with local health departments to provide an update on the situation; ODA holds statewide conference call with state fair boards.
- 8/5 CDC confirms additional human cases of H3N2v, bringing the total to 15.
- 8/2 Two swine sent home from Ohio State Fair after showing flu-like symptoms.
- 8/2 CDC confirms nine individuals who had direct contact with swine at Butler County Fair have Influenza A variant H3N2.
- 8/1 ODA asks fair exhibitors to take precautions and alerts attending veterinarians to closely monitor swine as they arrive on the fairgrounds for signs of influenza; ODA also works with the Ohio Expo Commission on hand sanitation stations and informational signage at the Ohio State Fair.
- 8/1 ODH investigates flu illness from Butler County fair. Preliminary positive results indicate H3N2v strain of influenza.
- 7/31 ODH notifies local health departments and health care providers in Ohio to monitor influenza-like illness in their area.

### Contacts:

Ohio Department of Health: 614-644-8562

Ohio Department of Agriculture: 614-752-9817