Globally
Current WHO alert level is Phase 5. Phase 5 is characterized by larger clusters but human-to-human spread is still localized, suggesting that the virus is becoming increasingly better adapted to humans, but may not yet be fully transmissible and indicates a substantial risk of pandemic. However, this does not necessarily mean a pandemic is a forgone conclusion.

Nationally
On April 26, 2009, the U.S, Department of Health and Human Services issued a nationwide public health emergency declaration in response to recent human infections with a newly discovered swine influenza A (swine flu) virus.

On April 26, 2009, the CDC Division of Strategic National Stockpile (DSNS) was given the authority from HHS and CDC leadership to initiate shipment of material for the swine flu influenza outbreak. At this point, DSNS has been given permission to release the states and localities allocation of SNS held antiviral drugs, personal protective equipment, and respiratory protection devices that have been placed in reserve for pandemic uses.

On April 28, 2009, President Obama requested Congress approve $1.5 billion in supplemental funds to "enhance capability" to address the spread of the outbreak and build antiviral stockpiles.

CDC is recommending antivirals only for treatment of those infected and of high risk close contacts.

On April 29, 2009 the CDC officially released Emergency Use Authorization guidance and documents regarding use of Tamiflu and Relenza (antiviral medications) and flu test kits.

As of April 29, 2009, 11:00 a.m. there are 91 laboratory confirmed cases of swine flu infection in the United States:
- New York City – 51
- California – 14
- Texas – 16
- Kansas – 2
- Indiana – 1
- Ohio – 1
- Massachusetts – 2
- Michigan – 2
- Nevada – 1
- Arizona – 1

One death in US confirmed, Texas – 22 month old boy.
USDA is requesting increased swine flu disease surveillance efforts in swine. USDA has no information from the field regarding any clinical illness in swine or any other non-human animal species infected with this Swine-H1N1 strain. USDA Animal Research Services is in the process of conducting experiments to determine whether the Swine-H1N1 strain is infectious to swine. USDA should have this research data within 2 weeks.

**Statewide**

The PA DOH has activated its Influenza Pandemic Response Plan. It has created a departmental Swine Flu Task Force that meets daily.

The PA DOH is communicating and collaborating with federal partners and Commonwealth and local agencies to coordinate efforts, plan responses, track resources, and provide daily updates.

The PA DOH partially activated the Department Operations Center (DOC) at 11:00 a.m. April 27, 2009.

The PA DOH Secretary held a press briefing on April 27 and 28, 2009. Key messages focused on:

- Referring citizens to the PA DOH website or 1-877-PA-Health for information.
- Assuring there are no confirmed cases in PA.

The PA DOH website, [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us), has been updated to feature a link to [www.pandemicflu.state.pa.us](http://www.pandemicflu.state.pa.us), and the CDC swine flu webpage, [www.cdc.gov/swineflu](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu), and includes information for the general public, clinicians, laboratories, public and animal health officials, and interim guidance documents. Specifically:

- Screening for Swine-Origin Influenza A (H1N1) by State and Local Health Departments, Hospitals, and Clinicians in Regions with Few or No Reported Cases of Swine Influenza A (H1N1) April 29, 2009, 12:30 PM ET
- Specimen Collection, Processing, and Testing for Patients with Suspected Infection April 29, 2009, 2:30 AM ET
- Emergency Use Authorization of Medical Products and Devices April 29, 2009, 1:45 AM ET
- Guidance for Clinicians on Identifying and Caring for Patients April 29, 2009, 12:00 AM ET
- Guidance for Clinicians on Prevention and Treatment in Young Children April 28, 2009
- Taking Care of a Sick Person in Your Home April 25, 2009
- Antiviral Recommendations for Patients and Close Contacts April 28, 2009
- Non-pharmaceutical Community Mitigation April 26, 2009
- Facemask and Respirator Use in Community Settings Where Transmission Has Been Detected April 27, 2009
- Biosafety Guidelines for Lab Workers April 24, 2009
- Infection Control for Care of Patients in a Healthcare Setting April 24, 2009
- Guidance on Case Definitions for Investigations of Cases April 28, 2009
- Guidance for Airlines Regarding Flight Crews Arriving from Domestic and International Areas Affected by Swine Influenza April 28, 2009
- Guidance to Assist Airline Flight Deck and Cabin Crew in Identifying Passengers Who May Have Swine Influenza April 28, 2009
- Pregnant Women: Considerations for Clinicians April 28, 2009
• New interim clinician recommendations are under development and will include a one-page algorithm for diagnosis.
• **MMWR Dispatch:** An MMWR Dispatch, “Update: Infections with a Swine-Origin Influenza A (H1N1) Virus --- United States and Other Countries, April 28, 2009,” is available online at [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm58d0428a2.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm58d0428a2.htm).
• **Migrant Population Recommendation:** (CDC anticipates this will be completed on April 29, 2009 and will be posted on April 30, 2009).

The PA DOH Health Alert Network (PA-HAN) serves as a communication network among state and local public health agencies, healthcare providers, hospitals and emergency management officials to provide recommendations from the CDC and other health organizations. A list of recent PA HAN alerts is on the PA DOH website. On 4/29/09 a Health Advisory was released through the PA HAN with guidance for health care providers regarding specimen collection for swine influenza.

PA officially requested 25% of the antivirals, respiratory protection, and personal protective equipment from the SNS that was pre-allocated to the Commonwealth. The material will be received in approximately 3-4 days at a secured and approved location. Once materials are received, they will be the responsibility of the state to maintain, store, secure, and deploy. Added to the antivirals the Commonwealth has already stockpiled, that brings the total number to approximately 1.8 million.

The PA DOH is following the CDC guidance in recommending antivirals only for treatment of those infected and of high risk close contacts.

For planning purposes, a Facilities Resource Emergency Database (FRED) request was sent to hospitals and EMS Councils to gain a count of personal protective equipment (PPE) and antivirals which are on site. In addition, a request was sent to the Pharmacy Association to work with their members to gather this information.

The PA DOH State Laboratory is continually testing samples received and reporting the results to the PA DOH Bureau of Epidemiology for tracking purposes.

The PA DOH State Laboratory distributed 307 influenza specimen collection kits to sentinel providers throughout the Commonwealth.

The PA DOH Bureau of Community Health Systems is working locally out of the six District Offices to provide education, assistance, and guidance to the communities they serve, as well as to respond to 1-877-PA-Health calls (averaging 50 per district office per day).

The CDC will release guidance for emergency services dispatch centers for management of suspected swine flu cases on or before 4/30. The PA DOH is developing guidance for school management of suspected cases and possible school closure. In addition, the PA DOH web site currently has guidance for child care centers and clinicians.

The PA DOH is communicating with school nurses, colleges, and universities utilizing exiting email listservs and the PA DOH school health website postings on the latest information pertaining to H1N1. Additionally, school nurses have been asked to report any high absenteeism in schools by calling 1-877-PAHEALTH.