

How do I prepare my aquatic facility for “Swine Flu”?

Swine Flu, H1N1

What is it?

Swine Flu, or more correctly called H1N1, is a strain of influenza virus which causes respiratory disease in humans. Government officials would like the public to call it H1N1 because calling it "swine flu" suggests a problem with pork products. No U.S. pigs have been affected.

Human-to-human transmission of H1N1 virus can occur. This is thought to occur in the same way as seasonal flu occurs in people, which is mainly person-to-person transmission through coughing or sneezing of people infected with the influenza virus. People may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

What can I do to stay healthy?

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people.
- If you get sick, CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- **Try to avoid contact with sick people.**

What actions should pool operators take at their aquatic facility?

Currently there is no evidence suggesting inactivating the H1N1 virus would be different than other flu viruses. Therefore, continuing to maintain the pool water within the recommended levels for pH and disinfectants should inactivate the viruses. Vomit incidences should be treated the same as always, follow guidelines on the attachment.

<http://www.nspf.org/Documents/cdcarticles/cdcbloodandvomit.pdf>

Viruses are transmitted in areas outside of pool water and other surfaces such as restrooms, door handles, and chairs. Follow CDC recommendations of 10% bleach solution to wipe these and other features down. For guidance on cleaning up bodily fluids on inanimate objects download:

<http://www.nspf.org/Documents/cdcarticles/cdcbodyfluiddeck.pdf>

Employees and patrons who are sick or have sick children should stay home and follow CDC guidance above to minimize virus transmission.

For more information, please contact:

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