



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
SINGAPORE

MH 34:85

25 May 2009

All Registered Medical Practitioners  
All Licensees of Healthcare Establishments

**MOH CIRCULAR 53/2009**  
**UPDATE: ADVICE TO PRACTITIONERS ON MANAGEMENT OF SUSPECTED CASES OF INFLUENZA A(H1N1-2009)**

1. The case definition for a suspected case of influenza A (H1N1-2009) virus infection remains unchanged, and is defined as an individual with an acute febrile respiratory illness (fever  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ )<sup>1</sup> with onset of symptoms:
  - a) Within 7 days of travel history to affected areas<sup>2</sup>, or;
  - b) Within 7 days of close contact with a person who is a confirmed case of influenza A (H1N1-2009).
2. Any patient who meets the above case definition should be referred immediately to the Emergency Medicine Department at Tan Tock Seng Hospital<sup>3</sup>. Medical practitioners should arrange for these patients to be transferred by ambulance by calling the dedicated ambulance service at 993 (available 24 hours).
3. The Ministry of Health should also be **notified immediately** of suspected cases. Please contact the Communicable Diseases Division at 98171463 (available 24 hours)<sup>4</sup>. MOH will inform the notifying doctor of the need for contact tracing and prophylaxis.

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<sup>1</sup> Persons who may not manifest fever include those on dialysis or immunosuppressive medications.

<sup>2</sup> Affected areas currently refer to the US, Canada and Mexico. Please refer to MOH website for the latest list of Affected Areas: <http://www.moh.gov.sg>

<sup>3</sup> Medical practitioners in public sector institutions should follow advisories relevant to their institutions

<sup>4</sup> The hotline for Communicable Diseases Division, MOH is for notification of suspected cases of Influenza A(H1N1-2009). General enquiries should be directed to the MOH hotline numbers: **1800-225-4122**, or; **1800-333-9999**. Other useful contact numbers are CFPS: 6221 8608 (8:30am – 6pm, Mon- Fri), SMA: 62231264 (8:30am – 6pm, Mon – Fri)



Ministry of Health, Singapore  
College of Medicine Building  
16 College Road  
Singapore 169854  
TEL (65) 6325 9220  
FAX (65) 6224 1677  
WEB [www.moh.gov.sg](http://www.moh.gov.sg)

4. Home quarantine order (HQO) for travellers to Singapore with a recent travel history to Mexico has been lifted since 16 May 09. In view of this, the **recommendations on the management of patients have been revised accordingly**. Notwithstanding the above case definition for suspect cases (see Para 1), medical practitioners may encounter patients who present with variable travel/clinical histories. As a guide, medical practitioners can take reference from the table below on how these patients could be managed:

Symptoms	Travel history (within the last 7 days) to Affected Areas i.e. USA, Mexico & Canada <sup>2</sup>
Fever <sup>#</sup> + respiratory symptoms <sup>@</sup>	Refer to TTSH
Fever only	Refer to TTSH
Respiratory symptoms only	Refer to TTSH
Nil	7 day monitoring for fever, observe good hygiene practices. No need to stay at home <sup>©</sup>

<sup>#</sup> **Fever** is defined as a temperature of  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ , or a history of fever

<sup>@</sup> **Respiratory symptoms** comprise symptoms such as sore throat, rhinorrhoea, cough and myalgia

<sup>©</sup> Patients are to seek medical assistance if symptoms persist or worsen.

#### CONTINUED VIGILANCE NEEDED

6. We will continue to maintain vigilance in preparation for a possible second, more severe, wave. The fight against an influenza pandemic will be a long drawn one. We seek your cooperation in our efforts to protect the health of people living in Singapore.

7. For updates on this evolving situation, please refer to the MOH website [www.moh.gov.sg](http://www.moh.gov.sg). For further clarifications of this circular, please email [moh\\_info@moh.gov.sg](mailto:moh_info@moh.gov.sg) or contact MOH hotline on 1800-333-9999.

8. If you are a licensee of a healthcare establishment, or a manager of a laboratory, please bring the contents of this circular to the attention of the relevant healthcare professionals in your establishment/laboratory.



PROF K SATKU  
DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

#### ***IMPORTANT***

This circular supercedes Circular 44/2009 dated 6 May 2009.