

## Talking Points for Health Centers on the Swine influenza A (H1N1) virus

Community Health Centers [cite state or community] are partnering with their local county health departments to address the evolving swine influenza A (H1N1) virus in their local communities. Given that this is a public health emergency, local county health departments and/or local emergency medical service agencies have the lead responsibility for determining the course of action in responding to any outbreak of the disease.

Community Health Centers are able to mobilize and respond to public health needs quickly and efficiently in times of crisis. They benefit from being community-focused and having the existing networks on the ground to target needs as challenges unfold.

Our communities are better prepared than ever before to respond to the swine flu outbreak. Preparedness is always a work in progress, but our public health and medical systems, including health centers, have been planning and preparing for a pandemic for several years. We are working with our local, state, and federal partners to ensure a timely response should a case of H1N1 virus be identified.

[Name of health center] is urging the public to take the following precautions to help fight the spread of the virus.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue away.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Stay home if you're sick and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- Try to avoid being around sick people.
- Patients who suspect they might have a case of swine flu should first call their health care provider.