



FINAL April 27 2: 54 p.m.

MEDIA LINES

KEY MESSAGES

Situation

- PHAC has worked with Canadian Border Services Agency to develop health screening questions for border officials. In addition, PHAC has worked with Transport Canada to arrange for travel health notice cards to be handed out to travellers travelling to and returning from Mexico, in addition to on-board health announcements.
- Canada and the United States will issue travel advisories recommending that people avoid all non-essential travel to Mexico.
- We are increasing our efforts to inform people about the risk of human swine influenza in Mexico specifically because of the severity of illness reported in that country.
- We remain vigilant and continue to monitor the situation closely to detect any illness as early as possible and ensure Canadians are protected.

Government Action

- Canada is well-positioned to deal with this issue.
- Canada is a leader in pandemic planning and we are implementing the Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan which provides guidelines for a wide range of health-related activities including:
 - increased levels of collaboration and surveillance and a range of public health interventions
 - dissemination of public information via a 1-800 number and the PHAC website,
 - laboratory testing, and other monitoring and coordination measures.
- The federal government is working closely with the provinces and territories and international partners to protect the health and safety of Canadians following confirmation of these additional cases of human swine influenza in Canada.
- The Government of Canada is working in close co-ordination with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Mexican Public Health Agency, the World Health Organization and the Pan-American Health Organization and other partners.
- Two Canadian epidemiologists are in Mexico, assisting with testing at that country's request and PHAC is looking into providing additional epidemiological support within affected areas of Canada.
- The Government will continue to update Canadians with more information as it becomes available.

Prevention

- There are simple measures to minimize the risk of being infected. These steps include simply washing your hands, controlling coughs and sneezes, staying home when sick, and talking to a health professional if you experience flu-like symptoms