What is Swine Flu?

Swine flu is respiratory disease caused by viruses, which lead to in affecting the respiratory system of pigs. That can lead to nasal secretions and coming across barking like coughs, affecting the heath and in behaviour. Swine flu produces the same symptoms for pigs as human flu produces for people. People have developed swine flu infections when coming close to pigs or being contact with them, such as farmers and pork processors. And likewise the pig population have received an outbreak of the human flu. Investigators believe the outbreak of the 2009 H1N1 influenza started off in Mexico, should be by term the novel H1N1 influenza as it is mainly affecting the people. More recent investigations have shown that eight RNA strands from novel H1N1 flu has one strand of human flu, two of the bird flu, and five from swine strains.

Swine Flu its virus name is the H1N1 flu. In the laboratory tests shows that the genes were in common to the ones occurred in pigs, further onward more studies has shown that the 2009 H1N1 is very different circulates of what is found in North American pigs. The combination of two genes from flu viruses that normally pass in pigs in Europe, Asia bird genes and human genes. Scientist calls it Quadruple.

Studies are still ongoing; generally the flu is transmitted through the respiratory tract. Droplets of fluids which carry the remains of the flu spread when coughing and sneezing. Studies show that masks called N95 respirators, when used properly, filters germs from the mouth and spread the flu. Neither contact with the pigs or eating pork can cause the flu. Fukuda said.

Swine Flu is caused by a virus. The most common subtype is the Type A influenza H1N1. Letters H and N are the proteins found on the surface of the virus. Which are used to determine the different subtype.

Between 1 to 4 days people come to feel the effect of the flu, influenza normally causes, coughing, sneezing, headaches, chills, body aches, vomiting and diarrhoea. Swine flu causes the same symptoms. Some severe cases of swine flu are deaths mostly common with young and very old people, as the body cannot fight of the virus.

Death often occurs due to bacterial infection in the lungs and the right antibiotics need to prescribed as the H1N1 flu has a death toll of 0.1%

Tamiflu is being used for the swine flu as well as zanamivir drugs. These should be used after 2 days being ill; these drugs reduce the severity of the sickness and helps by shortening the period of time being sick within 2 to 1 day. These drugs are beneficial to those who are seriously meaning hospitalised and those who are sick with flu and have sickness complications, referring to pregnant women, chronic health problems and children.

Cases have been rising in the US and many other countries since the arriving of the swine flu in May 1st 2009. Swine flu has attacked around 141 people in the U.S and 365 around the world, this statistics have been confirmed by the CDC and the World health Organisation of flu cases in May 1st on Friday.

Swine flu is a problem, but have people crossed the line between reasonable concern and unwarranted alarm? A new poll from the Harvard University shows that 1,067 volunteers, 59% of them are only washing their hands more often by using alcohol based sanitizer, that same participants of 17% have said that they are avoiding Mexican restaurants and grocery stores, 13% of them think that they are to get swine flu by eating pork.

Miranda Hitti, WebMD Health News
I think the best way in curing the H1N1 flu is by vaccination, as swine flu symptoms are seen as normal human flu, many people get vaccination to stop flu from spreading. Currently the CDC are recommending that ages above 10 should only get one shot of the H1N1 vaccine and suggests that these shots are effective by 76% of the people who obtain the vaccine. Vaccine shots given to children to 6 months to 9 years old is not effective as related to older ages, but the CDC still recommends that the children should get two shots instead. Another type of vaccine is the Manavolent vaccine live, it is alive attenuated H1N1 flu vaccine which contains no thimerosal and is sprayed into the nostrils. This vaccination is only for ages 2-49. Some data shows that it affects less in generating immune response in adults than the vaccine injection. The CDC says that the best way in preventing the spread of flu is to avoid any exposure to the virus; mostly done by frequent hand washing, not touching your hands to your face, and also avoiding to getting in contact that has any flu symptoms. The use of Relenza and Tamiflu may prevent the flu if taken before the symptoms start to develop. Some administrators say that these drugs are still useful after 48 hours, but however these drugs are not recommended for the healthy population.

Swine flu is a virus with a mix of human flu, bird flu and swine flu, although these do not generally affect pigs but there is an outbreak on humans. Swine flu virus name is the novel H1N1 flu. This started in 2009 at Mexico city, many people have been quarantined after returning from their journey from Mexico.

People have their own point of view on Swine flu, such as numbers of patients will multiply and the government are still not taking any action towards it, people believe more people need to be quarantined.

People are also worrying about the general public getting crazy about health products such as face masks and sanitizers. But they should mostly take in the concern of keeping oneself away from swine flu.

After the research yes swine flu is a problem throughout the world.

Please note – These are extracts from one student’s response