

Antivirals and Swine Flu

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Who should take antivirals?

The current CDC recommendation is to prioritize hospitalized patients and patients at higher risk for influenza complications for treatment with antivirals.

Public Health officials are not recommending antivirals to prevent people from getting swine flu. As the supply of antivirals is limited, it is very important that healthcare providers reserve their use for those who are very ill and at greatest risk.

Persons experiencing flu-like symptoms should call their healthcare provider. If you have the flu, your healthcare provider will be able to determine if antivirals are the most appropriate treatment for you.

How serious is swine flu?

Most people in the United States who have become ill with swine flu have had mild illness (similar to the regular flu) and have recovered on their own with little or no medical treatment.

What are the symptoms of swine flu in humans?

The symptoms of swine flu in people are similar to regular human seasonal influenza and include:

- fever over 100°,
- tiredness,
- lack of appetite and
- coughing or sneezing.
- Some people with swine flu also have reported runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.