

Swine flu is a respiratory disease which infects pigs but also people, typically those who have been in contact with pigs.

Symptoms in humans

People-to-people transmission is through coughing, sneezing

The virus

Influenza A subtypes: H1N1, H1N2, H3N1, H3N2, H2N3

New "reassortant" virus forms when genes from different viruses begin to mix

When flu spreads person-to-person, rather than from animals to humans, it can continue to mutate, making it harder to treat or fight off

Incubation time 5-10 days

There are no vaccines that contain current swine flu virus causing illness in humans

Precautions advised

- Very frequent hand washing
- Stay at home if you are sick
- Cover your mouth when coughing and sneezing
- Avoid touching your eyes and nose

Source: World Health Organization

