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- **Update: Severe Respiratory Illness, Mexico  
April 24, 2009**

**FROM:**

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**This is an update to the April 23, 2009 HPU on the severe respiratory illness (SRI) cases in Mexico.**

As with any emerging situation, recommendations will change as information becomes available. Please refer to the most recent updates as posted on <http://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/updates2009.htm>

**Updated information**

- Two clusters of SRI have been identified, one in Mexico City and one in San Luis Potosi. Deaths have been reported in Mexico City, San Luis Potosi, Oaxaca and Baja California Norte.
- The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has also reported cases of swine flu in humans in California and Texas. SRI has not been reported in these patients; it is not clear if these are related to the cases in Mexico.

**1. Reporting to Peel Public Health\***

Immediately report individuals who meet the following criteria:

- History of fever >38°C AND
- New onset or worsening cough and/or shortness of breath AND
- Require emergency medical attention and/or hospital admission AND
- Have recent travel history to Mexico within the past 10 days or contact with an ill person who had travelled to Mexico

**Immediately report anyone meeting the above criteria to Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700.**

\*Reporting of illness among those with recent travel to California or Texas where swine flu in humans has been reported is not currently required. However, please continue to document recent travel history as appropriate.

**2. Specimen Collection and Testing**

Patients meeting the above criteria should have the following specimens collected for testing by the Public Health Laboratory-Toronto:

- Nasopharyngeal swab in viral transport medium
- Bronchoalveolar lavage specimen if available
- Throat swab in Multitrans™ transport media (Mycoplasma/Chlamydia pneumoniae pcr)
- Blood in EDTA (purple top)
- Blood in clotted tube (red top)
- Urine for Legionella antigen
- Write "SRI-High Priority: Attention Dr. Gubbay" on the requisition form.
- Submit the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) SRI report form, available at: [http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/eri-ire/pdf/03-SRI-Report-Form\\_e.pdf](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/eri-ire/pdf/03-SRI-Report-Form_e.pdf)

Transport specimens to the laboratory at 4°C. During regular office hours call PHL at 1-800-640-7221. For after hours testing consultation or testing at PHL, contact the Microbiologist on-call (Duty Officer: 416-605-3113).

Other investigations such as blood cultures should be done by the local laboratory.

**3. Precautions – Droplet, single room**

Patients who fit the above criteria should be isolated using droplet precautions and treated in a single room as per PIDAC guidelines, available at: [www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/infectious/diseases/best\\_prac/bp\\_fri\\_080406.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/infectious/diseases/best_prac/bp_fri_080406.pdf). In addition, healthcare providers providing direct care of these patients should wear properly fit tested N-95 respirators.