



February 3, 2015



Marion County Medical Multi-Agency Coordination Center

NATIONAL TERRORISM ADVISORY SYSTEM

No active alerts



49°

Mostly sunny, with a high near 49. South wind around 5 mph.

Mostly Sunny



ASTHMA INDEX

0



39°

Mostly cloudy, with a low around 39. South southeast wind 3 to 5 mph.

Mostly Cloudy



UV INDEX

4

## THREAT ANALYSIS

### Novel influenza calls for enhanced safety protocols

As this especially severe flu season continues in the United States, novel influenza strains lurk as a potential public health threat. Clinical safety is paramount when dealing with novel influenza.

This season's widespread flu activity is due primarily to H3N2, an influenza A virus common to humans. Novel influenza viruses, on the other hand, are influenza A viruses with a unique subtype and often originate from animals. (Source: [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#))

Novel influenza viruses, due to their higher morbidity levels and lack of effective vaccines, call for a higher level of infection control measures than seasonal flu. (Source: [CDC](#)) Last spring, a mix up at a CDC laboratory involving H5N1 led to the potential exposure of dozens of government workers. Errors in both lab and clinical settings have the potential to harm health professionals as well as hasten the spread of viruses. (Source: [Scientific American](#))

Last week, Canada confirmed two British Columbia residents had tested positive for H7N9 avian flu after a recent visit to China, where 15 infections and three deaths have been connected to the strain since December. (Source: [The New York Times](#).) Avian flu cases in birds have recently been detected in Washington, California and Nevada, and the CDC recently reported that a person in Minnesota has recovered from H1N1v swine flu. (Sources: [The Seattle Times](#), [Reuters](#), [The Reno Gazette-Journal](#), [Outbreak News Today](#))

## ACTION STEPS

1

Be cognizant of novel influenza warning signs, including severe flu symptoms and travel to affected areas. (Source: [CDC](#))

2

Confirm that your facility's infection control protocols for potential novel influenza include eye protection and respirator use for all patient-care activities. (Source: [CDC](#))

3

Engage with your state and local health department to monitor risk levels for novel flu infection. (Source: [Public Health Agency of Canada](#))

## UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY

03

No Mass Gatherings Scheduled

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