

**2009 H1N1 Influenza A Virus
ASBPO Status Update 1
April 30, 2009**



The Armed Services Blood Program Office (ASBPO) is working in coordination with the Office of the Surgeon General (OTSG), Health Affairs (HA), Health and Human Services (HHS) and other government agencies, along with our partners in the blood banking community to monitor and assess the current status of the H1N1 flu virus.

As it relates to blood donations and blood services, the ASBPO is aggressively monitoring any impact the H1N1 flu virus may have on both the blood donor population and blood supply and will promptly communicate all information received along with recommended protocol.

Enclosed you will find the most current update from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the AABB Disaster Task Force Association Bulletin. Please pay special attention to preparedness recommendations for blood centers included in the AABB Bulletin.

Appropriate messages for our donor population and donor center staff will be developed and distributed for use by the donor centers should the need arise. Current recommendations to mitigate risk for all publics, including government and military personnel are common hygiene protocols as follows:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- If you become ill with influenza-like symptoms, including fever, body aches, runny nose, sore throat, nausea, or vomiting or diarrhea, you may want to contact your health care provider, particularly if you are worried about your symptoms. Your health care provider will determine whether influenza testing or treatment is needed.
- If you get sick with influenza, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.

Recommend signs are posted with the above information in bathrooms, and common use areas.

It is very important to emphasize that this virus has NOT been declared a pandemic flu. Current measures undertaken are to ensure every necessary resource is in place and to ensure preparations have been made should a pandemic be declared.

For more information and resources the following sites are updated frequently:

www.cdc.gov/swineflu

[AABB Disaster Response Info](#)