

# QUAT OF THE MONTH

April 2009

## **Highlight: Swine Flu in the News**

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On Sunday, April 26, The U.S. Department of Homeland Security declared a public health emergency in an attempt to stop the spread of swine flu virus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)), as well as the World Health Organization (WHO) website (<http://www.who.int/en/>), are two reputable sources for up-to-date information on the swine flu. As of April 30, 2009, there have been 109 confirmed cases and one death reported in the United States. Worldwide, there are 257 cases in nine countries. The World Health Organization raised the phase for pandemic alert from Phase 4 to Phase 5. This phase is characterized by human-to-human spread of the virus into at least two countries in one WHO region.

### **What is swine flu?**

Swine influenza (swine flu) is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza virus that regularly causes outbreaks of influenza in pigs. Swine flu viruses cause high levels of illness but have low death rates in pigs. Swine influenza viruses may circulate among swine throughout the year, but most outbreaks occur during the late fall and winter months similar to outbreaks in humans. The classical swine flu virus (an influenza type A H1N1 virus) was first isolated from a pig in 1930.

### **How many swine flu viruses are there?**

Like all influenza viruses, swine flu viruses change constantly. Pigs can be infected by avian influenza and human influenza viruses as well as swine influenza viruses. When influenza viruses from different species infect pigs, the viruses can reassort (i.e. swap genes), and new viruses that are a mix of swine, human and/or avian influenza viruses, can emerge. Over the years, different variations of swine flu viruses have emerged. At this time, there are four main influenza type A virus subtypes that have been isolated in pigs: H1N1, H1N2, H3N2, and H3N1. However, most of the recently isolated influenza viruses from pigs have been H1N1 viruses.

### **Does Stepan offer any biocidal formulations that are effective against the swine influenza as reported in the news?**

Stepan Company does not have a swine influenza claim on any of our registered disinfectants/sanitizers, therefore you cannot make a claim of efficacy against swine influenza on any subregistration. The "swine flu" is a genetic reassortment of the H1N1 virus that contains elements of swine, avian, and human influenza. None of the contract testing labs are likely to have this virus available for testing for quite some time.

*However, Stepan knows from experience that influenza strains are enveloped viruses and that quaternary disinfectants are effective against enveloped viruses. Many Stepan disinfectants are effective against both avian and human flu virus strains, and Stepan has reason to believe that these disinfectants would be effective against the swine flu strain that is making headlines. Noted on the next page are those Stepan subregistrations that are effective against both avian influenza virus and human influenza virus.*

**US EPA Guidance**

Ms. Michele Wingfield, Branch Chief, Product Science Branch of the US EPA Office of Pesticide Programs, Antimicrobial Division is recommending the use of any registered product with label claim against Influenza A. If your products have an Influenza A label claim, you can use against the current H1N1 strain. That being said, you cannot add "swine flu" to your label just because you have influenza A. The Administration is currently calling this strain 2009-H1N1 flu instead of swine flu.

**STEPAN® Disinfectant Wipe**

Did you know we have a STEPAN® Disinfectant Wipe (EPA Reg. No. 1839-190) with a **5 minute contact time** against influenza virus!

**Other Stepan subregistrations  
effective against both avian influenza virus and human influenza virus**

<b>US EPA Registration No.</b>	<b>Registration Name</b>
1839-79	NP4.5 Detergent/Disinfectant
1839-83	Detergent Disinfectant Pump Spray
1839-86	BTC® 2125M 10% Solution
1839-95	NP 4.5 (D&F) Detergent/Disinfectant
1839-155	BTC® 2125M 20% Solution
1839-166	BTC® 885 Neutral Disinfectant Cleaner-128
1839-167	BTC® 885 Neutral Disinfectant Cleaner-256
1839-169	BTC® 885 Neutral Disinfectant Cleaner-64
1839-173*	7.5% BTC® 885 Disinfectant/Sanitizer

*\*All of the above are registered in the State of California and Canada except for EPA Reg. No. 1839-173.*

**The term "swine flu"**

WHO will stop using the term "swine flu" after the agricultural industry and the U.N. food agency expressed concern that the term "swine flu" was misleading consumers and needlessly causing countries to order the slaughter of pigs. WHO will be referencing the virus by its technical scientific name H1N1 influenza A.

Don't see your registration listed and want to confirm it is efficacious against influenza A virus? Contact us.

Sources: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), [www.who.int](http://www.who.int), [apiccommunications@informz.net](mailto:apiccommunications@informz.net), Office of Pesticide Programs

**Stepan**   
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If you have any additional questions regarding this communication, please contact Stepan Technical Service Department at 1-800-745-7837 ([techserv@stepan.com](mailto:techserv@stepan.com)) or Stepan Antimicrobial Registration Group (Tom Isaac at [tisaac@stepan.com](mailto:tisaac@stepan.com), Bruce Greene at [bgreene@stepan.com](mailto:bgreene@stepan.com) or Nancy Maitzen at [nmaitzen@stepan.com](mailto:nmaitzen@stepan.com)). Specific to Canadian inquiries, please contact Jane Williams (905) 814-7231 x22.

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