IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

The Anthropozoonotic Potential of the Pandemic H1N1 2009 Influenza Strain

The mammalian 2009 H1N1 influenza strain appears to have a broad host range compared to many influenza strains. Naturally occurring and/or experimental infections have been documented in mice, rats, ferrets, cats, dogs, chicken, turkeys, swine, and possibly guinea pigs (Brookes et al., 2010; Ilyushina et al., 2010 [Jun]; Kash et al., 2010; Sponseller et al., 2010 [Mar]). Animal-to-animal transmission has also been observed for some of these species. In addition, it appears that viral shedding of this strain occurs as long as 7–8 days post infection (De Serres et al., 2010).

Therefore, the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) is recommending that experimental animals not be handled by individuals experiencing 'influenza-like illness' for 1 week following initial symptoms. If such individuals must handle animals, an N95 face mask and gloves are strongly suggested.

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