

SWINE FLU ADVICE FOR DENTISTS ISSUED

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued information to the public and health-care providers on the recent outbreak of swine influenza in humans. Although the information is aimed at individuals in the USA, UK dental practitioners may also find it of interest.

Dental healthcare providers are urged to view the main CDC swine flu webpage for the latest updates, but frequently asked questions by dental providers have been:

- What to do if a patient presents for routine treatment and has acute respiratory symptoms with or without fever?
- What to do if a patient with acute respiratory symptoms requires urgent dental care?; and
- What to do if staff report to work with acute respiratory symptoms?

Patients with an acute respiratory illness may present for dental treatment at outpatient dental settings. According to the CDC the primary infection control goal is to prevent transmission of disease.

Early detection of a suspected or confirmed case of swine influenza and prompt isolation from susceptible persons will reduce the risk of transmission. To prevent the transmission of respiratory infections including influenza in healthcare settings, respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette infection control measures should be implemented at the first point of contact with a potentially infected person.

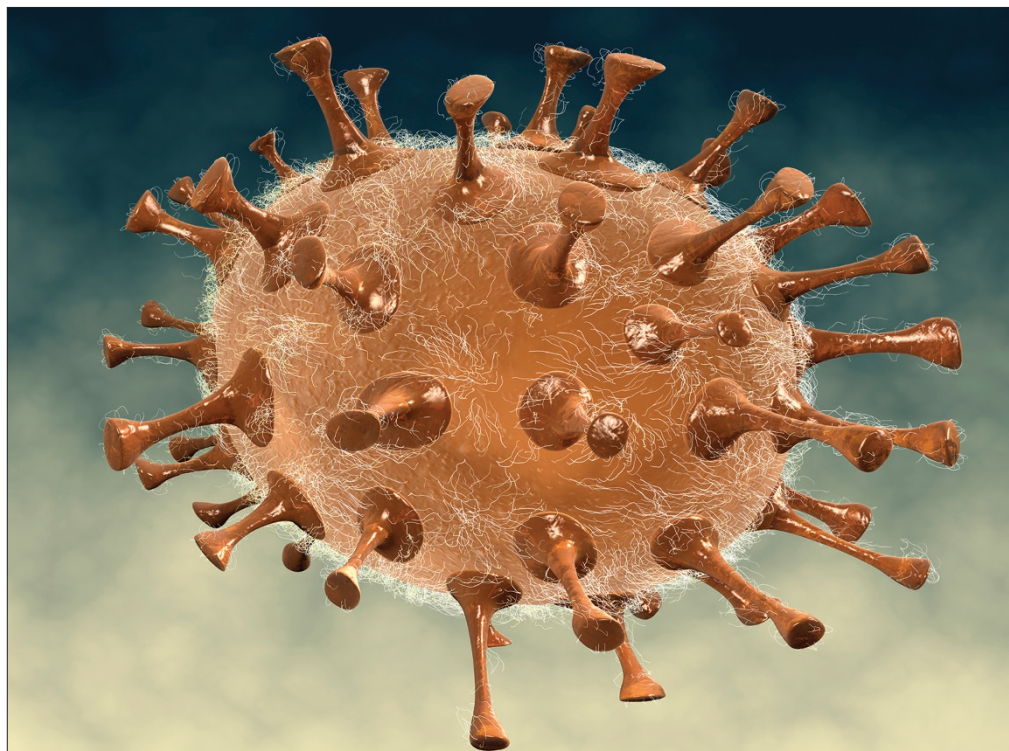
Patients with an acute respiratory illness should be identified at check-in and be placed in a single-patient room with

the door kept closed. Offer a disposable surgical mask to persons who are coughing or provide tissues and no-touch receptacles for used tissue disposal.

The ill person should wear a surgical mask when outside the patient room and dental healthcare personnel assessing a patient with influenza-like illness should wear disposable surgical face-mask, non-sterile gloves, gown, and eye protection (eg goggles) to prevent direct skin and conjunctival exposure.

Routine cleaning and disinfection strategies used during influenza seasons can be applied to the environmental management of swine influenza. The CDC say that respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette infection control measures along with contact precautions are currently recommended for preventing transmission of swine influenza in a dental healthcare setting.

The CDC is working very closely with officials in US states where human cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) have been



Patients and dental healthcare workers should perform hand hygiene (eg hand washing with non-antimicrobial soap and water, alcohol-based hand rub, or antiseptic handwash) after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials.

identified, as well as with health officials in Mexico, Canada and the World Health Organization. This is a rapidly evolving situation and CDC will provide updated guidance and new information as it becomes available at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidelines_infection_control.htm.

ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASE INVESTIGATED

A paper featured in this issue of the *BDJ* investigates the unusual subject of asbestos related disease in the dental industry. In it, Mr Chris Fry, Partner and Head of Industrial Diseases at solicitors Wake Smith & Tofields, discusses the dangers of the asbestos-based disease mesothelioma and the possible origins of this form of cancer in dental professionals.

He says he first became interested in asbestos related disease in dentistry after reading an obituary published in the *BDJ*. He explained, 'My brother is a dental surgeon, and his wife's parents are very highly regarded dental surgeons in Sheffield where my sister is also training as a dental hygienist. I have many friends who are also dentists in the area. It is true to say that there's not much of the average conversation amongst this esteemed bunch that ever strikes a note with me as greatly as that of the obituary of Mr Richard Bourne in the *BDJ* of December 2007.'

Mr Fry says that most of the cases of asbestos related illnesses he has seen at his firm of solicitors have been for people who worked as commercial

plumbers, pipe fitters or foundry men.

'The thought of an asbestos risk being present in the dental profession was new to me, and I wanted to know the extent of the danger to my friends and family. My research shows that there is a significant risk to a small but probably identifiable proportion of dentists, technicians and nurses who trained with and used various periodontal powders in the 1960s and 1970s. The paper which I have submitted gives information about the particular products which are thought to have been capable of causing asbestos related respiratory diseases, and encourages readers to be alert to symptoms.'

Mr Fry added that there are different forms of asbestos related disease and not all are deadly, so his paper should be regarded as an 'early warning' notice that if any readers remember being engaged in similar working practices and begin to develop shortness of breath for no obvious reason, they should seek immediate advice. (See *An investigation into asbestos related disease in the dental industry*, *BDJ* 2009; 206: 515-516).

STUDENTS TREAT FIRST PATIENTS AT DENTAL SCHOOL CLINIC

The first NHS patients to be treated by supervised students at the Peninsula Dental School Dental Education Clinic in Devonport, Plymouth, have attended their first appointments at the facility.

The Clinic is the first purpose-built dental education facility in the UK for 30 years, the last being built in Cardiff in 1979. The Peninsula Dental School is the first new dental school to have opened in 40 years.

The new facility has 40 dental chairs arranged in five bays of eight, plus three single chair bays for special treatments. It also includes a laboratory where students will learn clinical skills for procedures such as casting models, adjusting dentures and making mouth guards, seminar rooms and an IT suite.

Treatments available free of charge

from dental students under the supervision of a qualified dental tutor include dental check-ups, oral examination and diagnosis including X-rays.



Peninsula Dental School student Andrew McKelvey treats Devonport resident Alan Calvert, one of the first patients to attend the new Peninsula Dental School Dental Education Clinic in Devonport, Plymouth

ADA APPOINTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The American Dental Association (ADA) has appointed its first woman executive director. The ADA Board of Trustees recently announced the appointment of Dr Kathleen T. O'Loughlin as its executive director/chief operating officer, effective June 1.

The announcement marked the end of an 11-month search for a new executive director. Prior to joining the ADA staff, Dr O'Loughlin worked briefly for United Healthcare as its chief dental officer after having served as a consultant to both Tufts University School of Dental Medicine on curriculum development in preparation for expansion of the dental school facility, and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science Forsyth School of Dental Hygiene in preparation for their 2009 accreditation.

She said, 'I am incredibly honoured to accept this position. It represents the pinnacle of my professional career. What a great opportunity to serve the profession I have loved for 30 years and what a tribute to my deceased father, Dr John Treanor, who as a socially conscious general dentist of 35 years, was my role model and inspiration.'

SKI SUCCESS FOR RADC

The Royal Army Dental Corps (RADC) has had a very successful winter on the snow. For the first time, nine RADC personnel competed at the 1(UK) Divisional Ski Championships, with Captain Kat Campbell leading a female team to success in the Nordic (cross country) Championships.

Major Nikki Porter then took an RADC team on to the prestigious Army Ski Championships before captaining the Army Ladies Ski Team to victory

in the Interservices Cup.

At the Army Medical Services Ski Championships, the RADC were the form team in the Alpine Events, comprehensively winning both the Slalom and Giant Slalom races. For the second year running the winner of the best overall skier at the event was an RADC skier: this year's 'Assassin' was Major Nick Gibbs. As in previous years, the support given by Dentsply was invaluable in helping the RADC bring on novice skiers and junior soldiers.



AWARD WINNING LECTURER RECOGNISED

Ms Leili Sadaghiani, Lecturer and Specialist Registrar in Restorative Dentistry at the School of Dentistry, Cardiff, is the winner of the 2008 3M ESPE/Oral & Dental Research Trust (ODRT) Dental Biomaterials Award. Supervised by Drs Alastair Sloan, Chris Lynch and Alan Gilmour, the title of her award-winning entry was *To bond or to base: the effect of contemporary resin bonding systems and*

cement bases on pulpal vitality and potential for dentine regeneration.

Professor Nairn Wilson CBE, Chairman of the ODRT, said that the Trust was delighted with the number, range and quality of applications for the 2008 3M ESPE/ODRT Biomaterials Award. Ms Sadaghiani's application stood out for its clarity, careful design and immediate importance to the clinical practice of dentistry.

MOUTH CANCER TREATMENT BREAKTHROUGH

A potential development in mouth cancer treatment has been discovered by researchers from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, New York, USA.

Research has suggested an anti-cancer compound could help treat mouth cancer, and studies showed that the compound

killed mouth cancer cells removed from head and neck cancer patients.

Currently just half of those diagnosed with mouth cancer survive beyond five years. Nearly 5,000 are diagnosed in the UK each year. In the study, scientists tested a drug for its effects on blood cancer.

DIARY

JUNE

British Dental Association Conference and Exhibition 2009

Date: 4-6 June 2009

Venue: Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow
www.bda.org/events

World Aesthetic Congress (WAC)

Date: 12-13 June 2009

Venue: Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London
www.independentseminars.com

JULY

10th Annual Rural Dental Conference

Date: 3 July 2009

Venue: Gregynog Hall, Wales
Tel: 01686 650800.

FGDP(UK) Implementation of the Dentists with Special Interests Scheme

Date: 3 July 2009

Venue: BMA House, London
Tel: 020 7869 6772
Email: fgdp-education@rcseng.ac.uk

FDI Rio Caries Conference

Date: 15-17 July 2009

Venue: Rio Centro Exhibition and Convention Centre, Brazil
www.fdiworldental.org

SEPTEMBER

2009 FDI Annual World Dental Congress

Dates: 2-5 September 2009

Venue: Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre
Email: congress@fdiworldental.org
www.fdiworldental.org

OCTOBER

2nd Annual European Congress on Anti-Aging & Aesthetic Medicine (ECAAM)

Date: 5-17 October 2009

Venue: Congress Centre, Mainz, Frankfurt
ssinger@tarsus.co.uk
www.anti-agingevents.com/europe

American Society of Human Genetics: Society of Craniofacial Genetics 32nd Annual Meeting and Symposium

Date: 20 October 2009

Venue: Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
www.craniofacialgenetics.org

BDA LIBRARY HEAD HONOURED

Roger Farbey, the BDA's Head of Library & Knowledge Services, has recently been awarded a Fellowship of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), which is the professional association for librarians.

Fellowship is the highest level of professional qualification awarded by CILIP (formerly known as The Library Association) and recognises the highest level of personal commitment and achievement. It allows Fellows to add the initials FCILIP after their name.

Obtaining Fellowship of CILIP is a lengthy process which involves being a chartered member of CILIP for a minimum number of years and providing written evidence in the form of supporting documentation of substantial achievement in professional practice, significant contribution to the profession and active commitment to continuing professional development.

It signifies that a Chartered Member has developed the potential identified by that award and has applied an increasing



level of professionalism both through personal professional practice and through the contribution made to the profession at large. Fellowship also requires written support from other Chartered Members or senior colleagues.

Roger is only the second BDA librarian to be awarded Fellowship, the first being the late Geoffrey Hipkins, who was appointed in 1946 as the Association's first professional librarian.

NEW DENTAL CENTRE OPENS

A new dental centre in Sherborne is hoping to help NHS patients obtain access to dentistry. The Right Honourable Oliver Letwin MP officially opened Sherborne Dental Centre recently, and as well as unveiling a plaque at the £800,000 building, Mr Letwin put the comprehensive state of the art equipment to the test by putting principal dentist Alastair Danby in the dentist's chair.

The centre is the only practice in the town devoted to offering care for NHS patients and so far more than 5,000 patients have signed up. The brownfield site where a dilapidated bungalow once stood has been transformed with the construction of a modern dental practice.

Melanie Smoker, dental lead at NHS Dorset, which helped with the funding of the project, said, 'We are delighted that this practice is now up and running, providing the people of Sherborne with a first-class dental service.'

