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NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE FOR SWINE INFLUENZA VIRUS IN THE UNITED STATES, 2009- PRESENT

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Introduction. In April 2009, a National surveillance plan for swine influenza virus in swine was implemented in the United States. Initial focus of the surveillance was to detect the presence and distribution of viruses (especially the 2009 H1N1 pandemic influenza, A(H1N1)pdm09) that are or may be of public health concern. The current objectives of the National Surveillance Program are: [1] Monitor genetic evolution of endemic swine influenza viruses to better understand endemic and emerging influenza virus ecology; [2] Make virus isolates available for research and establish an objective database for genetic analysis of these isolates and related information; and [3] Select proper isolates for the development of relevant diagnostic reagents, updating diagnostic assays, and vaccine seed stock products.

Materials and Methods. There are three components of influenza surveillance in swine; [1] Surveillance of swine observed with influenza-like illness (ILI) on farms from which samples are submitted for laboratory testing, [2] Surveillance of swine epidemiologically linked to a human case of novel influenza virus, and [3] Surveillance of swine observed with signs of ILI at first points of concentration or comingling events, particularly where there is potential high exposure to humans. Surveillance data include total animals and specimens tested, state of origin of the samples, reason for submission, tests conducted on the samples and their results, as well as sequence information if virus was isolated.

Conclusions and Discussion. Data analysis is underway at the time of this abstract submission. An up to date summary of the surveillance data collected through the United States National Swine Influenza Surveillance Program will be presented at the meeting.