MAY 08 2009

Mr. Christopher Witkowski
Director, Air Safety, Health & Security Department
Association of Flight Attendants

Dear Mr. Witkowski:

Thank you for your letter of April 27 expressing concern about the protection of flight attendants from exposure to passengers with possible swine influenza. I am quite concerned about this new disease, and I realize that flight attendants work with passengers who could be disease carriers. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is charged with providing health advice and guidance for the protection of the public. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Flight Standards Service developed SAFO #09009 of April 29 to inform air carriers of recently developed guidance from the CDC. This document, with links to CDC websites, contains recommendations based on standard infection control and industrial hygiene practices, guidance for the management of crewmembers or passengers with symptoms of swine influenza and management of crew exposure after the completion of a flight. As the guidelines for swine influenza evolve and new information is gained, I am confident more detailed guidelines will be published to the CDC websites.

I agree with these recommendations, and I believe that they will help to mitigate the potential transmission to other passengers and flight crewmembers.

Again, thank you for your letter. I am very concerned about the health and well being of your members and that of the traveling public, and I am confident that the CDC will find the best solutions to this most serious public health problem.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Frederick E. Tilton, M.D.
Federal Air Surgeon