

Pre-clinical year medical students: at-risk of contracting swine flu

To the Editor—Medical personnel constitute an important group at high risk of getting swine flu.¹ Among medical personnel, medical students seem to be at higher risk of infection due to their lack of experience.² I would like to report a case demonstrating that medical students in their pre-clinical years are also at risk of getting swine flu but are a forgotten group. An 18-year-old male presented to an emergency unit of a local hospital during the night complaining of very high fever. His body temperature was 40.4°C and he had flu-like symptoms. Earlier that day when he returned home from classes, his mother observed that he had fevers and chills and brought him to see a nearby physician. He was first admitted to a local hospital then referred to the teaching hospital belonging to the faculty of medicine where the patient was studying. His final diagnosis was

swine flu. Pre-clinical medical students usually study in medical colleges located near or within medical hospitals, so should classify, along with medical students in their clinical years, as an at-risk group of medical personnel. Indeed, they belong to a group of medical personnel that is usually forgotten during preventive coverage campaigns.³ Basic knowledge of infection control and universal precautions should be included in the medical curriculum as early as possible.

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References

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