Influenza, commonly called “the flu” is an illness caused by influenza viruses that infect many animals, birds, and humans.

**BIRDFLU**

Only influenza A viruses from animals transmitted to humans through direct contact or indirect exposure to infected birds or pigs are known as zoonotic influenza.

**SWINEFLU**

It is difficult to differentiate seasonal and zoonotic influenza as signs and symptoms can be similar. However, exposure to poultry or pigs is a must for suspicion of zoonotic influenza.

Please note that influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 should not be called “swine flu” as it is no longer found in pigs.

Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 is now a seasonal influenza virus.