

Abstract Since the spring of 2009, there have been a considerable number of infected as well as fatal cases by virologically confirmed swine-origin H1N1 influenza A virus (S-OIV). The virus continues to spread globally. The World Health Organization (WHO) has now raised the level of S-OIV influenza pandemic alert to phase 6 ('the pandemic phase') because of the human-to-human transmission of the virus and the community-level outbreaks worldwide. The WHO also issues its concerns about the global surveillance, the diagnostic capacity for the infection and the pandemic preparedness plan in every country. However, no critical review on S-OIV influenza and dental practice published in the literature exists hitherto. Based on information up to November 2009, the aim of this article was to summarise significant data on this novel virus and a clinical practice guideline for dental professionals.