

Extracts from a letter from the Minister Gillianj Merron Department of Health 1/2/2010 on the diagnosis of swine flu.

'we are now relying on clinical diagnosis instead of laboratory testing to identify cases of swine flu.'

'Unfortunately early symptoms of many conditions are very similar to those of influenza like illnesses and often make diagnosis more difficult'

'Sadly the cause of swine flu-like symptoms is not always clear until further specific symptoms appear and the consequences can sometimes be tragic'