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When delivered intranasally a single dose of the TLR-2 agonist S-[2,3-bis(palmitoyl oxy)propyl] cysteine (Pam2Cys) affords up to 99% reduction in viral loads in the lungs of mice challenged with influenza virus strains of moderate virulence and significantly reduces weight loss and mortality following challenge with highly virulent virus strains. The effect is immediate, occurring in the first day of exposure, and is achieved with a single dose of Pam2Cys. Mice treated with Pam2Cys and subsequently challenged with influenza virus also demonstrate lower rates of contact transmission when compared to naive mice. The anti-viral activity is antigen independent and associated with activation of the innate immune system through Pam2Cys-dependent recruitment of neutrophils, macrophages and soluble factors including IL-6, IL-10, IFN- γ , MCP-1 and TNF- α into the pulmonary tract. The findings indicate that Pam2Cys is a

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