



Charlie Crist
Governor

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State Surgeon General

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FLORIDA NOW HAS TWO CDC LABORATORY CONFIRMED CASES OF INFLUENZA A-H1N1

- **Lee County: 11-year-old male who attends Spring Creek Elementary School.**
- **Broward County: 17-year-old female who attends Hallandale High School.**

The symptoms of H1N1 flu in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with H1N1 flu. Like seasonal flu, H1N1 flu may cause a worsening of underlying chronic medical conditions.

The Palm Beach County Health Department continues enhanced surveillance and outreach to physicians, hospitals and other health care professionals. The surveillance system, consisting of sentinel physicians reporting influenza activity, DOH laboratories receiving specimens from physicians and hospitals and our ability to monitor emergency room cases and over-the-counter drug sales is fully operational. We have activated our response plan and are ready to respond to any cases of swine flu if it should occur.

Anti-virals have been pre-positioned in Palm Beach County.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported 109 confirmed cases of novel influenza in the United States, with one death in a twenty-three month old.

The World Health Organization (WHO) alert level remains at Phase 5. The declaration of a Phase 5 is a strong signal that the pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of the planned mitigation measures is short. Participation in Centers for Disease Control and other national conference calls will continue.

Dr. Jean Malecki, health department director recommends the following:

People with respiratory illness should stay home from work or school to avoid spreading infections, including influenza, to others in the community.

- **Avoid close contact with people who are coughing or otherwise appear ill.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.**
- **Wash hands frequently to lessen the spread of respiratory illness.**



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People experiencing cough, fever and fatigue, possibly along with diarrhea and vomiting, should contact their physician.

If you think you have influenza, please call your health care provider or the health department at 840-4500 and discuss whether you need to be seen in their office, emergency department or stay home. Three websites are also updated regularly www.pbchd.com, www.cdc.gov, www.doh.state.fl.us or call the Hotline at 1-800-324-355- (open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.) The recorded information line is 1-800-775-8039.



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