



Charlie Crist
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H1N1 FLU UPDATE PALM BEACH COUNTY

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL—Today the CDC laboratory confirmed 23 cases of the H1N1 influenza in Florida that had previously been listed as probable. Palm Beach County continues to wait for confirmation on its probable case.

In an effort to expedite the confirmation process all four Department of Health laboratories have received testing supplies from the Centers for Disease Control and now can test samples to confirm H1N1 Swine Flu. This expansion streamlines the process and probable cases will no longer be listed awaiting CDC confirmation.

The confirmed Florida cases are in the following counties: one in Alachua, Clay, Indian River, Okeechobee, Orange, Seminole, and Pinellas; two in Dade, three in Lee, five in Broward, and six in Hillsborough.

New confirmed cases are:

Hillsborough: an 18 year-old male, a 21 year-old male, a 22 year-old male, a 19 year-old female, a 12 year-old male, and a 24 year-old female; **Clay:** a 15 year-old female; **Okeechobee:** a 27 year-old female; **Indian River:** a 15 year-old male; **Alachua:** a 19 year-old female; **Seminole:** an 18 year-old male; **Pinellas:** a 25 year-old male; **Dade:** a 13 year-old female; a 47 year-old male; **Broward:** an 11 year-old female, a 22 year-old female, a 3 year-old female, a 26 year-old female

18 probables in the following counties are awaiting confirmation: Manatee, Okaloosa, Palm Beach, Lake, Duval, Collier, Pinellas, and Marion have one each. Lee and Sarasota has two. Broward and Dade has three.

CDC no longer recommends that communities with a laboratory confirmed case of influenza A H1N1 consider adopting school dismissal or childcare closure measures.

A public health emergency has been declared by the State Surgeon General.

A toll free information line has been established to address an increasing number of calls from the public requesting Swine Flu information. The number is 1-800-342-3557 and it is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and a 24 hour recorded information line is in place at 1-800-775-8039.

More



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Health Department Director, Dr. Jean Malecki said, "The probable case in a 75 year old male has been responding to treatment well and is getting better." The Health Department acted immediately on the suspicion that this person may have H1N1. This early detection and treatment have proven effective in this patients case.

Dr. Jean Malecki 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.**

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 Locally information can be obtained by calling 211.

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