



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H..
State Surgeon General

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 15, 2010

CONTACT: TIM O'CONNOR
561-671-4013 or press50@doh.state.fl.us

H1N1 FLU UPDATE PALM BEACH COUNTY

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL— The Palm Beach County Health Department is continuing its surveillance and monitoring of the H1N1 Swine flu virus. The County's **thirteenth** death was confirmed today in a 32 year old female who was hospitalized. To date the county has seen 93 persons hospitalized with the virus and 45 of those people were admitted to the ICU.

Health Department Director, Alina Alonso, M.D. said, "We extend our sincere sympathies to the family of this young woman. We want to remind residents that this pandemic continues to claim lives and unfortunately the virus is still very much active. H1N1 infection is preventable by getting vaccinated and it's still not too late as we continue to offer the vaccine throughout our community."

Experience with this virus shows this strain, like all influenza, is unpredictable. However, because novel H1N1 is a new virus, many people may have little or no immunity against it, and illness may be more severe as a result.

Dr. Alonso recommends the following:

People with respiratory illness should 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.**
- **Cover your cough and sneezes**
- **Wash hands frequently to lessen the spread of respiratory illness.**
- **Stay home if you are sick.**
- **Get vaccinated!**

The H1N1 vaccine is now available at any of our Palm Beach County Health Department Health Centers by appointment Monday – Friday and the vaccine is also available **At NO CHARGE** at these **outreach locations this week:**

Tuesday, February 16th:

- **Village Academy Elementary School** 400 SW 12th Avenue Delray Beach 5 pm to 7 pm
- **The Church in the Gardens** 3937 Holly Drive Palm Beach Gardens 3 pm – 6 pm

Wednesday, February 17th:

- **Salvation Army** 600 North Rosemary Avenue West Palm Beach Registration at 3:30 pm

Friday, February 19th:

- **Department of Children and Families** 4220 Lake Worth Road Lake Worth 10 am - 2 pm

Saturday, February 20th

- **Cloisters Apartments Clubhouse**, 6000 Woodlake Boulevard, Greenacres 10 am to 1 pm

If you think you have influenza, please call your health care provider or the health department and discuss whether you need to be seen in their office, emergency department or stay home. Vaccine availability sites are updated regularly: www.FightFluFlorida.com, or by calling 211 or 1- 888-411-4FLU (4358).

###



Alina Alonso, M.D., Director PBCHD
Post office Box 29 / 800 Clematis Street, West Palm Beach, FL 33402
www.pbchd.com